Politics chokes

FROM PAGE 1

suspended as more than 80.000 of them across the country are not getting their salaries for months. It has blocked contraceptive

distribution. routine immunisation. safe delivery and to some extent primary healthcare services. The two-room, corrugated ironroofed CCs were supposed to provide the services under a pack-

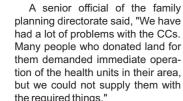
Construction, Maintenance and age known as the essential service Management Unit (CMMU) and the package The CCs were also expected to Local Government Engineering act as the 'basic centre' for all rural Department (LGED) on donated childbirth and phase out traditional land in the fiscal 1999-2001, were home delivery at the hands of located in the centre of each union untrained birth attendants that to offer easy access to people. contributes to the death of 20,000

women during delivery. poor construction was one of the A health ministry source said: "The CCs were supposed to be run clinics. by two paramedics-- a health assistant and a family welfare visitor said: "About 85 percent of the CCs (FWV) or sub-assistant community are lying unused and sadly many of medical officer (SACMO). A general physician from the nearest upazila

health complex was supposed to visit them on weekly basis. Each CC was supposed to be supplied with 17 drugs including antibiotics, antiseptics, painkillers, digestive pills, anti-worm tablets

and cough syrups of Tk 50,000. But no CC received the supply as the ministry did not allocate the fund

for them Dr Mahbubur Rahman, director of Primary Healthcare, said: "As the CCs are not functioning, primary healthcare services are not reaching out to many villages.'



The CCs, built by the two main

But a health ministry official said

Health Secretary Sarwar Kamal

Asked what the government was

main reasons for not using the

them have also suffered damage."

planning to do with the CCs, he

may be expanded basing on experi-

constructing agencies of the state --

Weekly 2000 iournos stabbed. mugged in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An unknown gang stabbed and robbed a Weekly 2000 correspondent of money at Nandankanan in Chittagong on Tuesday.

The gang of four aboard a CNG autorickshaw waylaid Sumi Khan, the port city correspondent of the weekly, on Bouddha Mandir Road at about 10:00pm when she was going to the bus counter of SA Paribahan in Kazir Dewri by rickshaw.

The gang tried to force her into their autorickshaw. As she resisted, they stabbed her in the forehead before snatching her handbag with Tk 6,500, the journalist said in an FIR (first information report) filed with Kotwali Police Station

Police could not arrest anyone until 6:30pm yesterday

"You have gone too far and the consequences will only be more dangerous if you continue to write in such an aggressive manner," Sumi said quoting one of the attackers as saying

said," We have decided to run and manage the CCs by experienced Chittagong Union of Journalists in a statement condemned the attack NGOs. Initially 250 of them would be and demanded immediate arrest of put to service and the programme the culprits.

ence.' "It would be a public-private partnership to promote local level supervision and ownership. Eventually, people would choose which is the best bet for them," Kamal added

partially turned to charcoal.

day levels of roughly 21%.

modern heathland fire.

out," she explained.

fuel.

bribes.

high.

produced less intense wildfires and

fire may have been similar to a

have had some extremely dry

seasons as well as wet seasons.

There would have been aridity and

presumably plants would have dried

mulations of plants that had been in

floods and that could have formed a

charred coprolite - fossilised faeces

prisoners or giving information to

the relatives on their health taking

gate on wrong information from

their lawyers that their relatives will

"People are gathering at the jail

He said the understaffed jail

who were granted bail, but failing

to handle the cases properly as

the number of prisoners were

"Or there could have been accu-

The researchers also found a

Professor Edwards said that the

"The climate of the time would

therefore less reflective charcoal.

partially char them



Hartal fizzles out

FROM PAGE 1 Dainik Bangla crossings and at

Muktangon. Movement of vehicles was thin during the hartal period. Shops and business establishments remained closed and classes were not held at educational institutions.

Security was stepped up with heavy deployment of police at strategic points and on the main roads.

Police cordoned off the area around the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue. A procession brought out by party leaders in support of the hartal marched within the barricaded area.

