Govt obliged to protect | Municipal polls |

and punish the criminals and inform people that such incident will not hannen again." Patel said, speaking on behalf of the 32 donors.

Unnamed gunmen killed Ahsanullah at a rally in Tongi on Friday, a day before the three-day BDF meet opened to review the pledges the government made earlier and highlight law and order downslide

On the second day of the meet yesterday, development partners said the government is more responsible than any other institution for improving law and order, stopping political killings or journalist repression and bringing the opposition back to parliament.

At a session on Promoting Good Governance and Human Security, they expressed deep concern at corruption and weak governance.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed presented the keynote speech at the session chaired by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman.

Corruption and law and order downslide took centre stage in the discussion, prompting Saifur to tell the donors in exasperation: "If you have something new to tell us, say

The donors asked for a deadline from the government for completion of reform it pledged, and observed that most pledges were not implemented and implementation of some pledges was slow.

With low confidence in pledges, a Furopean Union representative told Moudud: "You have made more promises today. When I will go back home, I will check back (with old documents) whether your speech today is the same speech you made two vears ago.'

Bangladesh is making worse records in the corruption index by the year, the donors said, adding there is no guarantee of natural death here. 'These factors prevent us from

urging investors to come to Bangladesh to invest. Bangladesh is suffering from an image crisis," a donor representative said. They discussed the Chittagong

Hill Tracts (CHT) situation and asked the policymakers why the government prevented CHT leader Shantu Larma from going to New York. They also said the government

neither implemented the CHT peace accord nor undertook any development work. Nor did the government take steps to improve law and order there.

On the repression of journalists the donors said there was no press freedom in Bangladesh, where

operations, saw little or no sem-

blance of good governance at pres-

"There is no sense of direction in

the government nor is there any

semblance of cohesion of policy or

It criticised the BNP for its 'failure

programmes of action in its jumbo-

to meet its two primary election

pledges of improving law-and-order

situation and combating corruption.

plained that the breakdown of law

and order and heightened insecurity

of the common people have had the

most debilitating impact. "There is

A new phenomenon is the kidnap-

ping of businessmen and industrial-

ists for ransom, it said, alleging that

some of the victims were killed for the

government's failure to detect crimi-

impunity and immunity with which

government-backed criminals are, at

times, perpetrating this criminal act."

was forced to observe hartals, which

severely dampen the investment

climate and disrupt normal economic

ruling alliance 'mastans' are operat-

ing under active police protection. "A

self-styled vigilante group kills people

(in northwestern districts) and in the

name of (outlaw) cleansing opera-

tions, forcing women to wear burka

and men to grow beards under active

to investigate conclusively all sei-

It also said the government failed

The memorandum also alleged

"What is more alarming is the

A frustrated business community

virtual anarchy in the country.

The main opposition party com-

size cabinet," it states

FROM PAGE 1

AL gives memo

also named journalists, who were killed or repressed.

Moudud protested the observation and said: "It's not true that there is no press freedom. Rather newspapers misuse press freedom.'

The law minister produced a copy of a leading daily and said when the prime minister donated rice to tornado-hit people in a village in Netrakona, the newspaper wrote that ere was no relief.

Moudud claimed that journalists were not killed for journalism, but for 'other' reasons.

Focussing on the poor humanrights situation, the donors asked the government why it did not set up the human rights commission yet despite commitments.

On police reform, the donors cited an example of mass arrests and said many innocents were harassed in sweeps in the run-up to the April 30 deadline of the main opposition Awami League for unseating the coalition government.

On the deadline, Moudud said: "It was conspiring to gather millions of people in the city. But the nation has been saved from a major conspir-

The session over, Patel shared some discussion points with journalists. The opposition should play a

constructive role," he said. "On the other hand, the government is more responsible for making parliament more effective and bringing back the opposition (to parliament) through discussion. Because you (coalition) are now in power." It is a good idea to take account of

the property and interest of the ministers to head off corruption, he said. "I believe uprooting corruption should begin at the top. We will raise this issue at the meeting.

