and Sports Fazlur Rahman (Tk

2,08,198), Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddqui (Tk 2,75,169), State Minister for Finance Shah

Mohammad Abul Hussain (Tk

2,79,028), State Minister for Labor

and Employment Amanullah Aman

(Tk 9,06,678), Science, Information

and Communication Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyen Khan (Tk

65,284), Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain (Tk 3,22,564), State

Minister for Education Ehsanul

Hoque Milon (Tk 1,16,144), State

Minister for Water Resources

Goutam Chakraborti (Tk 52,271),

State Minister for Housing Alamgin

Kabir (Tk 21,271), State Minister for

Environment Zafrul Islam Chowdhury (Tk 1,28,075), State

Minister for Fisheries and Livestock

Ukil Abdus Sattar (Tk 2,34,464) and

State Minister for Land Ruhul

Quddus Talukdar Dulu (Tk, 13,394).

7th parliament also include Jativa

Party Chairman HM Ershad (Tk

26,944), Rawshan Ershad (JP, Tk

32,133), KM Obaidur Rahamn

(BNP, Tk 2,91,999) and Delawar

. Hossain Saidee (Jamaat, Tk 5,505).

number of defaulting lawmakers

and the total amount of defaulted

parliament (Tk 78,442), 29 from the

second (Tk 258979), 57 from the third (Tk 13,11,880), 111 from the

fourth (Tk 1,01,25,686), 203 from

the fifth (Tk 3,60,24,653), 200 from

the seventh (Tk 3.10.30.972) and

159 from the present parliament (Tk

'The group gave Italians five days to

hold the protests or it will kill the

bills is as follows:

The breakdown of the total

Twelve lawmakers from the first

Defaulting lawmakers from the

MPs default

FROM PAGE 1 (Tk 1,64,374), Prof Shahidul Islam,

committee on cultural affairs minis-

try (Tk 2,945), Abdul Alim, commit-

tee on public undertakings (Tk

4,02,415), Nazir Hossain, commit-

tee on expatriates welfare and

overseas employment ministry (Tk

2.09.244). Helalulzzaman Talukdar.

committee on mass education

ministry (Tk 346), Mushfigur

Rahman, committee on finance ministry, (Tk 193), Abdul Mannan,

committee on agriculture ministry

(Tk 20,400), Barrister Ziaur

Rahman Khan, committee on foreign ministry (Tk 28,867), MA Matin, committee on water

resources ministry (Tk 2,024),

Abdus Sobhan, committee on public assurances (Tk 5,035),

Mozahar Hossain, committee on

women and child affairs ministry (Tk

46,315) and Major (retd) Abdul

Mannan, committee on home

prominent lawmakers like Abdus

Samad Azad (AL, Tk 2,14,405),

Anowar Hossain Manju (JP, Tk

23,670), Abdul Jalil (AL, Tk 244), Mohammad Nasim (AL, Tk 3000),

Zillur Rahman (AL, Tk 1,445), Abdur

Razzak (AL, Tk 13,868), MA Hashem (BNP, Tk 22,270), M Naser Rahman (BNP, Tk 20,400), Syed

Shahidul Haque Jamal (whip-BNP,

Tk 1,501), Mufti Fazlul Hàque Amini

The defaulter list includes some

ministry (former) Tk 22,531.

Do you really believe 50 hurt as JCD

We have filled our pages with pictures of long queues of ordinary people in police stations being sent to court for sentencing. We have published stories of anxious parents,

from overcrowding. We have also reported how police were taking bribes and releasing people from police stations. We have reported on how thousands of people have lived on one or two pieces of bread for 24 to 48 hours at a stretch and yet you said that nobody has been harassed.

destitute woman Saleha, with unstoppable tears rolling down the cheeks of her struggle-marked face, wailing her heart out on the premises of a magistrate's court for her son

Shahidnagar in Mohammedpur thana? Please look at her eyes, see her poverty-wrecked face and ask yourself, 'Could her young son have anything to do with politics?

Hazera Bibi who has been running from one police station to another. from one court to another in search of her only son Monoo for the last three days? Her cries have reverberated throughout the court premises without any result.

