Judicial probe hints

he termed 'a national catastrophe'. "The two major political parties should work only for national interests, brushing aside all differences so that the local and foreign enemies cannot create anarchy in the country," he said. "I have called on civil society to share their opinions with leaders of the two major political parties without waste of time and without hesitation."

"They (two major political parties) have to be convinced that only patriotism can pull this country out of the national catastrophe it is in," he

Asked to reveal identity of the perpetrators, he said, "I've made hints in my speech.

When pressed for saying if the foreign enemies that he hinted in his speech were behind the attack, he refused to be drawn further on the matter. "All the information is there in my report."

As the journalists told him that the briefing would frustrate the nation that is eagerly waiting to know the identity and motive of the perpetrators. Justice Abedin said. "People know well about the commission's jurisdiction and limitations."

The commission made a detailed report about the security arrangements and neglect by the police and security agencies. It said there is no co-ordination among the agencies, according to sources

It also made 25/30 recommendations to stop a repeat of such incidents. The recommendations include formation of an elite police force to stop smuggling of arms and explosives through the borders, setting up of a laboratory by the Criminal Investigation Department to quickly examine explosives and evidence after such incidents, a stop to political and religious rallies at undesignated places, and meeting organisers' contacting the police for security.

Justice Abedin suggested the police install several video cameras some strategic points for filming such public rallies. He recommended that private television channels train up their crew for properly filming such rallies to facilitate identifying the criminals from the footages.

The government formed the commission on August 22 and asked it to submit its report in three weeks. But the commission had the deadline extended for 21 more

The commission took statements of 123 people including the injured victims and their doctors, AL leaders and activists present in the rally, explosives experts, journalists and security men.

It sought appointment with Hasina to have her account of the deadly event, but did not have any, as the Al questioned the neutrality of the probe body. The party did not allow it to inspect the sports utility vehicle that carried Hasina to safety immediately after the grenade blasts.

Justice Abedin said. "The commission may not have received cooperation from all, which may have somewhat hindered the investigation, but the inquiry is in no way

Saarc trade experts

(FTA), now being negotiated by the members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc).

Saarc foreign ministers at the 12th summit of the regional forum in Islamabad early this year signed a landmark agreement to establish South Asian Free Trade Area (Safta) among the South Asian nations.

positive lists of items prepared for the free trade regime.

About the issue of rules of origin under the deal, he said Bangladesh is in favour of 30 percent local value addition in case of exporting its products to other South Asian markets while India is preferring at

least 40 percent value addition. The Safta will be effective from

January 1, 2006 with greater economic integration of Saarc countries -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and India -- a market of about 150 crore

Bangladesh has substantial trade deficit with almost all the Saarc countries including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and

India exported goods worth US\$1.1 billion in 2001-02 financial year to Bangladesh while imported products amounting to only \$50 million from the country. The trade deficit stood at \$590 million in the first six months of FY03.

Bangladesh imported goods worth US\$68.68 million from Pakistan in 2002-03 while its exports amounted to \$31.5 million showing a trade deficit of \$38.4

Imports from Sri Lanka in 2002-03 totalled \$8 million as against exports worth \$3.75 million, according to Export Promotion Bureau

Hartal has lost

and Cooperatives, said people no longer believe in politics of hartal and they do not want any more hartal. Hartal callers should take this reality into cognisance before going for such a programme, he thought.

demand from the very day the BNP came to power. " They (AL) make the demand solely in their own interest that is going to power. But they have never made any demand in the interest of people."

He made it clear the alliance government will not step down even a day before expiry of its tenure.

Turning to the August 21 are nade attack on an AL rally, the BNP engaging both local and foreign investigators to unearth how it happened. But the AL is vet to cooperate with the inquiry commission and teams

On the AL's public rally in the capital today, the BNP leader warned his party with the support of people will resist any bid to create

About the ruling alliance's countrywide programme of rallies and processions announced earlier, Bhuiyan said many think it aims to counter AL programmes. "I want to say categorically we have taken up the programme on the occasion of our third year in power and to protest planned bids to create anarchy.'

accidental shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

was injured in an accidental fire from his shotgun yesterday.

Mohammad Sumon, 25, was going to Satarkul with an on duty police team in a pick-up van at around 12:45pm. As the vehicle bounced on the road, a bullet was

Concern over atrocities by religious fanatics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism and Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee in a joint statement yesterday expressed concern over what they said were growing atrocities by the religious fanatics under the patronage of the government.

Earlier on August 27, strong resistance by pro-liberation war forces prevented the fanatic organisations from taking control of the Ahmadiyya Complex in Bakshibazar, but the religious bigots with support of the local administration succeeded in occupying Ahmadiyya mosques in Chittagong, Patuakhali and Khulna, said the statement.

