Police to get

Development Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan presided over the meeting held in the home ministry conference room. Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Education Minister Osman Faruk, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka. State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar and the secretaries of the ministries concerned were also present.

Mannan Bhuiyan said, "The size and logistics of the police force will be increased to meet the pressing demand for effective enforcement of

A total of 6,060 policemen will be inducted in the first phase to man the 35 new police stations in Dhaka and its adjacent areas, the minister

Seventy-two existing highway police outposts will be converted into 24 stations and 48 outposts for the force to patrol the highways. christened as National Highway

The Marine Police to be formed will be furnished with 17 police stations and 20 outposts.

Under the plan, "Every police station in the country will be brought under computer network that will cost Tk 90 crore," Babar told the

"We have also decided to set up Economic Offence Wing and DNA Testing Laboratory at the Criminals Investigation Department to modernise it and make its probes more effective," he went on.

The number of policewomen will be increased and modern modes of transport to ply land and water routes procured for the police forces, the state minister added.

The committee also discussed the necessity of increasing the allowances and incentives for police personnel in order to boost their ficiency and morale.

The agenda of the meeting also included separation of the investigation and law enforcement functions training, promotion and retirement of police, formation of a counter intelligence unit for police forces, and provision of adequate food and rations at police lines, stations, barracks and outposts.

It was revealed in the meeting that so far the cabinet committee took 236 decisions. Of them 126 decisions have been implemented and 98 others are approaching the finishing line.

The committee asked the home ministry to submit a detailed plan for "rationalising the structure, functions and manpower of the police force throughout the country.

The accused on the run are Nurul

Islam Dipu and his brothers Shahidul

Islam Shipu and Ohidul Islam Tipu,

Kana Hafiz, Ratan Mia, Anowar

Hossain Anu, Sohel, Shohagh,

Jahangir, Al Amin, Faisal, Rony, Bulu

vounger son of Ahsanullah Master

expressed frustration over the pace o

the investigation allowing the master-

mind behind the murder to evade

his brother Shahidul Islam Shipu just

because they are closely linked to the

Shafiq, pedestrian Riaz Mahmud

Apu and Shams Uddin, a customer,

received bullet wounds during the

shooting. They were admitted to the

Moinuddin, Jabbar, Russell and

Swapan went to the shop and

wanted to take goods on credit. As

the shop-owner asked the gang to

pay off earlier dues, gang members

forced Shafiq out of the shop and

The Detective Branch of police

In another incident, criminals

posted there said the gang shot

Shafiq, also a police informant, as

he helped law enforcers to nah a

stabbed plastic bag trader Sayem

Savem, owner of Helal Store at

West Islambagh in Lalbagh at about

2:30pm. As he declined to pay them,

the gang blasted bombs and

locals and police chased the gang,

who dived into the Buriganga river to

Islampur held Titu, Alauddin,

Shamim, Jasim, Selim, and Suman

to the DMCH while the others are in

Tigers in tatters

Bangladesh were put in to bat. In the

first over bowled by Barbados

firebrand and debutant Tino Best,

Bangladesh had lost two wickets

without a run on board. Shahriar

Hossain got his second duck on tour

prodding outside the off-stump and

Gayle took a simple catch at first

wild swish very next ball and it

thudded into his pad at a low height.

Plumb Ibw. Bashar's inconceivable

attempt drew gasps of disbelief all

In the next over bowled by

Rajin Saleh looked good from the

start playing away from the body but

still timing beautifully. Mohammad

Ashraful (17) also tried to settle

down and wither the storm. Ashraful

hit the first four in the Bangladesh

innings when he clipped Best beau-

tifully over mid-wicket on the last ball

of the sixth over. But his tendency to

poke unnecessarily at balls outside

the off-stump brought his fall as

Edwards changing ends, had him

away from a delivery by left arm

seamer Ian Bradshaw that kicked

up after pitching and was taken by

wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs for 20

Alok Kapali didn't last long as he

played an unconvincing pull to Best

at mid-on off Bradshaw and

Bangladesh were in dire straits at 52

Saleh then failed to get his bat

caught behind.

around the park.