Monoo was picked up by the police three days ago and since then Hazera Bibi has been running from one police station to another, from one court room to another carrying a loaf of bread and some water to feed her son. Please examine Hazera Bibi, portrait of a mother devastated by her son's arrest, and question your heart, 'Could such a poor widow's son really have been a political activist of the opposition?'
Honourable Prime Minister, we

are forced to conclude that either newspaper reports are not brought to your attention or that you do not attach any credence to them. Either way, shutting yourself from independent media is the surest way for your isolation with all its disastrous consequences as testified repeatedly by history.

May we be so bold as to remind you that you used to find our reports extremely credible when you were in the opposition. So what happened? At the risk of offending you we have to say, you have changed -- from being the opposition leader you have become the Prime Minister. We have remained where we were, doing our national and professional duty as we did BEFORE -- telling the truth as best as we can, as fast as fast as we can and as objectively as we can.

You have also said in your parliamentary party meeting that we would "shudder" if we knew the details of the opposition conspiracy to topple your government. Honourable Prime Minister, however much we may

shudder in fear, we want to know the truth. We have a right to know how devious, vicious, anti-national and unpatriotic our opposition truly is Just as we have a right to know, so also you have an obligation to inform people. You are democratically elected and have constitutionally formed government. To conspire to "topple" such a government is punishable by law, which most of the independent media, especially The Daily Star, has unequivocally said over and over again. Therefore, you

However, we are forced to point out that this is not the first time you have said about the opposition's conspiracy. This has been your recurrent theme for many months now. But in spite of demands from us the independent media and civic society leaders -- you have never divulged anything about the nature, extent and depth of such conspiracy. WE once again urge you to do so and

However, there is another conspiracy about which you need to share your 'evidence' with people. There is not a single Bangladeshi who would not consider the "biggest arms cache ever" as the most serious threat to our security and stability There is also no question that those who are responsible for bringing these arms into our soil are enemies of our country in every sense of the term. And yet, what has your govern ment done about unearthing that

headed by the home secretary, has not made any breakthrough to the best of our knowledge. Is that the best we could do in getting to the bottom of our most serious threat to

to seek international assistance in the matter yet. Arms smugglers, by the very nature of their crime, have international linkages. So it is only natural that international cooperation is a necessary precondition for getting to the bottom of such crimes. Given the fight against international terrorism and the fact that Bangladesh has pledged complete co-operation in the matter, such collaboration is almost a natural first step. And yet nothing has been done in that regard.

In fact, an inexplicable silence has been forced on the matter with the authorities sharing nothing with the public. After inordinate delay in the initial investigation, the case has now been shifted to the CID, whose record in solving crimes is less said the better. Then again, can the CID really handle crimes of international nature? So both in the case of innocent public being harassed in the name of foiling opposition conspiracy and in investigating the biggest threat to our security, the question to ask is: Who is the gov-

FBCCI offers

as their fronts.

According to the proposals, political parties will not patronise any professional bodies, organisations of teachers and students and trade bodies to check politicisation of every

only be loyal to their own parties on the formation of government, noconfidence vote in the House, budget

proposals and amendment to the constitution, the FBCCI said. The government has to abolish the public secrecy laws and enact laws to ensure people's right to know

government information for transparency and accountability, it said. It called for making provisions for

one parliament seat for women in each district and direct election to that seat. It suggested formation of a constitution court to deal with cases concerning the constitution.

tional bodies like the Public Service Commission and Election Commission, Bangladesh Bank governor and Securities and Exchange Commission chairman.

It suggested formation of separate and independent regulatory

bodies like commission for human rights and consumers rights. The government should put priority on weekly holiday on Sunday and

20 days, it said. The proposals called for making rovisions for compensation due to hartal and other political

annual holidays should not exceed

The FBCCI stressed constitution of a national committee, comprising three members each from the BNF and Awami League and one each from other political parties that have representation in parliament, to resolve political problems and differ-

The committee will continue meeting till preparation of a position paper to reach consensus on key national issues.

FBCCI proposals also called for organising a convention for reconciliation and national unity aiming at reaching comprehensive political settlement of national conflicts Headed by chief adviser of a caretaker government, others to attend will include political leaders from all parties, Speaker, former chief justice, cabinet secretary and representatives from professional associations nominated by the president.