Al leaders including Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, Amir Hossain Amu and Moffazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya were seen sitting in front of the party office during the hartal hours.

Tofail and Maya also addressed a rally at the spot, declaring the hartal a success and demanding immediate resignation of the government.

At around 11:40am, AL Organising Secretary Akhtaruzzaman, central leaders Asaduzzaman Noor and Mahmudur Rahman Manna addressed a rally at Dainik Bangla Crossing and brought out a silent

on how to allocate the subsidy.'

irrigation and seeds, while the

finance ministry has agreed to

subsidise seeds, but not irrigation

try shows the pitfalls of not subsidis-

ing fertiliser. In the free market of

A report of the agriculture minis-

But police immediately swooped on the procession and nabbed five Al and Jubo Mohila League (JML) work-

throughout the hartal hours.

women leaders, including Nasrin,

when they stepped out of the gate.

Police took them to an undisclosed

swooped on JSD-Inu procession in

front of the party office in Motijheel.

including Nazmul Hag Pradhan and

2 cops, 1 Ansar

the bomb attack on outlaws. Police

Commissioner Sheikh Sajjad Ali

and senior KMP officials visited the

SI Moshiur Rahman of

On April 10, Havildar Akram

Hossain of special armed forces

was killed in a bomb attack under

Sonadanga Police Station.

Janajuddho faction of the outlawed

Purbo Banglar Communist Party

(PBCP) claimed responsibility for

carried out another bomb attack on

Moilapota Police box, but no-one

The very next day, outlaws

Earlier in January, a member of

Khanjahan Ali Police Station filed an

FIR (first information report) naming

none as accused. No-one has been

spot and the injured at the KMCH.

At around 11:Ooam, police

Police dispersed the party leaders

Elsewhere in the country, several

destination for interrogation.

They assaulted an activist.

Svlhet

FROM PAGE 12

arrested so far.

the attack.

was injured

Station

police", said the leaflets

FROM PAGE 12

said.

Poverty-cut

"Solid improvement in the macro-

economic fundamentals and struc-

tural reforms that are boosting

investment activity, such as the

modernisation of the textile indus-

try, underpin this outlook," the ADB

and Abdus Shahid.

Police became more aggressive as JML activists hurled brickbats a them. Akhtaruzzaman, Noor and Manna later managed release of the activists nabbed by police. They tried to convince police that their procession would march peacefully.

As the procession started again, police prevented it form going towards Bangabandhu Avenue. Noor then told journalists, "This only shows the present move to bring

down the government has unnerved Police then asked the procession to move through Bijoynagar peacefully. The AL workers then started chanting anti-government slogans and police charged used batons to disperse them.

workers taking part in the procession. Asked about the police swoop on processions. SM Mohiuddin, officer-AL activists were injured in clashes in-charge of Motijheel Police Station. between police and the activists in said, "It might be their right to protest but they cannot take away the citizen's Comilla and three activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League were right to move on the streets freely." injured in clashes with the police in

AL lawmakers led a procession from Dhanmondi to Manik Mian

Finance ministry

FROM PAGE 1

and fertiliser

FROM PAGE 1 who have since Sunday stopped flying F28 aircraft to the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu citing technical problems encountered due to freezing conditions over the Himalayan region. Referring to these pilots as

having been born to beggars, Haq said their ambition to fly DC-10s was a fantasy, which sparked yesterday's boycott of domestic flights.

Haq could not be reached for the official version of the matter. However, another Biman official claimed that the newspaper misquoted Haq.

The pilots called off the boycott at 6:00pm yesterday following assurance from Biman's Managing Director Akhtar Hossain Khan that he would take action against Haq and make sure that he withdraws

The Daily Star tried several times to reach Khan by phone for his comments, but he was not avail-

Meanwhile, pilots of F28s yesterday also withdrew their boycott of flights to Kathmandu on assurance from Biman's management that the planes will be taken off the Dhaka-Kathmandu route should any further trouble is reported.