Skipper Habibul Bashar tried a

the river and beat them, police

Titu and Alauddin were admitted

Hearing the trader's cry for help

People of Kamrangir Char and

stabbed him, locals said.

save their skin, they added.

drug-peddler gang a few days ago.

onened fire indiscriminately

nafig's relatives alleged.

The gang including Rajib,

ruling party leaders," Sohel said.

4 shot

FROM PAGE 1

A gang

police custody.

DMCH, they added.

"Police are yet to arrest Dipu and

Meanwhile, Jabid Ahsan Sohel,

Mia and Syed Ahmed Majnu.

Ahsanullah murder

seeking anonymity said that the arrestees confessed that they were with the gang that gunned down Ahsanullah Master, but claimed they did not fire any shot.

Each of the arrestees gave almost similar statement during interrogation. They said the 17 named in the FIR belong to a drugs ring led by Nurul Islam Sarker, a local leader of ruling BNP's youth front Jubo Dal and Nurul Islam Dipu, a prime suspect in the murder case.

"As the statements of the arrestees are similar, we're verifying whether those were manoeuvred." said the CID officer, adding they are also checking the statements in the light of the earlier statements made by the other arrestees -- Nasiruddin, Suman, Oli Mian and Qaiyum.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Khalequzzaman, head of the four-member CID team that is investigating the May 7 killing, while talking to The Daily Star admitted to having quizzed the arrestees, but refused to let slip anything for the sake of investi-

Awami League (AL) lawmaker and Sramik League Executive President Ahsanullah and a schoolboy were killed and at least five others injured in a volley of bullets during a public meeting at Noagaon, Tongi on May 7.

The slain lawmaker's brother filed a case with Tongi Police Station on May 8 naming 17 people as the killers including the three arrested on Friday. Apart from Mahbub, Monir and

Dulal.the CID team also arrested Kabir Hossain, owner of the house and a teenage domestic help for interroga

"We've freed the domestic help, but are keeping Kabir still in our custody for further interrogation." a CID officer

Meanwhile, CID and local police raided Board Bazar in Joydevpur and Amtoli in Tongi early vesterday, but to no avail.

ASP(CID) Khalequzzaman said police raided a place at Board Bazar at about 2:00am following a tip-off that FIR named accused Kana Hafiz with another one was hiding there.

"We also raided the house of the sister of another accused Ratan at Amtoli in the morning, but in vain," he

Airports and all land ports have been kept under constant vigil so that

none of the accused in the murder case could flee the country, CID

'Islam compatible with

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion vesterday said the principles of democracy and Islam are mutually reinforcing as they enshrine tolerance, justice and participation.

another quick Fidel Edwards, Manjarul Islam Rana got another one that didn't bounce and was lbw. the Bangladeshi delegation that People with local knowledge were took part in the 'Congress of saying that as the tide in the sea was low, that was making the ball stay held in Turkey from April 12 to 14. down. Suddenly it appeared a bad

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), a co-sponsor of the international conference, organised the discussion at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

The congress which brought offered a platform for democratic

The platform sought to put an end to the debate over the compatibility of democratic principles and Islam, and design state structures in accordance with Islamic tenets and democratic principles.

Rezaul Karim said the participants at the congress held a consensus that the issue "should not be whether Islam is compatible with democracy but whether democracy

Top Chittagong Port official transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A key Chittagong Port official was removed allegedly for influencing appointment of a foreign company to prepare an action plan for complying with the ISPS code at the

Member (operations) Amirul slam, the second man at Chittagong Port, has been posted to Marine Academy as deputy commandant, port sources said.

The transfer order reached the port authorities on Friday from the shipping ministry, they said.

When contacted, Amirul said, "I nave joined Marine Academy, and

don't know why I was transferred". But sources said he was transferred from the vital post as he 'lobbied' at the ministry for appointing the foreign company for implementation of ISPS code.

The government has cancelled the proposal and decided to implement the code with its own staff and

50 hurt

FROM PAGE 12 blasted and gunshots fired.

Farlier students observed a twohour symbolic hunger strike in front the vice-chancellor's residence from 10:00am, demanding cancellation of the recruitment and resumption of classes and examinations. RU Teachers Association (Ruta) has gone on an indefinite strike to protest the appointment paralysing academic activity.