If corruption could have been reduced and governance improved. Bangladesh's GDP would have gone up at least 3 percent, Patel said.

In another BDF session, Policies and Programmes to Deliver the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) Goals and Millennium Development Goals (MDG), donors urged the government to prepare the PRSP through discussing with the opposition.

"If the government starts implementing the PRSP without discussing with the opposition, the future of PRSP will be uncertain. Because it the opposition comes to power, it will obstruct the implementation of PRSP on political grounds," a donor representative said

Saifur told the donors: "We will place it in parliament and discuss with the opposition after the upcom-

attention and condemnation, it said.

It also complained about the

On the 14th Constitution

violation of human rights during mass

Amendment Bill, the AL memo said

the bill was aimed at making retired

chief justice KM Hasan head of the

caretaker government during the

intention for separation of judiciary

from the executive as the law ministry

is often taking time from the Supreme

length how AL lawmakers were

barred from playing their role in

In the long-drawn list of com-

plaints, the AL said emergence of

Hawa Bhaban' has on the one

introduced "duality in authority and

governance" and on the other

epitomised extreme political cor-

politicisation of bureaucracy has

ruined its quality through contract

employment, political patronage in

distribution of executive posts and

being killed and repressed for report-

ing terrorism and corruption under

It stated how journalists were

retirement on motivated grounds.

The memorandum alleged that

Court on flimsy grounds.

It also doubted the government's

The memo also described at

arrests in the last week of April.

next election.

parliament.

The law-enforcers also picked up 8 people including 7 Islami Chhatra Shibir activists from the centre.

Fema) in a report said gunmen burst into Chachara Raipur Government High School in Jessore, snatched ballots from polling officials and stuffed them into boxes in favour of their candidate.

A group of unruly youths raided two polling centres at Ramcharan Government Primary School and PTI premises in Habiganj and snatched ballot papers.

were injured in Rajbari and Sirajganj

Saturday night.

Witnesses said four shops and a motorcycle were damaged in the

Abdul Majid Makhan, 40, and Golam Sanju, 28, were admitted to Sadar hospital

BNP- and AL-backed chairmen candidates clashed at Alamour bazar in the closing hours of campaign for Kazipur municipality on Saturday night, leaving at least 13 people injured Seven of the injured were admit-

ted to Sirajganj General Hospital, of whom the condition of three was

Tk 500 crore

He told the meeting that they will take initiative to appoint an additional district magistrate as law officer to deal with the pending cases. "Absence of a law officer in last eight months has forced the government suffer a huge financial loss." he observed.

He said a coordination meeting between the standing committees on shipping and finance ministries cargo handling at Chittagong port.

nue earner of the country. They also emphasised the need for strengthening the anti-smuggling drives.

Committee members and other officials were present.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 12

"She's trying hard to catch the

first available connecting flight from the US to Dhaka through London." AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Kade told The Daily Star last night. Hasina left Dhaka for the US on

May 6. The AL chief, accompanied by AL presidium member lawmaker Zafar Ullah, met her daughter and son at Miami during the visit.

AL may return

"A decision will be taken on my proposal after the party chief (Sheikh Hasina) returns home on Monday.

The Jatiya Sangsad is likely to adopt an obituary reference on Ahsanullah, who was gunned down at a roadside rally in Tongi on Friday, on May 12 when it sits after 12-day

Kıbrıa

FROM PAGE 12 opposition lawmaker on the eve of the BDF meeting only points to the deteriorating law and order situation. The government is trying to shirk its responsibility for the law and order downslide and put the blame on the opposition.

"Is the opposition responsible for the corruption and law and order downslide? "Kibria questioned.

The prime minister kept mum even after allegations of corruption were raised against the shipping minister by the Danish embassy and against the communications minister by her party colleagues, the former finance minister added in the statement.

On the price hike of essential commodities, he said the prices of the essentials have gone through the roof but the income of the people has not increased.