The government must implement the recommendations of the convention to change the political trend of the

IMF to give loans

for the first few years," Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said yesterday on his return to Dhaka from a weeklong visit to the IMF and the World Bank head offices in Washington.

"There are fears that our export earning will drop," he added. "In this situation, the IMF has agreed to provide us a fund through a special window.

asked us to modernise our ports and make them more efficient in the post-MFA regime. Otherwise, we will lose our market as we will fail to

deliver goods to our clients."

world economy. "The transition to a more liberal trade environment, however, also

which for several developing countries may raise added policy challenges," Acting Managing Director of the IMF Anne Krueger told the board, stressing the importance on

readiness to make its existing instruments available for supporting trade liberalisation should give sufficient confidence to members Most directors saw considerable merit in a more tailored approach to address the balance of payments were discussed in the parliamentary impact of trade adjustment resulting

The directors supported the establishment of the TIM to help members mitigate short-term balance of payments pressures stemming from trade liberalisation.

from the Doha Round

Under the TIM, the IMF should stand ready to discuss with qualifying countries facing such balance of payments shortfalls, new arrange ments in the upper credit tranches the Extended Fund Facility, or the Poverty Reduction and Growth

men swoop on Sust sit-in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) swooped on the general students of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (Sust) on the campus yesterday, leaving at least 50 injured Of the injured, 15 were admitted

to Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital while the rest given first aid. Campus sources said about 40 JCD men attacked the students who

were staging a sit-in in front of the administrative building to press their nine-point demand. The demands include punitive

action against some JCD cadres

who had helped a fellow cadre in sexual abuse of a student. The JCD activists beat up the general students, fired blank shots and ransacked some rooms of the building. They also beat up the photoiournalists of three local dailies as they went to the campus to snap

Police went to the campus and brought the situation under control at

The general students held a protest rally in Madina Market area in the city at 7:00pm, demanding punishment to the attackers

Constitution

FROM PAGE 12

the incident.

Union Parishad Forum (NUPF) coorganised the roundtable at the conference room of Narayanganj Pourashabha as part of their efforts to garner public opinion in favour of

They also submitted memoranda to the district administrators across the country to press home their 11point demand including rescindment of the amendment.

The roundtable observed that the government should dispose of cases related to local government through the special trial tribunal as these prove to be the stumbling blocks to holding elections to corporation. Pourashabha and Union Parishad.

Tongi Pourashabha Chairman Azmatullah Khan, also president of the MAB, said if the government wants to strengthen the local government, elected representatives must rule it. If the government goes ahead with the amendment, the move to decentralise the local government will be disrupted, as the amendment will limit the local government more, Azmatullah noted.

Among others, Abul Kalam Azad MP delivered welcome speech while Narayanganj Pourashabha Chairman Selina Hayat Ivy, former MP Afzal Hossain and National Union Parishad Forum President Golam Sarwar also spoke

Most distant

from Canterbury University's Mount John observatory, near the Southern Alps mountain chain in New Zealand's South Island.

It was also independently ocated by United States and Polish astronomers working from an observatory in Chile and the find will be published in the international Astrophysical Journal next month.

One of the project's astronomers, Victoria University reader in astrophysics Denis Sullivan, said the planet was found using a gravitational micro-lensing technique which measures the way in which gravity bends light.

"This is the first time a planet has been found using this technique," he

"The real strength (of the technique) is the ability to hopefully find other Earth-like planets, which is difficult to do using other techniaues.'

He said that although the new planet was gaseous and could not support life, he believed it was possible there were earth-like planets waiting to be discovered.

placed there on March 17 and will

place it in tomorrow's session incor-

porating the retirement age provi-

at a meeting with prime minister

standing committee on the law

ministry and the bill would be sent to

The bill, approved by the cabinet

sions adopted later.

Police juggernaut yesterday in the frenzy of arrests of

suspected opposition workers who Cabinet okays were rounded up in their thousands over the past week or so. At 10:00am, AL central and city The government has already withdrawn the bill from parliament

leaders and parliament members streamed in towards the Zero Point penetrating police barriers and positioned themselves on the roadisland in front of the General Post Office (GPO). But police continued to harass

them and at one stage an argument broke out between Sylhet Mayor Badruddin Ahmed Kamran and the police guarding the barricades before other AL leaders came to Kamran's aid. At 11:15am, the leaders said a

prayer to salvage the nation "from the government's misrule". The gathering ended after addresses by senior AL leaders including Matia Chowdhury, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Tofail Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu, Sheikh Selim, Obaidul Kader, Abdul Mannan Khan and Mukul Bose.

