Govt won't step down before its tenure ends

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the election only after the present government completes its tenure.

Development and Cooperatives minister, said. "BNP won't resign even a day before completing the tenure of

Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, BNP's workers front, organised the rally at Paltan Maidan in the afternoon to mark its silver jubilee and in observance of May Day

absence in parliament, we will fill up those seats through by-polls," he said.

demand of the AL, the BNP secretary general said, "We urged them to join parliament to discuss their three-point but they didn't.'

Addressing it, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed alleged the AL was engaged in a conspiracy to destroy the country's economy and tried to hoodwink people by setting the April 30 deadline. He also asked the main opposition

to join parliament and shun "the politics destruction and anarchy."

Sramik Dal President Nazrul Islam Khan chaired the rally. Among others, State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman, senior BNP leader KM Obaidur Rahman and Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pinto, also spoke

After the rally, Tarique Rahman, senior joint secretary general of the BNP, led a Sramik Dal procession which paraded different city streets.

Proshika's culture

to seize them." the senior officer said.

Proshika Director (administration) Sved Giasuddin Ahmed said: "Police have written in their report that they did not find what they were looking

But Deputy Director (general administration) Parveen Mushtari said: "Police seized some documents, but I don't know what they are

About 30 law enforcers from Pallabi Police Station and traffic department mounted quard at the entry to the 14-storey Proshika Bhaban since 2:15pm.

Assistant Commissioner (Mirpur Zone) Kamrul Ahsan, the officers-incharge of Pallabi and Mirpur police stations, detectives and members of Special Branch (SB), Rapid Action Team and Directorate General Forces Intelligence entered the office. A SB superintendent of police led the raid.

The police team scoured different floors of the building and checked some files on computer on the second floor where deputy directors work and on the seventh floor where Proshika President Qazi Faruque Ahmed and the vice-president work. But Giasuddin said: "Police said they had a warrant of search, but did not

Police scanned files and audioand video-tapes in the reporting section on the ninth floor and quizzed

Police did not let journalists enter the office until the raid ended at 5:15pm. Many Proshika officials who went out for lunch had to wait outside But police let some employees leave the office during the sweep.

to the waiting journalists and left in a hurry. "Don't ask me anything. cannot talk about it," said AC Kamrul Ahsan, who was in a rush to board his

DENIAL OF LINKS

Proshika fell foul of the government as it allegedly threw its weight behind the Awami League for a campaign during the last general elections and the recent antigovernment agitation

government's allegation against oshika is not true.

The government earlier failed to prove the allegation (of assisting the AL) it brought against me after it came to power. The government

"It's a conspiracy against us. Raising the allegations, the government is trying to justify its mass arrests and intimidating our officials into giving false statements," he said.

Political violence

Hasan, assistant editor of daily

Official Secrets Act is a major impediment to press freedom, said Shawkat Mahmud, general secretary of the Jatiya Press Club. He also asked the government to form a press commission for journalists. Managing Editor of The Daily Star

Syed Fahim Munayem, who moderated the discussion, said, "Full press freedom is there in the country, but we have to examine how far newspapers and journalists are free."

Among others, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Reazuddin Ahmed, editor of The News Today, Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, Manabjamin chief editor, Sirajuddin Ahmed, editor of daily Dinkal, Borhan Ahmed, executive editor of daily Janakantha, Channel Chief News Editor Shah Alamgir and Weekly Ananya Editor Tasmima Hossain participated in the discussion.

Human rights coalition Odhikar and newly formed media watchdog Article 39 jointly organised a discussion at Odhikar's office in Gulshan in the afternoon

Speakers there asked the government to immediately enact and implement the proposed right to

BTRC

FROM PAGE 1

set criteria, the BTRC chairman blamed the delay on difference of opinion between the state-owned telecoms monopoly Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) and private operators over setting up of an internet exchange for the VoIP traffic. BTTB had been pursuing for the

exchange on anticipation of its revenue loss, but private operators were reluctant about the exchange and preferred call termination via VSAT (very small aperture terminals).