At around 12 noon, the students made an attempt to besiege the administration building but police resisted them.

At one stage, a group of progovernment teachers led by Students' Advisor Prof Zahid Hassan Milky, Assistant Proctor Nijam Uddin and syndicate member Nazrul Islam appeared and beat up the students with police batons without any provocation.

Students also hurled brickbats at police who charged baton to counter. Later, Prof Zahid called in the JCD and ICS cadres over cell phone and asked them to disperse the students.

Violence spread all over the campus as the cadres backed by police attacked general students and workers of the left-leaning political organisations at around 12:30pm

Students blamed Vicechancellor Prof Faisul Islam Faruki and Prof Zahid for the incident and demanded their removal. The VC rejecting the allegation, said 'We've called an emergency meetng tonight to find out the culprits.

Tension is prevailing on the campus. Additional police were deployed to avert further violence

Merged ministries

will also have one division and one secretary. It will have three wings -jute, textiles and administration -each headed by a joint secretary.

The Cabinet Division has started allocation of business and fixing the table of organisation and equipment (TO&E) of the two ministries and will inalise that by May 31.

Officials and employees of the now defunct ministries of jute, textiles, food and disaster management and relief will continue under the existing structure till May 31.

HC asks govt

authorise the Council to make a decision on the removal of a judge from office or to advise the president on the matter.

only function was to investigate and find out the facts of a case and present its finds before the president for a decision based on the facts.

Akram Hossain Amin said in the petition that in this case, the Council broke the law. ventured beyond its authority and advised the president to remove the judge from office.

He also submitted that his client was removed on political considerations.

The Supreme Judicial Council was formed on October 29 last year after Supreme Court Bar Association President Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud at a lawvers' meeting in October 1 accused him of taking Tk 50,000 in bribe to fix bail for an accused in a women repression case.

On January 26, former chief justice KM Hasan, who headed the three-member council, handed over the verdict report to the president on his last day in office for action against the judge. The first-ever the misconduct of Shahidur on November 6.

missal order for misconduct, Shahidur rejected the council report and told newspersons at his house that the Supreme Judicial Council violated the constitution and the rule of law.

He termed his removal decision

AL, 11-party

tion of Awami League (AL) legislator Ahsanullah Master.

Former president and chief of the BDB AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury also asked people to be united against the government in his first address at an AL programme.

of Bangladesh (CPB), Workers Party, Ganotantri Party, both factions of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Jatiya Party (Manju) also stressed the need for a broad-based unity to force the coalition govern-

Hasina, also president of the AL, asked the government to withdraw the 14th amendment to the constitution, alleging the Khaleda Zia administration was bent on clinging to power using the amendment.

Badruddoza called on the likeminded opposition parties to join hands to cobble together a responsible government, which would work n people's interest.

shadows of panic and great insecurity under the alliance rule and they want to get rid of the suffocating situation," he said, accusing the government of patronising violence and corruption

Hasina accused Khaleda of working to a blueprint to exterminate AL leaders and activists across the country and said people would avenge the killing.

gunmen escape the scene spraying a lawmaker with bullets?"

Before the assassination, Ahsanullah apprised Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar of the death threats he was receiving and asked him for

ears," she alleged.

Khan Menon said the pile of bodies would grow every day if the government remained in office. He called on all progressive forces with specific programmes to unseat the present government.

CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim also underlined the importance of unity of all pro-liberation forces against what ne termed anti-liberation and anti-

The AL returned to the House on

Wednesday ending an 11-month

boycott to protest the assassination

of its lawmaker Ahsanullah Master.

but re-started the boycott immedi-

ately after the adoption of an obitu-

to spell out our opposition to the bill.

If we even walk out of the House

after joining it, people may misread

our attendance as extending sup-

port to the bill." a top AL official said.

"The government is increasing

the retirement age of Supreme

Court judges with the intent of

making its favorable man the next

caretaker government chief. We

condemn the government inten-

tion," Deputy Leader of the

Opposition Abdul Hamid told The

The bill proposes to raise the

retirement age of Supreme Court

judges to 67 from 65. If the bill is

passed into law, former chief justice

KM Hasan is likely to head the next

Jatiya Party (Ershad), the sec-

caretaker government that over-

ond largest opposition in parlia-

ment, was holding a meeting last

night to decide its stand on the bill.