The leaders compared the current situation to the days of 1971 and said the government is so stricken by "Awami League panic" that it has turned the nation into a virtual prison. At around noon, four bombs

no reports of injuries in the explo-

AL leaders including AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Asaduzzaman Noor and Mohammad Hanif also gathered around a heavily guarded Shapla Chattar in Motiiheel where police again barred mid-level party workers from assembling.

"We have had to take recourse to hartals again due to the government's repression on our alternative forms of protest. Our movement will continue until the government resigns." said Abdul Jalil.

At Dhanmondi Road no. 27 several AL MPs braved police to bring out a procession at around

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) also observed the third and final day of their simultaneous "mass noconfidence" programme by holding a rally amid police harassment in front of their Motiiheel office vester-

Police prevented JSD leaders from standing on the road-island in front of their office and shoved them towards the footpath where the leaders later held the rally.

Protesting the mass arrests by police to foil the no-confidence programme, JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu said: "Suppression were thrown from a car as it drove of constitutional and democratic past AL's headquarters on practices will only encourage Bangabandhu Avenue. There were unconstitutional and undemocratic

Rabbani laid to rest

UNB, Dhaka

Commodore Golam Rabbani, managing director of Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) and former chairman of Chittagong Port Authority, was laid to rest at Banani Military Graveyard in the city yesterday.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at

10:00am at Bangladesh Army Stadium. Ministers, chiefs of the three services. MPs. high military and civil officials and relatives of the deceased attended his janaza. Brig. General M Sharifuddin military secretary to the prime

minister placed a wreath on the

coffin on behalf of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Later, Naval Chief Rear Admiral Shah labal Muitaba, on behalf of the Bangladesh Navy, and representa-

tives from other organisations

placed wreaths on the coffin. Earlier on Sunday, his body was flown in here from Bangkok by Thai

Rabbani was shot by unidentified assailants while he along with five others was going to KEPZ site at Anwara in Chittagong in a microbus on April 11. He was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and later shifted to the Combined Military Hospital in

Rabbani was sent to Bamrungrad Hospital in Bangkok for treatment on April 14 where he died on April 24.

Jalil still sticks FROM PAGE 1 false allegations against the AL and

said, "I challenge the PM to produce evidence of her allegations, including hatching conspiracy against the government Khaleda Zia's remarks only show

she has a nervous breakdown and is sensing conspiracy all around her, Jalil added. She always shivers hearing

about AL conspiracy, which is nonexistent, the AL leader remarked. "The prime minister has committed the crime of lying. So, she has to

resign." Jalil said He also said the government has esorted to repression on the opposition fearing public support and participation in the movement for its

Jalil demanded immediate release of all victims of 'mass arrests' in the past week. AL presidium members and

senior AL MPs and leaders were present at the briefing.

Bribes rule

FROM PAGE 1

that my son is in jail, it is a relief for me that I've found him." he said.

Our court correspondent adds: Although a release order was sent to the central jail three days back, a man arrested from Motijheel was not freed until yesterday. Siddique, a garment worker and son of the late Abdul Maleg of Nandail

Mymensingh, was arrested in Motifieel on April 22 and taken to the chief metropolitan magistrate's court He was sentenced with a fine of Tk 50 or a three-day imprisonment in

Hira Khan, brother of the victim, paid the fine and the court sent a release order to the central jail on

But he was yet to be released.

the gas and power sector," the

The World Bank has decided to give Bangladesh \$1 billion in aid on being satisfied with Bangladesh's economic performance, Saifur informed the press. "But they have stressed proper

use of this money. If this money is

give the money should be quickly implemented. Proper implementation and quick decision will help us get more aid in the future,"