"We have resolved the problem after discussing the issue with the prime minister at a meeting of the national ICT taskforce." Murshed said. Now there will be no internet exchange before connecting the country with the undersea cables, he added.

Grameen Bank Managing Director Prof Muhammad Yunus and Vicechancellor of Brac (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) University Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury are among the proponents of the idea as they believe Bangladesh's internet traffic would ultimately be diverted via the transcontinental submarine cables once the country gets hooked to the information superhighway

BTTB introduced VoIP to generate calls to 10 countries without licence, a move that private operators say is against BTRC's level-playing field

Contempt plea against media man rejected

The High Court yesterday summarily rejected plea of a city magistrate to draw contempt proceedings against a UNB reporter for writing that she (magistrate) stood up and saluted a minister as he entered the court in a defamation suit.

Editors and publishers of The Daily Star and Bhorer Kagoj were also charged for publication of the United News of Bangladesh (UNB)

"The reporter had no intention to belittle the court, rather the intention to protect practice of the court...We do not find any elements of contempt of court," observed Justice MA Matin and Justice Shamim Hasnain in their order rejecting the reference.

Magistrate Khandker Fatema Begum, following the report published on September 29 last year herself initiated a case and forwarded to the High Court for drawing contempt proceedings against Faruk Quazi, senior reporter of UNB, saying the report is a punishable offence under the Contempt of Court Act

Quazi had reported that lawyers, court officials and litigants at a metropolitan court were surprised when magistrate Khandker Fatema Begum stood up and saluted Minister for Housing and Public Works Mirza Abbas as he appeared there as plaintiff of a defamation case on

BNP MPs

The bill, placed in parliament on April 28 after some changes, says the government will appoint its officials to the local government bodies after expiry of their tenures and they will continue in office until new bodies are installed through

yesterday's meeting, Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain said Article 59 of the constitution did not allow any unelected person to hold any local government position.

"I don't agree with the proposed provision as it's not consistent with the constitution. It'll not be wise to send bureaucrats to local governments. meeting sources quoted him as

Ziaur Rahman Khan, another lawmaker of the key ruling party BNP, expressed the same view. 'We should not appoint bureau-

crats to local government bodies for a single day. We should find out another way to break the logiam that blocks timely elections to the bodies." The chief whip also opposed the

proposed proportionate distribution of reserved women seats among political parties with representation in parliament. Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, who

placed the bill in Jatiya Sangsad, did not make any comment at the Committee Chairman Khandakar

Mahbub Uddin Ahmed presided over the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

CJSS men

Ataur Rhaman, officer-in-charge of

Kotwali Police Station, said they had heard the incident but none lodged any case. However, an armed forces team visited the village, he

5 Israelis die

FROMPAGE 12

Israel Radio said a car belonging to CNN television had prevented further bloodshed by blocking the road after shooting broke out. There was no immediate comment from CNN.

The militant Islamic Jihad and Popular Resistance Committees, an umbrella group, claimed responsibility for the "heroic" attack in a call to the news agency.

Sultana Panni

FROM PAGE 1 such heinous offence. So, I find it logical to award capital punishment to all the accused," remarked the

judge in his observation. Sonia Khan Panni, daughter of the victim, and her husband Tondrop (who uses one name), a German national, were present in the court. She burst into tears on hearing the verdict and said she was satisfied with the verdict.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and tribunal recorded statements of 26 out of 33 prosecution witnesses. The trial of the case was complete in 133 working days.

Sultana, 70, was strangled by ner domestic helps and their two riends at her Dhanmondi residence in May 19 last year. They also took away Tk 82,000 and gold ornaments said to be worth about Tk 10

Sonia filed a murder case with Dhanmondi Police Station the same day without naming any suspects.

Police arrested the accused and the Detective Branch (DB) pressed charges against the four on July 16. showing 26 people as prosecution witnesses. The court framed charges against them on September 20 last year.

All the four gave confessional statements to metropolitan magistrates on different dates during the nvestigation of the case. Special public prosecutors Abdul

Latif Talukder and Mahbub Ahmed anneared for the state while advocates AKM Akhter Hossain. MA Yusuf and Shafiqur Rahman defended the accused.