A Biman press statement said

DMCH

FROM PAGE 12

all. One finance ministry official the cost of rice irrigation is 51 dollars said. "At the end, if this committee is per hectare, which is 32 dollars in not formed, officials of the two India and only 18 dollars in ministries will sit together to decide Thailand. Because of this high irrigation cost, our agriculture pro-The agriculture ministry is pushduction cost is so high. ing for long-term subsidy in fertiliser.

Dialogue, notes, "In Bangladesh,

"Ninety percent of the total irrigation projects of the country depend on diesel. But it really is dear. So, it needs subsidy. Only, as diesel has multiple usage, the government should ensure that the subsidy is used for agriculture only," Dev suggested.

fertiliser, the price of urea fertiliser He advocated for increasing rose by 2.1 percent in February subsidy and investment in the 2004 from February 2003. Over the same time, the price of potash rose agriculture sector and said, "The by 31.83 percent, TSP by 17.97 WTO's rule allows countries to percent and DAP by 7.36 percent. provide 10 percent of the value of This disproportionate agriculture product as domestic price hike has led the farmers to support. But, Bangladesh is currefrain from using potash, TSP and rently allotting only 0.4 to 0.5 percent of that value.'

DAP and to use urea excessively, causing huge damage to farmlands. Dev also said, if the government Such practice can be prevented by could ensure quality seeds, the subsiding the import price of potash agriculture production would rise by TSP and DAP fertilisers, for which 2.2 million tonnes a year. the agriculture ministry proposes a

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) "Due to the policy of privatisation Director General Dr Quazi Shahbuddin in this regard suggests a comprehensive long-term governsubsidy in all agriculture inputs ment policy so that the farmers get excepting urea in the mid-eighties." maximum benefits from the agricul-"As per the GATT Agreement on ture subsidy.

Agriculture, all nations excepting Referring to the government's the least developed countries were recent waiver of interest on default supposed to withdraw agriculture agriculture loans up to Tk 5,000 and subsidy. But in reality the situation is some other farm subsidies, he the reverse. Low-income country observed that these were all tempo-Bangladesh has withdrawn subsidy rary measures. "A comprehensive while others did not... Furthermore plan will benefit both the farmers these countries have gradually and the consumers."

It said economic prospects in Afghanistan are promising and annual growth of 15 percent in the medium term is feasible although this will require the "commitment of the international community to meet the country's investment and security needs." Sri Lanka's growth is projected to be 5.0 percent this year and 5.5 percent in 2005 nut much will depend on the economic policies of the new government and the future of the peace talks with Tamil rebels. Nepal's growth is forecast to be 4.0 percent this year and 5.0 percent next vear but much will depend on the security situation in the country, the ADB said.

112 killed in Thai clases

DHAKA THURSDAY APRIL 29, 2004

Avenue amid heavy police deploy-FROM PAGE 1 mosque after police removed the ment in the area and returned to last of the bodies, wrapped in blood-Russell Square to stage a sit-in there stained shrouds.

No group claimed responsibility Senior party leaders who joined the for the highly coordinated assault by sit-in included Abdus Samad Azad, possibly hundreds of young mili-Mohammad Nasim, Abdur Razzaq tants, although past violence has been blamed on separatists seeking In the evening, police crowded in to carve a homeland in the Muslimfront of Nasim's Dhanmondi resimajority south of this predominantly dence, allegedly after tapping suspi-Buddhist country cious telephonic conversation with JML leaders, and picked up three

Soldiers and police -- tipped off in advance -- were waiting for the poorly armed assailants. Some had guns but most carried only machetes, said Lt. Gen. Proong Bunphandung, the chief of police for he south.

"The security officers have been patiently working with local people and gathering intelligence. We waited for the right time to achieve this success," he said.

troops were well prepared for that." Many parts of the region have been under martial law for months. with brand new motorcycles. This Security was tightened vesterday along the border with neighbouring Malaysia, which has in the past denied allegations of harbouring militants.