But a top party official hinted at

provision for display of the portraits

of the president and the prime

minister because the government is

doing this with a political motive.

There is no need to amend the

"We have already protested the

opposing the passage of the bill.

Daily Star yesterday.

sees general elections.

"We will stay outside parliament

ary reference.

people government.

Hasanul Hag Inu asked the AL to gear up street agitation instead of joining the Jatiya Sangsad.

"Joining parliament would not bring any change to the misrule by the present government. We need a united mass movement on the street to unseat the coalition," he

Among others, Gono Forum leader Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, CPB leader Ajay Roy, Samyabadi Dal leader Dilip Barua, JP leader Sheikh Shahidul Islam and JSD (Rab) leader Noor Alam Jiku addressed the rally, also attended by frontline leaders of the political

At the rally, chaired by senior AL leader Abdus Samad Azad, the speakers termed Ahsanullah as a symbol of truth, honesty and dedication to the cause of the common man. They demanded impartial investigation into the assassination and exemplary punishment of the killers.

Hajj pilgrims

FROM PAGE 1

Dismissing the allegations, Kazi Mofizur Rahman, managing director of Kazi Air International (Pvt) Ltd. said his agency did not sell any ticket to Hajj pilgrims at Umrah group fare rate during the last Hajj season.

Asked about the ticket issued on January 21 from his agency, he claimed, "This is an organised blackmail by some travel agencies who want to undermine the reputation of his organisation."

The other travel agencies allegedly involved in the ticket scam are Pan Bright Travels. Greenland Travels, Air Trip International, Victory Travels, Islamia Travels, Amazon Overseas and Versatile Travels.

Sources alleged some high officials of Biman's marketing and sales wing are directly involved in ticket sale scams

Kazi Air International was also involved with the sending of 13 Bangladeshi workers to Iraq with no visa on April 17. They were sent back to Dhaka from Amman on April 24 The MD of Kazi Air however claimed his agency had just sold 10 air tickets and had nothing else to do with the

comprising Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Farid Ahmed also issued rule, returnable in four weeks, upon the government to show cause why they should not be granted regular bail. The petitioners appeared before

bail to avert arrest in connection with

for the petitioners.

UCBL staff

proposal

DMCH sources said 90 percent of her body was burnt in the incident. However, the victim left the hospital at 6:30pm since there was no attending doctor, the sources said. Police Station, however, said the

driver threw petrol on Irani

provisions. The bill also proposes to raise the retirement age of the chairman and members of the Public Service Commission and the comptroller

the bodies for stopgap period, but the government withdrew the provision in the face of widespread

mentary party meeting of the key ruling party BNP will be held today at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban before resumption of the House at 11:00am after two-day recess

FROMPAGE 12

ties issued letters several times asking the teachers to repay the appeals, official sources said. They added the university authorities do not know the present address of the teachers who have not repaid the

addresses of those teachers," a top official said requesting anonymity. He said if they find the addresses, it would be easy for them to realise the

listed 51 teachers who are yet to pay the university back and the rest 20 teachers would figure on it soon. "But we are yet to calculate the sum that the 20 teachers have kept with them." he said.

nine of the bio-chemistry department (who together took Tk 14.08.027), four each of the departments of bio science (Tk 9.61.231). pharmacy (Tk 6,52,163), psychology (Tk 5,48,989), geography and environment science (Tk 3,24,096), five of the economics department (Tk 5,91,149), three each of depart-

ments of applied chemistry and chemical technology (Tk 1,1,3,855), geology (Tk 6,64,532) and statistics (Tk 8,43,318), one each of the departments of information and library management (Tk 1,35,486), English (Tk 1,43,898), mathematics (Tk 1,15,273), zoology (Tk 2,85,559), management (Tk 1,99,096) and accounting (Tk 62,994), two each of the departments of mass communication and journalism (Tk 1,75,841) and international relations (Tk 2,60,577), and Institute of Statistics, Research and Training (Tk 4,59,683).