People cannot think of investing their money as law and order has totally collapsed, Kibria said, adding that those involved with the coalition government are now getting loan rom banks. He also said statistics presented

before the donors at the BDF meet do not reflect the true picture of the country and urged the donors' community to listen to the common people who are living in constant fear and under the heavy burden of exorbitant prices of essentials. The opposition cannot hold

allies and other peaceful political programmes as the government is using police to persecute opposition leaders and activists.

The former finance minister also said the opposition has been staying away from parliament, as it was not allowed to speak in the House

Cancer machine

have apparently suffered extensive damage as they have been left in rooms without any ventilation or airconditioning for the last five years.

A spot visit revealed the way these expensive equipment have been left to go to ruin in a shocking waste of public money. Cement plasters loosened from damp ceilings have fallen on the machines and engineers said the computer software running these sophisticated machinery has also been damaged by moisture from rainwater seeping into the control rooms.

Although the hospital has a fullyfledged building repairing unit from the PWD (public works department), there has been no initiative to repair the damaged walls even when rainwater enters the closed

Dr Parvin Shaheda, associate professor of the hospital's radiotherapy department, said: "Every day we diagnose an average of 150 patients, mostly women, with cervical, oral and windpipe cancer, but we are unable to provide any treatment as the brachytherapy machine is not available for use. The chances of cure with cobalt brachytherapy are 60-100 percent." She said the Tk 2 crore

brachytherapy machine, used worldwide for treating advanced stage of cancer, is the only means to cure cancer in internal tissues or organs, often completely

Without the radiotherapy machine, oncologists (cancer specialists) are forced to resort to a highly risky and inaccurate method of manually determining the location of tumour and the dose of radiation, which can lead to unnecessary damage of healthy tissues while administering radiotherapy.

On the other hand, the computer

planner, which reads X-ray images of tumour and helps locate precise position of the cancerous cells, is vital for precision treatment before external or internal beam of cobalt rays are exposed.

According to Siemens, the supplier of the Tk 60 lakh computer planner. Tk two lakh is needed to put the device back into operation

"We have written to the DMCH authorities two months ago, but they never responded," said Hafizur Rahman, head of Siemens' medical Hospital sources said the DMCH

authorities might decide to dump the

machines to make way for new

machines that are reportedly in the Dr Golam Mohammad, head of DMCH radiotherapy department, blamed the situation on improper installation of the machines. "It is very unfortunate that not a single cancer patient has ever received treatment with the machines. In fact, the machines could never be used

He alleged that a section of officials in the health ministry benefit from "shady deals" involving purchase of such "obsolete machines". "Such outdated machines are no longer in use anywhere in the world. Bangladesh is a dumping ground for outdated medical equipment." he

as the installation was incomplete."

Brig General Nazmul Huda, director of the DMCH, said: "Repairing the machines will not be 'cost effective'. We are going to introduce more advanced technology -- linear accelerator -- which is more precise and cost effective.

Ershad Sikder

12:01am, said Khulna Jail Superintendent Farhad Mia. Six armed men afterwards will guard Ershad to ensure he does not create anything untoward.

Ershad's first wife Khodeja Begum has been given the permission to receive her husband's dead body following her prayer to the jail super on Saturday. Khodeja, however, will have to give the jail authorities a written

undertaking that Ershad will be buried as quickly as possible and no procession will be brought out on receiving the body, said the jail Ershad's first wife Khodeja, three sons Jamal, Kamal and

Helal, only daughter Yasmin and his mother-in-law Ferida will meet him for the last time today, said Farhad Mia. Ershad will be buried at

Tootpara graveyard as per the wish he conveyed to Khodeia three months ago. However.

reiected Khodeia's demand for handing over the body without autopsy. A team of three physicians led

by the civil surgeon will perform the autopsy, said the jail super.

The authorities arranged medical check ups for Ershad, who weighs 75 kg, every three hours served special food, Jailer Farman Ali told The Daily Star at noon vesterday.

from Saturday. He is also being

Meanwhile Ershad's wife Khodeia said she has received death threat by unidentified persons over phone asking her not to bury him (Ershad) on the soil of Khulna and that for noncompliance they will kill her three sons and abduct the only daughter. Khodeja in her letter to the jail super sought security fearing attack on the coffin and also on the lives of the family members.