The violence erupted at 5:00am (2200 GMT Tuesday) when the insurgents attacked more than 15 police bases, village defence posts and district offices in Yala, Pattani and Songkhla provinces in a bid to steal weapons.

proves they got financial support from influential figures, including politicians and drug gangsters," he said. Elsewhere in the troubled region, trucks disgorged dozens of soldiers in combat gear to reinforce the already extremely tight security

It was the worst bloodshed seen

in the south where almost daily

attacks by gunmen have left nearly

160 people dead this year, including

Shinawatra said the raids were

linked to a Jan. 4 attack on a military

camp in nearby Narathiwat prov-

ince, which triggered an upsurge of

violence in the area this year. Four

soldiers were killed and hundreds of

had connections to international

youths from the southern prov-

linked with international terrorists."

ces," he said. "Their acts are not

He said the attackers intended

"They arrived at the target point

"to rob guns from defence volun-

teers and district offices, but our

Thaksin denied the attackers

"Most of the insurgents are

Prime Minister Thaksin

Wednesday's toll.

guns stolen in that raid.

terrorists.

presence. Authorities sealed off roads leading to the attacked checkpoints and police stations.

Jalil now to play

FROM PAGE 1

deadline reflects their clear mandate against the government. Second, the government exposed to people that it lost ground to govern through its reaction to the agitation and 'aggressive stand against people'

Asked about the next phase of movement, he said the AL will not relax until the government stands down and announces midterm elections. "New action programmes will be announced to steer the

an extremist outfit was killed and a BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) captain He however said whatever severely injured in a shootout means the AL employs to dislodge between joint forces and outlaws at the government will be democratic Bejirdanga under Phultala Police and constitutional since 'the Awami League abhors the policy and The PBCP (Janajuddho) has politics of conspiracy to get to

recently leafleted different parts of power' the southwestern region giving Jalil dismissed AL's return to death threats to police in retaliation parliament, " We had been in parliafor the death of PBCP cadres killed ment, but all know how we were by police. Journalists are also on the stopped from speaking about peohit-list for "serving the purpose of ple's plight and problem. No use sitting in the cosy House where our voice is [silenced] by the chair and the party in power.

"We're not worried about 90 or 92 days at this point of time ... we'll think about what we should do about that at an appropriate time." he retorted when reminded of the

constitutional provision of seats falling vacant owing to absence from the House for 90 consecutive

as it contains a 'dirty political design to make a trusted man of BNP as the chief of next caretaker government'

"How can the retirement age of the chief justice could be extended from 65 to 67 without extending the retirement age of other officials and employees of the republic? Why this discrimination? Their design is now exposed to all," he said

Planetarium

gave the go-ahead to the project in

There are 1,200 public planetariums in the major cities of the world.

The planetarium will help eradi-

tion institution. Vinnajagat, the first ever planetarium in the country, is run by a private operator in Rangpur.

Indian polls

movement to its logical end."

FROM PAGE 1 ctober 2002.

Many planetariums in the neighbouring countries are popular attractions for the public. India has 29 planetarium, including four in West Bengal.

cate superstitions and irrational thinking from the society, create interest in young generation in studying science and technology and open facilities of recreation for general public. It will also serve as a non-formal space science educa-

working days. Asked if other opposition groups FROM PAGE 12 in parliament would follow suit in case they were to resign, he said they would talk to others if the situaion demands. On chances of talks with the government to end the standoff, Jalil said the AL could sit with the government only to discuss the dates for its resignation and midterm elections. About the government move to get the 14th constitution amendment bill through parliament, he said its frontal wings. his party has already rejected the bill

Ludford Lane specimens were only This indicates that they were burnt by either a short-lived, low temperature fire or a smouldering

Biman

fire that was only intense enough to This agrees well with proposed

compositions for the Silurian atmo-Oxygen levels are supposed to have been lower in Silurian times; about 18% compared with presentthe comment.

Lower levels of oxygen in the atmosphere, combined with a restricted fuel source, may have

able subsidy of Tk 602 crore. and free market economy, the government started withdrawing

flight BG 701 to Kathmandu carrying 77 passengers left at 1:05pm while another flight BG 702 arrived from Kathmandu at 5:30pm with 71 passengers.

The construction of the burns unit

Fossils reveal

FROM PAGE 12 wildfires.