A top university official said they started firing 'truant' teachers since 1981 when the trend started, but did not go for legal actions against them to recover money.

may take legal action against these teachers and added that the university authorities have taken 'proper initiatives' to recover the money "We have asked the respective departments to give all information about those teachers who did not repay the university money. We will go for legal action soon after gather-

LIBEL CASE Abed Khan gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Abed Khan, editor of the Daily Bhorer Kagoj, in a defamation case after his surrender

Mohammad Emdadul Haq, Metropolitan Magistrate of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, passed the bail order upon a bond of Tk 5.000 with two quarantors. Abed Khan along with his lawyers Shahjahan Khan, Sayeed Ahmed

Prokash Ranjan Biswas, Azad Rahman and Samiul Karim Alamgir yesterday appeared before the court and prayed for bail. After hearing, the magistrate issued the order and sent the case to

Gazi, Munzur Alam, Jobaidul Islam,

the CMM for next steps. A lawyer of the Dhaka Bar Association filed the case with the CMM's Court on March 17 accusing

Abed Khan and staff reporter Shanker Maitro for running a report headlined "Graft charges against eight judges" on March 15. River-link

FROM PAGE 1

mega-scheme meant for diverting flows of the common rivers. However, he hoped that the new Indian government would not take up any such project that could be detrimental to

Bangladesh's interest. The foreign minister hoped that Dhaka and New Delhi would work together for the benefit of the peoples of the two neighbouring countries as well as for Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).

On another point, the foreign minister said the government is contemplating purchasing houses for Bangladesh missions in some major countries instead of maintaining missions in rented houses or apartments.

Proshika chief

Granting the bail, a division bench

the court and sought anticipatory

Barrister Amir-ul Islam appeared

FROMPAGE 12

was teasing her for the last two months and propositioned her. But Irani, married and mother of an eight-year-old son, turned down the

The duty officer of Motijheel

Villagers

FROM PAGE 1 trawlers in three hours.

The victims who could reach the neighbourhood of Char Borhan

least 10 weapons.

The pirates hailed from different villages under Dashmina, Bauphal and Bakergonj upazila of

Chinese ship

which arrived at the outer anchorage from China on May 11 with 32 crew, might be declared abandoned if efforts to salvage it failed. Most crew left the cargo vessel

port officials said. Selim Reza, managing director of the local agency of MV Un Lu Jiang, however, claimed the sinking ship could not be deserted without

finding little chance of its recovery,

approval from its owner. Khaleda

FROM PAGE 12 Appreciating the improvement of

the airports and seaports, the foreign chamber leaders urged the prime minister to increase the existing facilities to raise their effectiveness further.

cial activities. Commenting on 'hartal', the businessmen termed it detrimental to trade and commerce in the country. They appreciated what they said

Ransome-Kuti said. The FICCI leaders lauded the exchange market and the government measures to reduce interest

India is truly shining

indulging in unfair practices to influence the election. Except for Mamata Banneriee of West Bengal, no other leader has made any claim of irreqularities, rigging, voter intimidation, vote buying and the like. There was some violence at the initial stage but, by and large, it can be said to be a peaceful election by South Asian standards. Leaders maintained a level of decency in electioneering and kept personal attacks and character assassination to a minimum, though Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin did feature to some extent.

Preparing for 650 million voters and handling a 370 million-plus turn out was a tremendous achievement by any standard. What went relatively unnoticed is the introduction of electronic voting system for the first time in such a massive scale which. to the tremendous credit of the Indian IT experts, went more or less without any glitch. If we compare with the mess that Florida voters faced with voting machines during President Bush's election, Indian election appears to be far better organised, more advanced and far more transparent. Electronic voting also speeded up the counting process that made the results of such a huge electorate available in such a record

This election marks the emergence of Sonia Gandhi as a true leader of her people. She was not only written off as a political leader, even the Congress was said to have no future as long as it kept her as its chief. There was much talk of the demise of national-level parties in Indian politics and domination of regional parties as a feature of Indian politics for a long time. Sonia Gandhi. proving all her critics wrong, has not only restored Congress to the centre stage in Indian politics, but has also been able to achieve another remarkable feat -- she was able to touch the hearts and minds of rural