Meanwhile, a committee formed with businessmen of Skidghat, Khulna Bazar and Station Road declared to prevent people loyal to Ershad from entering Skidghat with

Ershad of Khulna came to limelight through his gruesome murders, many in public. A Khulna court condemned him to death on April 30, 2000 for murdering Khalid.The High Court Division upheld the judgement of the Khulna special court and the Appellate Division also dismissed a subsequent review petition. On April 9, Ershad prayed to the president to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment, but the president also rejected the petition.

Donors want

upcoming programmes," Education Minister Osman Faruk told reporters emerging from the meeting styled Improving Human Development Outcomes -- Education'.

However, he admitted the donors have expressed concern over the implementation process of nonformal education.

"The donor community has particularly expressed concern over delivery mechanism of non-formal education and recommended necessary measures," he said. "They have also suggested conducting a study on both non-formal and mainstream education sys-

Saifur

FROM PAGE 1

But our newspapers splashed that kind of news items all over the front pages," he said. "Our population density is very high and we have inadequate number of policemen."

Institutions like the World Bank International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank have been established by us. he pointed out. "Their iob is to support the member countries. It's not their job to raise questions on governance or corruption. Bilateral donors can raise these questions.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed also echoed the voice of his cabinet colleague "Where would you not find a bad

law and order situation?" he asked. "In New York, there are 52,000 policemen. Whereas, in a country of 14 crore people, we have only 1.05 lakh policemen. But, we admit that we have to improve our law and order further."

percent of the MPs.

On the corruption spree, the law minister said, "In Bihar, there are allegations of corruption against 70

madrassah education, the minister said the donors have no objection in this regard. They rather appreciated the launch of computer literacy and business studies programmes for madrassah students, he said.

ment is committed to bringing the Darkar Framework into effect and would strive to bring all eligible children to school and halve the adult illiteracy rate by 2015.

Development Goals (MDGs), Bangladesh has to achieve universal primary education standard by attaining gender parity in primary and secondary education by 2005.

The minister said the government will soon form a Teacher Recruitment and Certification Commission to create a panel of eligible teachers to be appointed in government and non-government schools.

"The government is at the final stage of forming the commission, which is vital to raise educational standards." he added.

Search body formed

of commissioner. Law Minister Moudud Ahmed

told The Daily Star last night that he is optimistic that the selection committee will finalise the commissioner panel soon and that the commission will be functional by the month-end The Jatiya Sangsad on February 17 passed the much-talked-about

Anti-corruption Commission Bill 2004, introduced on July 10 last year, in an amended form, making way for institution of an independen body to fight graft.

50 hurt

arrested two AL workers when they tried to force their way into

Bangabandhu Avenue. Police severely beat up an AL woman worker, shredding her clothes with baton charges that also caused blood stream down her

Incidents of several buses being burnt were also reported from the city's Gabtali. Dhaka Gate and Shyampur area throughout the day and four small explosions were also heard in different places in the

Police picked up 32 opposition activists from different places in the

were closed in Gazipur and Tongi, the home town of the slain AL leader. No motorised vehicles plied the roads and most people stayed indoors. Police and paramilitary BDR personnel guarded the important installations and government offices. They were also deployed at all road crossings in Tongi industrial

Police clubbed and dispersed a group of AL adherents when they tried to bring out a procession from the Cherag Ali market area in the Several dozen police and BDR

personnel surrounded the AL office at Tongi Natun Bazar which remained vacant. At least 26 opposition people

were picked up during the hartal

Law-enforcers fired rubber bullets and tear-gas canisters on angry AL supporters during clashes in Chandpur yesterday, according to

BBC Bangla Service.