More deadlines

League, the labour front of Awami League

She said: "If this oppressive government remains in power. peace will remain a far cry. People want rule of law, not terrorism. They no longer want to bear with abuse of

On the closure of the Adamjee Jute Mills, the opposition leader said the government turned 35,000 labourers of the mills jobless and blocked the way of livelihood for more than one crore people, includ-

"During the last two and half years' misrule, this government made four lakh labourers of more than 50 industries jobless while 5 lakh women garments workers as 1,200 garment factories were shut down," she said.

"You cannot provide food and job for the poor labourers, why cut their jobs?" she asked.

The former prime minister mentioned a number of development initiatives, which were taken up by her previous Awami League She said: "The BNP-Jamaat

alliance government has totally failed to ensure good governance in the country. They made hattrick in corruption... they secured number one position in torture on journalists. repression on women and children. and violation of human rights." Hasina alleged that Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia and her elder son established a reign of terror across the country, controlling terrorism from 'Hawa Bhaban' as they had "done before coming to power by blasting bombs in Udichi function, Ramna Batamul, CPB meeting at Paltan and in Narayangani AL party office."

Referring to the arrest of three Jubo Mohila League workers on April 29 in Dhaka, she accused the government of torturing the activists of her party's female youth wing by using hot water and electric shock. "Such torture on women workers was never seen in the country's history," she said.

"We express our hatred towards Khaleda Zia, as she being a woman, is ordering such torture," Hasina said. "Is it a sign of democracy? Is any democracy there in the country?" she asked Hasina said Jamaat-e-Islami. a

coalition partner of the BNP-led alliance government, do politics in the name of Islam, "but neither Islam, nor the power is safe in their hands."

She also accused Jamaat of conducting terrorist activities in the guise of various organisations in different parts of the country.

Chaired by Sramik League President Ahsanullah Master MP, the rally was also addressed by AL leaders Abdul Jalil MP, Motia Chowdhury. Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Obaidul Kader, Akhteruzzaman, Abdur Rahman, Prof Nazma Rahman, Habibur Rahman Siraj, Dr Selina Akhter Ivy and Aiav Kar Khokon.

KM Shafiullah, Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shaheed MP, KM Jahangir Hussein MP, Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury Liton MP, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Dewan Shafiul Arefin Tutul, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, AHM Masud Dulal and Monavem Munna were present.

Labour welfare

FROM PAGE 1

Once the foundation is established, workers of the government and nongovernment sectors would not have to look to the government or the owners for help in their need, she

Speaking as chief guest at the function, organised by the labour ministry, the prime minister urged the workers to maintain discipline

Bangladesh were still labouroriented and in most of the places, machines were yet to take the place

moving," Khaleda said. Referring to women's contribu-

tion, she said national development in real sense is not possible by ignoring their rights or by discrimi-She asked all concerned to

The prime minister said the government has established technical training centres in every old district for skill-development of the

labours. Separate training centres

divisional towns to groom skilled "We believe that the wheels of

for women were being set up in the

production and development cannot be kept running without ensuring the interests and welfare of the directly involved toiling labours." she said.

She mentioned that the current labour policy was drawn up during the period of Ziaur Rahman in 1980 while in the 1992 stint of BNP, steps were taken to make the labour laws time-befitting in the light of the ILO

The alliance government has taken steps to finalise the labour laws. Khaleda said, hoping to see its application very soon.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman, ILO representative in Dhaka Gopal Bhattacharya, Bangladesh Employers' Federation M Anisuddowlah, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal General Secretary M Zafrul Hasan Khan and Secretary Incharge of the labour ministry Ali Imam Maiumdar also addressed the

function. Ministers, MPs, chiefs of the three services, diplomats, labour leaders and senior government officials were present.

The function ended with a musical programme.