Lane

Silurian plants.

the plant.

"It's amazing that there should be an accumulation of vegetation, either as litter or as living vegetation drying out - to provide fuel for a fire," co-author Professor Dianne Edwards of Cardiff University told

The team used a technique

The fossils have are preserved in

Charcoal has a high optical

three-dimensions, rather than being

compressed. This is unique

reflectance due to chemical

changes that occur when organic

material burns. The results con-

firmed that this was the case for the

other evidence that the fossils were

charred such as shrinkage of the

epidermis, that covers the surface of

Cardiff team propose that the

exceptional three-dimensional

preservation of the plants is due to

their charring in a wildfire.

In Geology, the University of

The researchers also found

amongst Silurian plant remains.

known as reflected-light microscopy

on a collection of well-preserved

plants recovered from dig at Ludford

BBC News Online. "And even more amazing that a sphere lightning strike set it off."

However, comparisons with the amongsi reflectance values of experimentally charred plants show most of the millipede.

Money made

FROM PAGE 1

home after playing video games 26 and has since been waiting at at a nearby shop. the jail gate to receive his two Jail authorities, however, brothers-in-law denied the allegation of releasing

Pallabi police arrested his relatives Selim and Rafiq, who came to the capital on a visit after appearing in the SSC examinations, but fell victim to 'the mindless arrests'

"I had to spend Tk 3,500 after be released on a specified date. By my son, Mintu, was arrested on checking their memos, we found April 23. I gave Khilgaon police Tk that they were given wrong date for 100 to get information on him," release," an official claimed. said Abdul Jalil, an auto-rickshaw driver. authorities were working roundthe-clock to release the prisoners

"I don't have any money to pay the jail staff now for his release, he said, adding he had to spend a large amount of the money on lawyers or on court formalities.

Jail officials said they released 350 prisoners until 8:00pm yesterday, with 100 more on a list for immediate release. They said more than 2,500 others will be released in the next few days.

The jail staff and police constables are taking Tk 50 to Tk 100 from each relative only to give information on the prisoners. arrested ahead of the main opposition Awami League's April 30 deadline for unseating the government.

"I paid Tk 300 in the last four days to a broker only to know the condition of my 13-year-old brother Arif," said Ripon of Mirpur.

A class VIII student, Arif was picked up from in front of his house at Mirpur Section No. 10 on April 23 when he was returning

Submarine cable FROM PAGE 12

technology and e-governance to strengthen the foundations of an accountable democratic government as the benefit of joining the network.

"During the rule of the previous government, internet connection was limited to eight districts, but the coalition government expanded it to 164 upazilas of 64 districts and will extend it more," the prime minister said in reply to a question of a ruling BNP lawmaker.

the Ludford Lane spec year and it was handed over to the mens, that probably came from a DMCH. It started treating patients

from last week Up to 10 burn patients are being admitted to the DMCH a day and most of them are being treated in different wards of the hospital due to

lack of space at the burns department, sources said. Other than offering treatment, the specialised hospital will also provide training for young plastic surgeons, said Dr Samanta Lal Sen,

head of DMCH's burns unit. "It will also offer postgraduate degrees in burns and plastic surgerv." he said adding 10 students will be enrolled under the department every academic session.

"It will be a centre of excellence. where experienced plastic surgeons from abroad will come and share their expertise with our young generation." Dr Sen added.

The six-storey hospital will be built on top of the existing building and house all possible support for burn patients.

Shattered dreams

Complex, pointing at the community

clinic that stands idle, but was sup-

posed to provide a package of

healthcare services to a population of

and no piece of furniture for the

her neighbours who donated the land

to the government for the clinic said

dejectedly, "We feel cheated by the

found the clinic locked and in a state

During a visit, this correspondent

Across the Gazipur district, 140

community clinics like this one had

been constructed. Most of those

have been lying deserted for years

due to lack of logistics and man-

an official of the Gazipur CS's office.

"We have no drugs, no manpower

Mosammat Jahura Khatun and

FROM PAGE 1

6,000 in the union.

clinic." Ali added.

government."

ernment.

told The Daily Star.