Mass arrests

FROM PAGE 1 the official said

Most people arrested under Dhaka Metropolitan Police Act and section 54 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) were sentenced without their appearance in court, let alone scope for self-defence. Allegations are rife that many

innocent people were held on arrival in Dhaka from other districts. The blanket arrests also gave the police a chance to make a windfall in

bribes. Many victims reported paying the law-enforcers a large sum for freedom. At the lower judiciary, run by the executive, hoards of arrestees are

undergoing another round of mindless ordeal. A huge pile of cases has lengthened the court procedure, leaving people waiting in cramped lock-ups in intense heat and without food and water. Different human rights groups

professional bodies and political parties protested the mass arrests and termed the police action uncon-

Sher-e-Bangla

FROM PAGE 12

"His contributions toward welfare of common people is a glorious chapter of the history," the president said. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said patriotism of Sher-e-Bangla would

the people of Bangladesh forever. She said the philosophy of politics of the late leader was the welfare of the downtrodden.

remain as a source of inspiration for

Different socio-cultural and political organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes to observe the day.

Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad will place wreath at the mazar and offer special prayer. It will also hold milad-mahfil and a discussion in the city. Researchers on Sher-e-Bangla, lawyers, litterateurs and political leaders will take part in the discussion. Sher-e-Bangla National Youth

Front and the students of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University will place wreath at the mazar in the morning.

Special prayer and milad mahfil will be held at 5:00pm today at House no 59, Road no 4, Block-C, Banani in the city.

Bulgarian president

Meanwhile, an explosion leveled part of a building in Baghdad yesterday as American troops searched it for suspected production of "chemical munitions," a US general said. Two soldiers were killed and five wounded in the blast, and a cheering mob of Iragis looted their wrecked Humvees, stripping away veapons and equipment.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt did not say what sort of chemical munitions were believed to be produced at the

"Chemical munitions could mean any number of things," including moke grenades, he said

Asked about reports that the raid eam included members of the Iraq Survey Group -- the US team searching for weapons of mass destruction in the country -- Kimmitt would say only, "The inspection was by a number of coalition forces."

He said the owner and associates of the site were "suspected of supplying chemical agents" to Iraqi insurgents, but did not elaborate.

At Falluiah, eight insurgents were killed and at least four US marines were wounded during fierce fighting yesterday where an uneasy ceasefire had been in place for a week, the US-led coalition said. A "significant" number of insur-

gents attacked marines at 11:30 am 0730 GMT), prompting hours of ighting in the northern district of the city, which has been a hotspot of resistance to the US-led occupation of the country.

"Initial reports were eight enemy killed and four marines wounded, Colonel John Coleman, chief of staff for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, told reporters.

Marines were fired upon from a mosque which was then targetted by US forces and the minaret destroved, an embedded pool reporter with the marines told CNN.

He said another six marines were

injured by shrapnel but the reports could not be immediately confirmed.

"Unfortunately the opposition forces... took it upon themselves to occupy a mosque," said Coleman. 'Instead of serving as a centre of religious life, it was employed as a bastion in the attack.

Plumes of black smoke were shown rising from buildings in the city, where joint patrols between marines and Iraqi security forces were expected to start this week after an apparent easing of ten-

Meanwhile, Britain is in talks with coalition partners about possibly sending more troops to Irag -- a high-risk move for Prime Minister Tony Blair who is already suffering in opinion polls. With Spain planning to withdraw

1,400 soldiers and violence escalating across Iraq, media reports suggested up to 2,000 more British troops could be sent to join around 7,500 already there. "In light of recent events -- the security situation and the antici-

pated withdrawal of the Spanish troops -- we are in discussions with coalition partners," a defence ministry spokeswoman said vesterday. She said troop numbers was one of the things we will be discuss-

ing", but a spokesman for Blair stressed no decisions had been Blair has seen his public trust ratings plunge since he became Washington's staunchest ally in the

Iraq war launched last March to topple former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Britain has the second biggest military force in Iraq after the United States. Its soldiers are based mainly

around the southern city of Basra. If Blair does decide to deploy more forces, he could lose even more popularity at home and damage his reputation abroad.

Violence mars third leg clutches of death," said Aziz Iron, a

The other death occurred in the awless eastern state of Bihar, when a bomb exploded overnight while a group was assembling the device in shwapur district 100km from the state capital Patna.

Although Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies are expected to win another five-year term on a platform of peace and prosperity, opinion polls show the once dominant Congress party has narrowed the gap.