Donors want search

criticised the government's "closeddoor practices in policy development, legislative drafting and public decision-making and a culture of secrecy in public administration." Presenting the report to newsmen

at the ADB Bangladesh Resident

Mission, Shibuichi said, "Law and order is another of our main concerns. Certainly, it has not improved On this issue, the report observes, "The government has adopted several measures to improve the law-

and-order situation, but progress and effects to date are limited. An increasing level of criminal activities including killings was reported across the country. The quarterly update says corruption, lack of good governance,

poor infrastructure and other negative factors are hindering Bangladesh from achieving a much higher economic growth in keeping with its potentials. "We have concerns over governance issues and poor infrastructure

of this country... We suggest that not only the government, but all people concerned should concentrate on these issues," Shibuichi said. The report maintains that the political situation in Bangladesh is too

volatile for a sound economic health. The formation of a new political party by the immediate past president was marked by tensions. Meanwhile, two members of parliament belonging to the BNP-led alliance resigned and joined the new political party. Frequency of hartals and violence has increased in recent months. Frequent hartals inhibit the country in realising its true economic potentials.'

The update also incorporates the principal findings of the Country Governance Assessment for Bangladesh conducted by the bank. According to the study, the main governance issues needing immediate attention are corruption, impunity [of the corrupt], bureaucratic resistance to reform, excessive centrali-

sation of decision-making authority lack of judicial autonomy and inadequate transparency and public awareness on governance standards. Rigid administrative orientaprocesses are also included in the

"The negative consequences of weak core governance affect the entire population, but have a particularly severe impact on the poor, women and other marginalised

groups. They are "(i) The law-andconstraints in the sphere of core governance limit sectoral governance initiatives," the report main-

benign constraints.'

The ADB prescribes undertaking programmes to achieve some specific governance objectives including creating a competitive environment for all aided by free flow of information, establishing and enforcing clear-cut rules and regulations for public sector administration and promoting civil society voice and participation.

Jubo Dal secy, five others

Barisal city

wounded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Masked gunmen critically wounded the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal's Barisal city unit secretary and Barisal City Corporation (BCC) commissioner and five others in a pre-dawn ambush Mahbub Alam Mehdi, secretary of

the ruling BNP's student wing and commissioner of ward No. 14 of BCC, his four associates and another local youth came under bomb, gun and machete attack a few yards off Police arrested Sohel and Sujon,

two activists of main opposition Awami League's (AL) student front

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and sons of a Barisal district AL leader yesterday morning. Local people took out a procession in protest at the The victims and police sources said Mehdi and four other Jubo Dal adherents were returning home from the local ward commissioner's office at the Bangla Bazar in the early hours

When they were some vards from his

house, a gang of about 20 assailants

ambushed them near the Arshad Ali

Contractor lane. The attackers blasted

bombs and fired gun shots on the Mehdi took a bullet in the right hand but managed to get into the house, prompting the gunmen to fire shots into the house. Humayun Kabir, 32, assistant secretary of the district Jubo Dal, received bullet injuries in the head and chest and Sabuj, 30, a Jubo Dal activist, received a bullet in his leg and was hit in the abdomen and left hand by splinters. The other two Jubo Dal activists, Masud, 28, and Moin, 17, received bullet injuries in leg. The miscreants also chopped Abir, 20, a local resident, when he came out of his

house hearing the gunfire and blasts. All the injured were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, but Mehdi was taken back home to be treated under private arrangement for security reasons. The condition of others was said to be critical. Police have been deployed at Mehdi's house.

Mehdi's brother and former city corporation commissioner Shah Alam Khalifa filed a case with Kotwali Police Station accusing 14.

Barisal city Mayor and district BNP President Majibur Rahman Sarwar visited Mehdi who denied to comment on the cause of attack or the identity of

Five killed in road accident

UNB, Dhaka

Five people were killed and 50 others were injured as a speeding bus careered off the road into a ditch in Bagutia in Kalihati upazila Saturday

construction Bagutia bridge route Three passengers of the bus died on the spot and two others died at a hospital. Four of the victims were Shahidul Islam, 27, Abdul Quddus, 32, Samir Ali, 28, and

Of the injured, 20 were admitted

FROM PAGE 12 women in society. She said peace and welfare could be established in today's world by following the Prophet's

observe the day with various programmes. Milad mahfils, waz mahfils, discussions and special prayers will be held to signify the occasion.