Revised bill

FROM PAGE 12 break from April 30 to May 11.

The bill proposes for nine changes that include mandatory display of the president and prime minister's portraits at public offices and raising the retirement ages of Supreme Court judges, chairman and members of the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the comptroller and auditor general. It also recommends for automatic dissolution of all elected local bodies on completion of five-year tenure and appointment of administrators for stopgap period, and also a provision for quick swear-in of lawmakerselect

Once the bill is passed by the House, 45 women will be elected indirectly, in proportion to the political parties' seats in parliament. It will increase the retirement age of the Supreme Court judges to 67 years from 65. PSC chairman's and members' to 65 from 62 and auditor general's to 65 from 60.

Earlier, Kader Siddigui of Krishak Sramik Janata League opposed the introduction of the bill but the House rejected his objection. Subsequently, the bill was sent to the concerned parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny in the next three weeks.

ed subsidy. calls for reviewing the situation in the light of increased agriculture production and poverty reduction."

the report notes.

The agriculture ministry also demands subsidy for diesel, which fuels irrigation. But the finance minister refuses the request saying it will be misused.

Economists however hold guite different views.

Dr Uttam Kumar Dev. a research fellow at the Centre for Policy

Govt plans

FROM PAGE 1

Police arrested about 15,000 people in eight days of clampdown in Dhaka from April 18 under the ordinance ahead of the AL's April 30 deadline for unseating the govern-

After the meeting, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said: "Some innocent people might have been harassed, but the arrests served the greater interest of the nation."

"We have evidence that the opposition wanted to topple the government in a unconstitutional way," he said, adding the police operation could foil the opposition plot.

"No government can sit idle when an opposition leader threatens to unseat the government through an armed struggle," he replied to a question.

The LGRD minister told the meeting, held after a gap of seven months, that law and order recently improved, but the government wanted further improvements.

"If we can bring the culprits to of dilapidation. The plaster of the book, law and order would be building was crumbling while the better." Bhuivan said.

tubewell rusted. No-one visits the "We are planning to increase the clinic that had been built with an number of police and providing ambition to serve the locals six days a them with logistics and facilities to week with the basic healthcare improve the situation." services as announced by the gov-

He underscored the importance of intense monitoring of the lawenforcers.

On the largest ever arms seizure in Chittagong, he said, "A committee working on the arms haul will submit the report very soon."

power, the civil surgeon's (CS) office Moudud said a draft proposal for providing the police with better "We are afraid even to meet logistics would be worked out in the members of the community groups next meeting of the committee. as many of them have accused

The minister stressed the need health officials of pilfering the allofor forming permanent independent cated drugs and the furniture," said investigation cells to follow criminal cases. Thirty such pilot cells work-

BIDS Research Director Dr Asaduzzaman said there should be short-term, mid-term and long-term subsidy and investment policies

He also observed that the agriculture extension, marketing and technological development were in need of more investments. "Agriculture is not just crops but also livestock and fisheries " he pointed out "so, the investment should go in all

these sectors.'

ing with as many police stations have set good examples, he said. Moudud said the meeting decided in principle to set up a

police intelligence force to watch the activities of police and would adopt the proposal in the next meeting.

Moudud also stressed the need for efficient and non-political public prosecutors to reduce the sufferings of people.

Proshika FROM PAGE 1

during the last three days of police remand, Rob added.

Rob and three other Proshika staff were arrested on April 20 near the NGO's office in Pallabi under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure which mandates police

Tuesday issued a rule on the government, directing it to explain why Rob. arrested under the said section, was placed on remand, which the law prohibits.

CMM's Court at 11:00am on completion of a three-day police remand and later was taken to the chamber of Metropolitan Magistrate Shafiq Anwar for recording his statements.

Later, he was taken to an unspecified place and after an hour was brought to the magistrate's chamber where he gave statements for three hours without any break.

Khokan, after hearing both sides, took the petition into cognisance and ordered that Rob be sent to Dhaka Central Jail.

In Bhutan strong growth is projected at 7.0 percent this year and 8.0 percent next year.