The presence of Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi -- the charismatic children of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and the latest torchbearers of the Nehru-Gandhi family -- revitalised a listless Congress campaign in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state with 170 million

people and one of its poorest. "I have voted for stability," housewife Neena Phadnis, 60, said after voting for the BJP in Bombay, where financial markets and shops were closed for the day. "I want a government that will bring down the prices

of essential commodities." More than 670 million people are eligible to vote in the five-stage poll that ends on May 10. Votes will be counted on May 13 and results are expected that day

1,080 polling stations in Srinagar, the urban hub of an anti-Indian insurgency, and Budgam, part of the same constituency voting in the staggered elections. A general strike called by sepa-

Troops were on high alert at the

ratists emptied Srinagar, a city of 1.2 million people, of traffic and shut businesses and shops as security forces patrolled the streets. Both separatists and armed

ebels have called for a poll boycott, saying the elections would not resolve the 15-year-old revolt, and there were no signs of voter queues "Nobody is going to come to vote

nobody wants to go into the

polling official at a heavily protected booth with soldiers in bullet-proof vests and armed with machine guns standing behind sandbags. COMPELLED, DEVOTED

Iron, who works in the state's education department, said he had been ordered to staff the booth or be

"We have been compelled to come here," he said. "The government of India is trying to show the world that this is an integral part of India. I don't agree with it." On Sunday, suspected rebels threw a grenade at Mehbooba Mufti,

popular leader of the state's ruling People's Democratic Party. She escaped unhurt but at least three people were killed and almost 50 were wounded. Some two dozen youths poured

onto the streets in one Srinagar district, shouting pro-freedom slogans and burning tyres, but police chased them away. A bomb was defused near a voting station, police said, and a girl

was injured when a grenade hurled at a polling booth missed the target and hit her house in Budgam Overnight, police said rebels attacked three voting stations in the Budgam district with rifle fire and

grenades, adding six border guards

and a civilian were injured in one of

Two separated

the raids.

FROM PAGE 1 attack at 8:00pm and two more soon, said Dr Ruhul Amin. Maria's vital organs were functioning well but she soon started to

show symptoms of organ failures, especially the kidneys. 'There was no other option but to disconnect the life support system,

Maria's namaz-e-janaza was held yesterday on the hospital

Freedom fighters call

on May 30 to press for their demands. They proposed that December 1, the first day of the 'Month of Victory' be observed as the 'Freedom Fighters Day' every year and also demanded observance of the 'Martyrs Day'.

Their other demands include evival of the four fundamental principles of the first constitution, stop to torture on the religious and ethnic communities, disbanding the armed networks of the Islamist outfits, constitution of a special tribunal for the trial of the collaborators, forcing Pakistan to apologise for their atrocities during the Liberation War, preparation of a list of the real freedom fighters through a national commission and special allowances and interest-free loans for the freedom fighters. Sector Commander Major

General (retd) CR Dutta, Bir Uttam, one of the commanders of Bangladesh Liberation Front (BLF) Abdur Razzak MP, freedom fighter and General Secretary of Awami League Abdul Jalil MP. Chief of the BLF training camp Hasanul Hag Inu and President of Bangladesh Workers Party Rashed Khan Menon were present.

They said their platform is not a political one, rather they have nvited freedom fighters from across the political divide to join them for

the sake of greater interest of the They observed that after independence freedom fighters have

split up but the defeated forces have

become more united and powerful

and are now in power. On a question, the Awami League general secretary said the freedom fighters' move has nothing to do with his April 30 deadline for

the fall of the government. "It is not important whether this government or any other is ruling the country but the movement of the freedom fighters will be continuing until the government meets their demands," Jalil said.

HC fines RU heed to his appeal. Meanwhile, Mannan stood first

FROM PAGE 12

securing 65 percent marks. He filed a writ with the High Court challenging the inaction of Rajshahi University in October 2002. The

class first in the Master of Law,

bench comprising Justice ABM Khairul Huq and Justice Miftah Uddin Chowdhury yesterday made absolute the rule issued earlier on the university.