For someone who cannot speak

Hindi without an accent, one who abhorred politics and only reluctantly consented to her husband, Rajiv Gandhi, entering it after considerable pressure from her mother-in-law, Indira Gandhi, and for someone who really had no fundamental cultural and emotional links with the Indian masses, she has achieved a near miracle. She was able to communicate with the ordinary people who forgot her alien origin and reposed their trust on her in place of the veteran Vajpayee and the wily Advani. Never in recent history has a foreigner been able to integrate herself so thoroughly into the mass psyche of her adopted land as Sonia Gandhi. It also speaks volume of the Indian electorate who showed tremendous openness and liberal attitude in

Finally, India is shining now because of the way the outgoing Prime Minister Atal Behari Vaipavee conducted himself in defeat. In his speech to the nation on Thursday he said, "It is always with will of the people that

governments have been formed try, something which we must cherh, preserve and further strengthen.

which are to be viewed with equanimity. We will always extend our hand of co-operation to the new government in all its endeavours that are in the interest of the nation and the peo-

political maturity that we so much lack

Congress chooses

government headed by her.

The decks for Gandhi becoming the prime minister were cleared after allies of Congress, including the left parties, fell in line to accept her leadership after she fashioned victory against the BJP that opposed a foreign-born person occupying the top constitutional post

Addressing the new lawmakers of her party, Gandhi said a new Congress-led coalition would be in place shortly. Gandhi said the voters have clearly rejected the "destructive and self-

serving" policies of RSS, BJP and Vishwa Hindu Parishad and their personal attacks, arrogance and politics of negativism, an apparent reference to the Sangh Parivar's repeatedly raking up her foreign origin

She, however, cautioned against cency and said "We have not done as well as we should have."

"Instead of reveling in our victory. we should take the opportunity provided to us by the voters to meet their aspirations and not ours and revive the party into which a new dynamism has been infused by the election result," the Congress chief said.

The Communist Party of India Marxist (CPI-M) joined the Communist Party of India (CPI) in endorsing Gandhi for the prime minister, giving her the full backing of her leftist allies,

Nigeria detains

FROM PAGE 12 and other activists as pro-democracy marchers protested in a market in the

heart of Lagos. "We were brutally and heavily teargassed, the force used was unprecedented," said Femi Falana, a leading human rights lawyer who took part in the march in Sand Grouse market on Lagos Island, the city centre.

Rights activist Beko Ransome-Kuti

said Soyinka had been arrested with a

few other people "and we heard he was later released. "They tear-gassed the procession and people ran helter-skelter. We eventually regrouped around Sand Grouse market but they came shoot-

ing in the air and shooting tear gas into

the march," he said. Some of the protesters were beaten, some were hurt by tear gas inhalation and others trampled in the stampede, he said. Protest organisers said that 2,000 people had gathered

for the march. Lagos police spokesman Emmanuel Ighodalo confirmed the arrests, but could not confirm that the detainees had been released. "He (Sovinka) was one of the

organisers of a protest. The police did not allow them to hold their protest because it did not have a permit. He is being quizzed over a possible criminal offence," he said. The protest was the latest in a series of demonstrations by opposi-

tion parties and rights activists against

the government of President

Olusegun Obasanjo, who stands accused of rigging last year's national elections. "It was a protest against the creepng dictatorship in the country,'

and is one of Africa's leading authors

"All will have to accept the Congress leader in a coalition government." Marxist leader Sitaram Yechurv said when asked if the party accepted

The CPI, too, backed Gandhi for "We have no objections to Sonia

Gandhi becoming the prime minister, CPI leader AB Bardhan said. All senior Congress leaders have always been pitching for Gandhi as prime minister. "She is the party chief and she is our star campaigner. It is a convention in coalition politics that the single largest party tells its allies that

and Congress general secretary Ambika Soni. Congress' pre and post-poll allies have come out in unambiguous acceptance of Gandhi's leadership, including Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, who had parted ways with her five years ago on her foreign origin issue, and Samajwadi Party President Mulayam Singh

ous to become prime minister in April The CPI(M) yesterday began debating whether or not to join Gandhiled coalition government amid indica-