"A major hydropower project to be commissioned in September 2005 will provide a large step-up in export and budget revenues," the report said.

Cheated jobseekers

FROM PAGE 12

Commenting on the manner in which the passage of the youths to Iraq was orchestrated, a source at the Consular and Welfare Directorate said on condition of anonymity, "It's astonishing that a group of people could travel to the war-ravaged Iraq without being noticed by the immigration authorities.

"It's clear that a well-networked syndicate is behind the racketeer-

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Dalil Uddin Mandal said: "We could not initiate any step in this regard, as none of the victims filed a formal complaint with us. But we are investigating the roles of the recruiting and travelling agents concerned." Dalil also said when interrogated at the airport, the repatriated youths told some officials of the ministry that they went abroad just to have a tour.

The travelling agents, Kazi Air, which also is a recruiting agent, and Grenadine International, which is yet to be traced, cannot dodge their responsibility in the incident, the secretary said.

> Kazi Mofizur Rahman, owner of Kazi Air, claimed his agency just sold 10 air tickets and had nothing else to do with the matter.

Govt mulls FROM PAGE 12

criticism for non-implementation of most recommendations of the education commissions formed by them and questions were raised as to why the commissions were

formed The present commission, formed in January last year with former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Moniruzzaman Miah as its chairman, handed over its report to the prime minister late last month. The 340-page report focussed on almost all aspects of education.

The NEC chairman pointed out the commission made three categories of recommendations -- shortterm, mid-term and long-term, It kept in view which recommendations could be implemented immediately.

A permanent education commission, if formed, will assess the financial requirements for implementation of the recommendations of the present commission, which could not do so due to time constraints, Moniruzzaman said.

The NEC also suggested formation of a separate teacher recruitment commission to facilitate appointment of dedicated and talented people as teachers.

BDR, BSF FROM PAGE 1

searched everywhere but found no trace of it.

About the Indian list, BDR chief Alam said, " We asked our sector commanders to examine the list, but we did not find a single camp on our soil.'

He said issues like killings along the border, smuggling of small arms, smooth supply of electricity to Angorpota and Dahagram enclaves and erection of barbed-wire fences and push-in will be discussed.

hard-sell the personal charisma of Vajpayee as juxtaposed to Gandhi (2) woo the Muslim voters and (3) mobilise workers of RSS and its affiliates for grass-root mobilisation

of voters in Uttar Pradesh. Apart from deploying Vajpayee and Advani for addressing poll rallies, the ruling party has stationed its general secretary Sanjay Joshi, who maintains liaison with RSS and

Two more younger party leaders Pramod Mahajan and Sushma Swaraj have also been asked to camp in the state to counter Congress' move to utilise Sonia's children Rahul and Priyanka in the campaign.

The BJP will also focus on western part of Uttar Pradesh which has a high concentration of Muslim voters, party sources said. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of 80 parliamentary seats. Of these, polling in 32 was held on April 26 and the remaining 48 will go to poll on May 5 and 10.

Public posturing apart, Congress leaders privately admit the party and allies are far from the majority mark, 72 to be precise, if exit polls are anything to go by. On the other hand, even the worst case scenario presented for BJP-led alliance by NDTV exit poll puts the ruling combine 27 short of majority mark.

The history of political reflexes show that smaller parties usually gravitate towards the political formation which is closer to power and has the appearance of providing stability and longer stint in the corridors of power.

Vajpayee

FROM PAGE 12

India, where thousands die each year in floods while other areas are parched, has for decades mulled building canals between its major rivers.

The project was put off repeatedly due to the high cost but a government panel in March pledged to

have a report completed by 2006. The panel said that if the plan was ecologically and financially sound, the target completion date

should be 2016. India is currently voting in staggered parliamentary polls. Preelection polls put Vajpayee's ruling coalition comfortably ahead but exit polls have shown the main opposition Congress party closing the gap.

to arrest anyone on suspicion. ing.' The High Court however on

Rob was produced before the

But Rob refused to give statements.

Magistrate Jagannath Das