Private news agency UNB said six people, including a leader of AL's youth wing Bangladesh Chhatra League and a policeman, were injured in a clash between pickets and police in front of Sadar upazila nirbahi officer's (UNO) office during hartal hours Trouble ensued as police clubbed and fired on the pickets to keep them at bay as they tried to attack the UNO office. Opposition activists also threw brickbats at police injuring one of them. Among others, BCL leader Dipu Khan Chowdhury was injured during the clash. Police

trouble spot. Opposition activists vandalised a number of trucks and autorickshaws at Lalmai and Padua Bazar bypass in Sadar upazila. Our correspondent in Gaibandha reports 10 people were wounded when police charged batons on hartal supporters who barricaded inter-city express train Teesta for an hour at Bamondanga Railway Station in Sundargani upazila.

picked up five people from the

At least 10 people, including three policemen, were injured and five shops were vandalised in a clash between hartal pickets and police at Kasba upazila of the district, according to our Brahmanbaria correspondent.

The clash erupted as AL supporters protested the arrest of Aiharul Islam, secretary of AL's Kasba upazila unit, following clashes between activists of the ruling BNP and AL Saturday morning. Police arrested five people.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports that the hartal passed off peacefully in the port city barring stray incidents which saw some vehicles damaged.

The pickets damaged an autorickshaw at Nandan Kanon at around 2:30pm and unruly activists another five autorickshaws at around 4:00pm.

Chechen president

FROM PAGE 12 "There can be no doubt that retribution is unavoidable for those whom we are fighting today. It will be

unavoidable for terrorists The blast appeared to target the VIP area of the stadium.

Kadyrov had been the lynchpin of Putin's attempts to restore firm Russian rule in Chechnya. He was elected last October, virtually unchallenged, to build an administration capable of establishing full Russian authority.

Interfax news agency said

Sergei Abramov, at present

Chechen prime minister, would take over as acting president The attack appeared to be the most audacious launched by Chechen rebels on Russian forces and the administration in Chechnya

the area in 1999. Victory Day is a major national celebration in Russia of enormous symbolic importance in the country. The Grozny ceremonies were

since Russian troops reoccupied

mirrored by festivities throughout

the country, including a marchpast on Moscow's Red Square overseen by Putin. Chechen rebels have in the past targeted official events and public

gatherings for attacks. A Reuters reporter was among the injured.

Russia has been fighting separatists in the mainly Muslim northern Caucasus region of Chechnya since

political gains. MP and elder brother of Dipu, who heartland, including Moscow.

Controversy over hurt

head 'no' as he was asked whether the attack was the result of an internal conflict. Our DMCH correspondent repeated the question and Mahal answered the same.

Also, AL and Jubo League activists who took him to hospital denied any internal feud between AL and its front organisation leaders in Tongi. But the official news agency BSS

sent a report to newspaper offices Saturday night, saying Mahal corroborated that 'the incident was the outcome of an intra-party rivalry', hours after he was taken to the CMH n a DMCH ambulance under police

League activist Sumon who were present at the rally identified five of the killers and named them to police. "Mahfuz said Jahangir and

Masum finding their much expected names absent from the new committee started indiscriminate firing on the dais while the new Ward-10 committee was being announced in presence of Ahsanullah Master that left the Awami League lawmaker and a schoolboy dead and a number of others including Mahfuz wounded." BSS said in another report yesterday.

feud, Mahfuz said apparent feeling of deprivation by a group of Jubo League led to the shootout. Mahfuz named Rajab group of local Jubo League responsible for the gruesome murder of AL MP. Jahangir, Masum, Anu, Salam and Shohag are the armed cadres of Rajab group, he (Mahfuz) said," the report

Officer-in-Charge of Tongi Police Station Nur Mohammad told The Daily Star by phone that Tongi police did not talk to Mahal or Sumon. "We

have arrested and guizzed them. Asked why the CID was interro-

gating them once the case was filed with Tongi Police Station, he said the CID can do so.

FROM PAGE 12 administration is under fire during the presidential election campaign over abuse of Iragi prisoners, Vice President Dick Cheney spoke up for Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Despite assurances from President George W. Bush that the ill-treatment of prisoners by US soldiers was the 'wrongdoing of a few", evidence has mounted of widespread abuses that have contributed to anger among

A Pentagon official told The Washington Post that new pictures. including video made by soldiers at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison depicting "live-action abuse", could be released soon.