Advocate Mohammad Tajul Islam appeared for the petitioner while advocate Abdus Sobhan for Rajshahi University.

relatives and friends desperately looking for their children or near and And yet you say that no innocent people were arrested or even harassed. We have published stories about jails bursting at their seams

must inform public about it. Have you not seen the picture of

Alauddin, who was picked up from Have you not read the story of

The high-powered committee,

We are not aware of any attempt

will not go for programmes on streets and highways. Political parties will also not have trade unions

sphere of national life Members of parliament (MPs) will

The FBCCI recommended formation of a national committee for selecting the chief justice and heads and members of various constitu-

Speaking at Zia International Airport on his arrival early yesterday morning, Saifur said, "The IMF has

Discussing the TIM in its board meeting on April 2, the directors of the Fund reiterated that a successful conclusion of the Doha Round will bring significant benefits to the

involves economic adjustments,

continuation of trade liberalisation. Khaleda Zia in the chair, will be sent Some directors felt that the IMF's to the president for his approval as the bill involves new spending. "After the formalities for financial allocation and the president's approval, the bill will be placed in parliament on April 28." Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said. He said six of the nine changes

> the same committee after placing in parliament for scrutiny of the new changes The constitutional amendment bill is expected to be passed in the second week of next month when

> > The bill also proposes to automatically dissolve all elected local bodies on completion of the fiveyear tenure to clear way for regular elections every five years and quickly swear-in lawmakers-elect.

the Jatiya Sangsad meets again.

(Islami Öikya Jote, Tk 34,206), Ashraf Hossain (whip-BNP, Tk 2,56,702) and Abdus Shahid (opposition chief whip, Tk 32,882). The 18 defaulting lawmakers of the 7th parliament who became ministers in Khaleda's cabinet are LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan (Tk 13,457), Health Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf

Hossain (Tk 46,110), Women and Child Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahan Hague (Tk 13,109), Relief and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ĭbne Yousuf (Tk 23,596), Štate Minister for Youth

Tobacco top

FROM PAGE 12

the accused.

Rahman, director general of the health services, and Dr Md Monwar Hossain and Dr Md Habibullah Talukder, president and secretary general of the foundation.

Foundation, the seminar was

addressed by Prof Mizanur

The foundation has established a medicine bank for poor cancer patients. It has also raised patients' welfare fund to benefit them. The foundation is going to launch a massive cancer awareness cam-

paign soon, especially at all aca-

demic institutions starting from the

The other accused are former

home secretary and incumbent

election commissioner Shafiur

Rahman, former students relation-

ship officer in the education ministry

Abu Alam Shahid Khan, former joint

secretary in the women's affairs

ministry Sirajuddin Ahmed, former

assistant secretary in the establish-

ment ministry Rabiul Alam

Mohammad Obaidul Muktadir

Chowdhury, former director of

Narcotics Control Department Syed

Bazlul Karim, former deputy inspec-

tor general of police Prokriti Ranjan

Chanda (PR Chanda) and former

president of the Secretariat

Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad

Mohammad Saifur Rahman,

then officer-in-charge (OC) of

Ramna Police Station, filed the

sedition case with the Court of Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka on

April 8, 2002, accusing Alamgir and

Department (CID) pressed charges

against Alamgir and seven others

on December 26, 2002, showing 15

in the FIR (first information report)

but the investigation officer included

The name of PR Chanda was not

people as prosecution witnesses.

Criminal Investigation

Syed Mohiuddin.

Janatar mancha

Footage on Italian television indicated the three were those shown on April 13, when kidnappers

hostages.

Iraq group

demanded the withdrawal of Italian troops from Iraq. Another Italian originally held with them was later "We tell you we will show good faith and free them if you sympathise with our cause, show solidarity with us and publicly reject the policy

against the war. "We grant you five days after which we will kill them without any hesitation or any other warning, said the group's statement, showed

of your prime minister by staging a

big protest in your capital to protest

by Arabiya. The tape showed three unshaven men eating a meal and

his name in the charge sheet as probe found his involvement. In the case, it was alleged the accused had set up a people's dais (Janatar Mancha) in front of National Press Club in March 1996 and instigated the government officials and employees to join the

government. All the accused except PR Chanda are on bail and attended the

agitation against the then BNP

WB, IMF happy

finance minister told the donors.

left idle in the banks, it will not make the World Bank happy," he added. "The projects against which they