organisations and political parties will organise processions, doa mahfils and graveyard visits. Bangladesh Betar and

Bangladesh Television and satellite TV channels will air special programmes. Bangla Academy will hold a discus-

programme at National Press Club at 10:30am. Education Minister Osman Faruk will attend the function as chief

Mugger killed

"Criminals in Jamtola (near Rampura) where we once lived killed my son. It's the result of a conflict," said the woman who

declined to be named for security

criminal case against Jamal, born in Sanarpar in Narayanganj. Quoting the traders, Sub-Inspector of Khilgaon Police Station Abdul Khair said two muggers first

"As traders refused to give them money, they left the market and went back in with three others who were waiting outside," Khair said.

Outrage over Iraq

Written by Major General Antonio Taguba, the report said evidence included "detailed witness statements and the discovery of extremely graphic photographic

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman declined to comment on the article, but said, "We take all reports of detainee abuse seriously and all allegations are thoroughly investigated.' He said that when incidents of

abuse came to light earlier this year, the army immediately ordered an investigation, and Sanchez ordered a separate probe to ensure such ncidents were not widespread in the military detention system in Irag. The deputy commander of the US Army's intelligence force is

interrogation practices at the Iraqi prison, The Washington Post reported in its Sunday edition. News of the military report came days after photographs showing abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US

heading an investigation into

troops were published and broadcast around the globe. The photos showed US troops smiling, posing, laughing or giving the thumbs-up sign as naked, male Iraqi prisoners were stacked in a

pyramid or positioned to simulate

sex acts with one another. US President George W. Bush said on Friday he was deeply disgusted but only a "few people" were to blame. He defended the conduct of the occupation forces as the White House tried to head off a backlash in Iraq and across the Arab

The publication of the graphic

pictures of abuse involving British and US troops has thrown into disarray coalition plans to "win the hearts and minds" of the Iraqi people. Many Arab media sources have reacted with rage to the photos in

of Iraqi prisoners by US and British The two key TV news channels in the Middle East, al-Jazeera and al-Arabiya, made the American photos

Western media showing the abuse

their lead story on Saturday. "The pictures released by the US CBS news network showing repulsive and immoral practices by US soldiers against Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison have caused a great shock and dismay," al-Jazeera's news announcer said.

Iraq and Baghdad in particular has been much greater," its Baghdad correspondent Al-Habib al-

world public opinion, the shock in

"If the photos were a shock to the

ready to move at any moment. This may also hold true for the armed fronts," the correspondent said.

Al-Jazeera also highlighted the Daily Mirror's reports and pictures of abuse by British troops. Al-Arabiya TV reported that Britain was to launch an inquiry.

"The Scandal", was the headline Egypt's Akhbar el-Yom newspaper splashed across its front page above photographs of smiling US soldiers posing by naked and hooded inmates.

Al-Wafd, an opposition paper, displayed similar photos beneath the words "The Shame!"

In an editorial in pan-Arab newspaper al-Quds al-Arabi on Saturday, chief editor Abd-al-Bari Atwan said the issue was a "mora scandal as well as being a political "What the US forces did and are

had always warned of, namely, that the aim of this invasion and occupation was primarily to humiliate the Arabs and Muslims and was never for changing a dictatorship or establishing a model of democracy ustice and human rights.' "We are certain that Osama bin Laden, his deputy Ayman al-Zawahri and al-Qaeda supporters are the happiest people on earth as

doing in Irag confirms to us what we

frustrated young men who are zealous about their religion, creed and honour." Arabic-language militant web sites also posted the torture photos.

they watch the shameful clips

because they have given them the

best ammunition for recruiting more

Several jihadist web sites, including the Saudi dissident Islamic Renewal Organization and al-Ansar posted the series of photos shown on CBS, and readers posted comments expressing outrage and condemnation.