That would deepen a global scandal unleashed by images, leaked after by US guards and interrogators, of ated.

and blood and flesh coated on walls. It was not clear whether the Iraqi

272 seats. police, regarded by guerrillas as collaborators, had been the intended target. A US military convoy had passed by shortly before. The unassuming neighbourhood, home to both Sunni and Shia Muslims, was not an

DENIAL OF LINKS

"A vested quarter is spreading the fabricated story of such an internal feud to twist the incident." Kamrul Hossain, general secretary of Tongi Jubo League, told The Daily Star last night. He brushed aside the involvement of Rajab group in the

Local leaders of the AL and its front organisations alleged that government officials forced Mahal to give a statement describing the incident as the result of an internal

"The government may videotage Mahal saying the killing was linked to an internal feud," a senior Tongi AL leader feared.

Police earlier sent videotape to elevision channels showing Proshika official Harunur Rashid confessing on camera that Proshika chief Qazi Faruque joined hands with the AL to oust the BNP-led coalition government. TV channels

Later. Harun retracted his statement and said police intimidated him into saving that

VIOLENCE

broadcast the video.

Angry protesters hurled brickbats at the microbus of television channel NTV at about 11:45am in Tongi, njuring reporter SM Babu, 28, and cameraman Jalal Uddin, 32.

A local group protesting a Bangladesh Television report broadcast in the wake of the incident beat up Noor Mohammad, a BTV cameraman, and damaged his camera when he went to Noagaon

India in close poll

Alliance, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee wrapped up the campaign with rallies in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh exhorting the voters to keep the need for political stability for development and to judge its performance in the last six years.

Vajpayee has all through

The prime minister also called for

emphasised the need for two-thirds majority for NDA to pursue major development projects and also asked the opposition to spell out what kind of an alternative it is capable of providing and who its leader will be.

an end to dynastic politics and urged NDA supporters not to sit at home on the polling day and come out and On the other hand, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi wound up her

spirited campaign by addressing a rally in Delhi in which she accused Vaipavee of "double speak", his government of indulging in scams in various fields, including defence purchases. She alleged the country cannot

be safe in the hands of those who took kickbacks even in the purchase of coffins for soldiers. "Enough is enough. Now is the time to change the government at the Centre and create history. We have to create a new India," she added.

Vajpayee's senior party colleagues LK Advani, deputy prime minister, and M Venkaiah Naidu, BJP president, focussed on the southern state of Tamil Nadu where a good show by NDA is a must to help to reach the majority mark of

The finale of the campaign also saw Sonia's son Rahul Gandhi launching his election road-show in Muslim-dominated Rampur constituency of Uttar Pradesh where she charged Samajwadi Party headed by Mulayam Singh Yadav with

Ahsanullah murder

Faisal, Shohag, Bulu Mian, Al-Amin, Ratan Mian, Ronnie, Sohel, Syed Ahmed Moinu, Mahbub, Monir, Dulal and Jahangir.

Dipu plotted the killing of the AL awmaker, Motiur said in the FIR. A group of about 15 assailants gunned down Ahsanullah and school-

teers' wing Shechchhasebak League at 12:30pm Friday. Noor Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Tongi Police Station, told reporters that none of the accused has been arrested. He added at least 60 people have been held for their suspected

links with the murder since the firing at

the conference of Awami Sechchasebok League, the volunteers' front of the main opposition Awami League, that killed the MP. Yasmin Gafur, superintendent of police, Tongi, said, "We will try to nab the accused as soon as possible." She hinted that as it is a major incident of murder, the Criminal Investigation

Local BNP leaders, meanwhile, at press conference at Tongi Press Club yesterday protested the inclusion of Dipu's name on the list of accused in

Hasan Uddin Sarkar, former BNP

himself is facing allegations of having a hand in the murder, however, claimed

leader said the accused were involved in anti-social activities. He also demanded that his brother's name be immediately removed from the FIR. The former lawmaker condemned

demanded trial of the killers under existing laws. State-run news agency BSS quoted Hasan Uddin as refuting the allegations of his involvement in the

shootout. The killing was an outcome of intra-party rivalry of the AL and he had nothing to do with it, . He also called for a probe into what he said was politically-motivated and

pre-planned violence which followed the bloody shootout on Friday.