Yadav who had thwarted her previ-

aking part in the federal government. The CPI(M)'s politburo met here throughout the day to consider the issue of joining the government and a final decision is expected only after the two-day meeting of its central commit-

Congress-led coalition, are understood to be in favour of the party joining the federal government Another veteran Marxist Somnath Chatterjee went on record Friday night

to say people of the country want CPI(M) to join the federal coalition government led by Congress Other left parties like CPI, Forward

If the left parties decided to join a federal government, it will be for the first time they would be doing so in But the task ahead for the leftists is

tions of left parties about Congress economic agenda, CPI(M) and CPI are trying their best to evolve a common minimum programme for the

ship of Congress.

the left circles opposed to join a Congress-led coalition because the left parties have swept the polls in three of their bastions in West Bengal Kerala and Tripura where their main rival is Congress.

democracy'

"No-one can say that Islam and democracy are not compatible," said MM Rezaul Karim, a member of Democrats from the Islamic World'

where the delegates shared their experiences. together government officials, parliamentarians, politicians from 17 Muslim-majority countries governance in the Islamic world.

is compatible with Islam.

FROM PAGE 1 the constitution did not empower or

He claimed that the council's

Shahidur's counsel Advocate

council opened an investigation into A day after receiving his dis-

flawed, unfair and illegal' and said politics was at the root of the 'injus-

organised to condole the assassina-

Leaders of the Communist Party

ment from office.

"People are living under the

Referring to Ahsanullah's killing,

"What do law-enforcers do when

"But his plea for safety fell to deaf Workers Party President Rashed

Constitution change bill it's possible by an ordinary law,'

Jatiya Party presidium member

Golam Mohammad Kader told The

"We'll use every means to protest the passage of the bill," Kader, also a vocal opposition legislator, The Constitution (14th Amendment) Bill, 2004 was retabled in the Jatiya Sangsad on April 28, seeking to introduce 45 reserved seats for women in parlia-

the portraits of the president and prime minister in government The bill originally placed in the House on March 17, was re-tabled after incorporation of some new

ment, raise the retirement age of

Supreme Court judges and display

and auditor general and quick swear-in lawmakers-elect. The bill also sought to automatically dissolve all elected local bodies on completion of the five-year tenure and appoint government officials as chief administrators to

Meanwhile, the adjourned parlia-

constitution for displaying portraits:

The incumbent university authoriuniversity money, but they have remained indifferent to such

The officials said they have so far

DU Treasurer Prof Syed

half years of the government. rates on bank loans.

accepting an Italian by birth as one of

and changed. The power of democracy is a matter of pride for our coun-My party and the alliance may nave lost, but India has won. ... Victory and defeat are part of life,

Vaipavee showed how to stand tall even when the voters have cut him short. The commitment to democracy, the graceful acceptance of the electoral verdict and the dignity with which he exited from office make the former prime minister a symbol of

Gandhi as prime minister. the post.

her is our leader and the allies say 'well that's great." said Gandhi's top aide

tions that a section of the party favours

tee beginning today. Former chief minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu and CPI (M) General Secretary Harkishan Singh Surjeet, the main architect of the

Bloc and Revolutionary Socialist Party have also begun discussions to firm up their stands on the issue.

not easy as opinions in the parties are divided on the issue. Surject acknowledged as much when he said "there is nothing wrong in having differences." In the backdrop of serious reserva-

policy fronts. Analysts say the insistence on their demands in a common programme may come handy for the left to provide justification for their joining the federal government under the leader-That may also help silence those in

coalition in which they will list their

demands on economic and foreign

70 DU teachers

"We are now trying to get present

The 51 defaulting teachers are

Rashidul Hasan said this time they

ing all information.

informed the villagers of the piracy At this hundreds of villagers on 10 trawlers chased the pirates' trawler and eventually caught them. The villagers poured acid into the eyes of 11 of them and recovered at

FROM PAGE 1 Sources hinted that the vessel,

Welcoming the signing of Safta agreement by the South Asian countries, they hoped the deal would expand trade and commer-

was massive development works carried out during the last two and a performance of the liberalised

Soyinka, a long-standing opponent of Obasanjo and of Nigeria's former military governments, was awarded the Nobel prize for literature in 1986