Syrian TV said: "The detainees are suffering various types of physical and psychological torture." "As the difficult situation in occupied Iraq continues, the intensity of the harsh human suffering

and the bizarre and immoral prac-

Reporting the story, state-run

tices of the officers and soldiers of the American occupation against Iraqi detainees in Abu-Ghraib prison become clearer day after day.' In Iran, state news agency Irna quoted a former diplomat as saving the "ghastly action" by US soldiers "will adversely affect the Western countries and the pedestal US and

Europeans place themselves in Ghuraybi continued. respect to the violations of human "Iraqi citizens are very angry and April's Fool

that its present embarrassment was so very unnecessary. Here was the BNP making one unbelievable blunder after a ther in connection with the Baddruddozza affair. The former President was being harassed and intimidated in the crudest of manners and those who came to his support were repressed in a style resembling fascist tactics. This resulted in widespread condemnation in the media and revulsion in the public. A clever opposition would have waited on the sidelines and allowed the government to expose itself more and more and take home the resultant political dividend.

But not so were our impatientfor-power opposition party and its ever clever general secretary. In his infinite wisdom he decided that enough is enough and declared that an elected government cannot be allowed to continue after April 30, 2004, more than two years before the expiry of its term. This paper, along with others, repeatedly pointed out that it is the right of every opposition to demand an early election, but no democratic opposition anywhere in the world has the right to plan the toppling of an elected government, other than methods permitted in the constitution. The very vocabulary was undemocratic, unconstitutional and unacceptable, as such, to a society where we have chosen election as the method of changing our government.

Our counsel had absolutely no effect on the AL -- they usually don't, as our politicians are all wise and allknowing -- and the rhetoric of 'toppling' the government continued. While we vigorously criticise the government for its excesses, especially for harassing the powerless and the poor, we have to admit that when the 'declared' target of the opposition was to TOPPLE the government, it became the government's duty to crush it. In doing so, it showed a side of its character that has greatly disappointed us about how a government can bend, abuse and even break rules to gain its own way. (We will write about it sepa-Jalil's deadline and the fact that

he was able to drag his whole party into it say a lot about how our big political parties work. We find it hard to believe that the 'deadline' policy emerged from any collective thinking. In all probability it came up as a passing comment and was casually made public. Once said it suddenly became a policy and had to be implemented. We have asked many senior AL leaders and all of them repeatedly told this writer that they

knew nothing as to how, why and when the 'deadline' issue was decided upon. There was never a threadbare discussion on its wismade public by Jalil and the word was out that its has the 'blessings' (as nothing happens in our big parties without such blessings) of

the party chief, it then became the 'duty' of everyone to implement it. It is the total dictatorship that runs within our big political parties that must now come into question. It is our belief that this mockery of a political programme of 'toppling' a government (as against demanding early elections) could not have happened if there was some demo-

cratic discourse within the party. The Awami League's 'deadline programme was a fiasco and has made the party guite ridiculous. It must now seriously assess its present position and think carefully about its future moves. Under no circumstances will it be good for our democracy if the AL is greatly weakened and demoralised Conversely, it will not also be good if the party does not subject itself to a stringent self-criticism, sparing none. Though there is no tradition of critical self-assessment within our parties, it is as good a time as any to

As strong proponents of democ-

racy in our country, we want a strong

opposition. But we also want a responsible, effective opposition. The incredible failure of the government to run the country, its refusal to address high-level corruption within its ranks -- some very close to the heart --, its propensity to use and abuse state power to crush legitimate dissent and its patronisation of armed criminals, all testify to the fundamental need for an effective opposition to counterbalance such a situation. We want a powerful, as against a power-hungry, opposition The challenge before the AL now is to fulfil that role and it can immediately concentrate on two issues -corruption and the arms haul in Chittagong. It can also demand a debate in parliament on both especially on the arms cache, and force the government to come clean on this greatest security threat to our country. This is a good point for the opposition to start serving the people of this country.

4 GIs killed FROM PAGE 12

to Bagdad, O'Brien said. Video

images of Hamill released by his captors a day after his abduction showed his left arm in a sling suggesting he was wounded during the attack on his convoy

Mannan tells Sramik Dal rally

ruling party would go into the next Addressing a rally, Mannan, also Local Government, Rural

the government,

Bhuiyan asked the main opposition Awami League (AL) to apologise to people for setting the April 30 deadline for the fall of the present government. He also asked the AL to join parlia-"If your seats fall vacant for

some officials on their work.