6 PCJSS men FROM PAGE 12 school teacher Anil Chandra

Chakma, 30, following a feud with

demanded Tk 5 lakh ransom for release of the four others. Raiding Shoileshwari village under Naniarchar upazila Thursday

However, local police said none reported the incidents to them.

firing gunshots, they added.

zures of arms smuggled into the country for use in Bangladesh or "possible transfer to other countries". The government's instant reaction was to shift blame on the opposition parties, terming it a conspiracy against government. It alleged that members and leaders of the ruling alliance, includ-

The memo noted that for longterm stability in the country and the region development partners should tion into such arms seizures.

were involved in the Chittagong arms

international human rights organisations echoed the AL concern for the past 30 months. The memorandum cited incidents

ing an adviser to the prime minister.

police support"

activities.

offer to join and assist Bangladesh in carrying out international investiga-It said the reports of national and

of what it called persecution of religious minorities as well as AL work-

ers. The atrocities in Banshkhali and

Mohalchhari drew international

Govt defends

the alliance government.

FROM PAGE 1 always been the case," one of them They recommended recognition of diverse roles of NGOs and a

guarantee that they would enjoy

legal and functional space to fulfill

appreciated sharing of the draft

The development partners

NGO bill with donors and the opportunity to provide comments. They, however, said the consultation process to date was not adequate and serious concerns were expressed by NGOs and development partners that the proposed amendment could leave serious implications on donor funding and implementation of

poverty reduction programmes.

need not be complex or costly, they said, adding it was a matter of distributing materials and calling meetings. Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Moiaheed said major

Undertaking such consultation

components of good governance like participation, transparency and accountability were not always found with some NGOs. 'So, the government is trying to ensure good governance in their activities," he added.

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance

UNB adds: Over a dozen people

In Rajbari, supporters of defeated BNP chairman candidate attacked their rivals after announcement of unofficial results in Dhunji-Silimpur centres on

Mohammad Ali Chowdhury, ALbacked chairman-elect, condemned the attack and demanded immediate punishment to the attackers. In Sirajgani, supporters of the

Police arrested two young men.

FROM PAGE 1 bench." Shahiahan said.

will be held soon to ensure fast Committee members placed stress on providing enhanced logistics support for the Chittagong Customs House, the largest reve-

When asked on the status of

The minister said the govern-As part of the Millennium

FROM PAGE 1 forces would be eligible for the posts

it first tried to break away in the 1990s. Moscow reimposed its rule in the capital Grozny in a 1999 invasion ordered by Putin, but guerrilla resistance continues. Chechen rebels have also launched attacks in the Russian

All business houses and shops BSS says Mahal and local Jubo

"Giving details of the intra-party

have not yet arrested anyone for the killings," he said On the BSS report of arresting Sumon and Madhu in Amtali village n Tongi, he said the CID (Criminal Investigation Department) might

/ Iragis

ragis at continued US occupation.

naked Iraqi detainees being humili-The apparent bomb blast in the Bayaa district of southern Baghdad left body parts strewn around the market

helping BJP.

obvious target.

five others in a burst of gunfire at the ward-level conference of AL's volun-

boy Omar Faruq Ratan and wounded

Department (CID) of police is likely to take up the case.

They refuted the Jubo Dal leader's nvolvement in the killing and alleged that the AL was diverting people's attention to different directions for

that all other accused except for his brother were criminals. On a question, the BNP district unit

the killing of Ahsanullah Master and

him when they were leaving the area, witnesses said. They freed Mongol at around 1:30pm the next day and also

morning, alleged UPDF men kidnapped Arun Baran Chakma, 32 another PCJSS activist, at gunpoint, sources said. The armed gang left the area