The law enforcers refused to talk

ahead of April 30 Faruque Ahmed said: "The

repeats that it has proof.

information act for ensuring people's fundamental right to know. Farid Hossain. Dhaka bureau chief of the Associated Press, presented a keynote paper on "Threats on Fair Journalism: State of Press Freedom in Bangladesh" and Dr Asif Nazrul, adviser of Article 39 and teacher of Dhaka University's law department,

Information Act" at the discussion chaired by Odhikar Director Masud Alam Raqib Ahsan. According to a report prepared by Odhikar, five journalists were killed and 281 others injured in the country in

criminal attacks during January 2001

to December 2003.

presented another paper on "Right to

The report said 864 media personnel were repressed and harassed and of them 54 were arrested during the period. In 2003, 65 journalists were injured

19 arrested, two abducted, 41

assaulted, 90 threatened with death and 62 sued, it added. Three journalists were killed, 102 injured, 30 arrested, three kidnapped, 39 assaulted, 147 threatened and 139 others sued in 2002 while two journalists were killed and 114 were iniured and five arrested in 2001.

Media for People, a media-based

organisation, holds a discussion and

candle lighting programme at Liberation War Museum in Segun

Bagicha at 6:00 this evening to mark

the day. Different organisations will

also hold various programmes across

Bangladesh, Kuwait

the country on the occasion.

Colonel Ali Hasan Khaja attended the

Joint Secretaries to the defence

ministry Brigadier General Ismat Amed Chowdury, Bir Protik M Alimusshan and Director of Personnel Administration of Bangladesh Army Brigadier General Hameed-al-Hasan represented the Bangladesh side. The new accord has replaced the previous two agreements signed on

The new agreement will take immediate effect and remain valid for six years. "The agreement is renewable for similar periods unless terminated through mutual consent," said a Kuwaiti embassy release "Bangladesh Armed Forces under the agreement will depute military

personnel to the Ministry of Defence of

Kuwait to render primarily technical and vocational services," said a

statement of the ISPR.

May 15, 1991 and on December 15

Currently, some 3,600 members including skilled civilian personnel of Bangladesh Armed Forces are serving in the oil-rich Gulf state under the two previous agreements, the state-

manpower.

and work with dedication, honesty and sincerity for increasing produc-She reminded them that development and production in

"Once again I greet these people behind the machines whose sweat has kept the wheels of development, production and progress

evaluate the contributions of womer in the family, field, factory or office

tion of the public services, declining public confidence in the integrity of public institutions and lack of opportunity for ordinary citizens to participate in public decision-making

groups," the report notes. The ADB classifies the key governance constraints into five order situation and limitation of the justice sector and law enforcement agencies in checking crime and corruption; (ii) weak public administration; (iii) regulatory environment; (iv) inadequate national policy and resource commitments to local government reform; and (v) the impact of intensifying partisan tension in many areas. These five

Commenting on the resistance to governance reform efforts, the report says, "While vested quarters including some public officials who feel threatened by changes raise formidable resistance to governance reform, many governance initiatives are impeded by more basic and

went to the market to extort tolls, as they did every month before.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 9:00pm when the Tangail-bound bus from Mymensingh took the underinstead of a bypass.

Raion 28 while the other victim's identity could not be known immedi-

to Tangail General Hospital, while the rest received first aid.

Eid-e-Miladunnabi

teachings. Khaleda said the greatest Prophet has set up a unique example of showing mutual respects, tolerance to others' opinions and remaining stick to the truth and justice. Muslims across the country will

Various religious, socio-cultural

sion meeting on "The Philosophy of Mohammad (SM): Patience and Tolerance" at the academy's seminar room at 4:30pm. Central Fulkuri Asar will hold children's rally and prize distribution

"He was not part of any gang," the 55-year-old woman said.

Khilgaon police said there is no