The statement also expressed worries over anti-Ahmadiyya outfit Khatme Nobuwat's plans to occupy Ahmadiyya Masque in Narayanganj on October 8.

Repression on the religious minorities has grown to huge proportions since the alliance government came in power, the statement said. Various human rights organisations too in their reports noted the increased human rights violations in the country, the statement added. Besides, the statement deplored

the growing number of deaths under police custody and mass arrests.

The policy makers of the present government must be brought to justice in national and international courts for political persecution to resist the opposition parties, it said.

The signatories to the statement urged all pro-liberation war social, political and cultural organisations to unite against the misrule of the resent government.

Professor Kabir Chowdhury, vomen activist Hena Das, former Justice KM Sobhan, singer Kalim Sharafi, artist Qaiuum Chowdhury, architect Rabiul Hussain, diplomat Waliur Rahman, film maker Shamim Akhter, novelist Muhammad Zafar lqbal, freedom fighter Shirin Banu Mitil, social activist Abu Sayeed, among many others, signed the

Nunu Miah alleges BNP MP's hand in 'false case'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Expatriate and Awami League leader Nunu Miah has reiterated that ruling BNP lawmaker M Ilvas Ali falsely implicated him in a case of a blast at Gulshan Centre here that killed an AL leader and hurt 30

At a news conference at Sylhet Press Club yesterday, Nunu Miah expressed his gratitude to AL chief Sheikh Hasina, British legislators Oona King and Jenet Ladlu, and British envoy to Bangladesh Anwar Chowdhury for their efforts into his release.

"Though I'm innocent, police picked up me minutes after the blast on August 7, goaded by Ilyas, who is hostile to me," Nunu told reporters. "Ilyas had earlier asked me to join the ruling party, but I turned down his proposal," Nunu claimed.

On the advice of Ilyas, police tortured him physically and mentally at Kotwali Police Station and the office of the superintendent of police, Nunu alleged.

Nunu further alleged police blindfolded and pressed him hard for his confessional statement regarding Mohammad Ibrahim, city AL publicity secretary, who died in the blast. "They gave me electric shock as I refused to give in." He also alleged CID ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman demanded Tk 5 lakh from

"I'll sue the law enforcers for torturing me", said Nunu, who was released on bail on September 25.

Accused of cop

FROM PAGE 12

Communist Party (PBCP)

He was an FIR-listed accused in murder cases of three policemen and two rivals of PBCP (M-L). He claimed responsibility for the five murders through fax messages to local newspapers identifying himself as Tushar, his party (PBCP-J) code name.

According to some eye witnesses. Ripon Jamaddar was shot dead by plainclothes police in a bush at Srirampur village under Rupsha upazila early morning on Thursday. Later, his body was thrown into the canal.

Ripon's wife Mayuri Begum alleged that her husband was killed by the DB police. Police Super Habibur Rahman.

however, said the murder was

sequel of intra-party rift. Ripon became the regional eader of the party replacing Habibul Bashar alias Amit Hasan who was killed in crossfire at Maheswarpasha under Daulatpur Police Station in Khulna city last July, he added.

New law on cards

certain distance from a river in order to check erosion and prevent encroachments on water bodies,' Water Resource Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed said after the first meeting of the committee held vesterdav

According to the draft law, none would be allowed to create any barrier to the natural water flow in rivers or canals for personal interests. The law would empower the authority to remove any encroachment on the water bodies. It says none would be allowed to

erect any permanent structure on water bodies without prior permission from the authority, which would be given the legal power to remove such structures on rivers or riverbanks, canals and in the flood flow If any landowner erects any

structure on his land in the prohib ited zone on the riverbanks, legal actions will be taken against him, the draft law says.

For setting up launch terminals,

the interest of the people, the government department concerned will have to seek permission from higher authority through deputy commissioner of the district concerned.

Under the strict provisions of the act, setting up of under-water gas pipelines and installation of telephone cables would require prior permission of the ministry concerned. Dredging of rivers would also need prior approval.

The district administration being informed by any person of the locality about any encroachment would serve notice to the illegal encroachers to remove the structure within seven days at his own expenditure. On default, the administration would take initiative to remove the illegal structures and file criminal cases against the

According to the draft law, district administrations would also survey the riverbanks in every two years to observe whether there was any

Basila dwellers

FROM PAGE 1

not come forward to check the erosion, 250-year old Basila, which is the home of more than 20,000 people, will be washed away." They also staged a sitin in front of the lawmaker's house from 7:30am to 12:00noon.

The lawmaker assured the protesters of a visit to Basila today although he made no commitment to stopping the erosion.

Khandaker Mahbub told The Daily Star vesterday that he would take up the matter with Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain and Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed. The lawmaker, however, cited

the experts' opinion that it is not possible to stop the erosion unless the water recedes totally. Since August 13, the diverted course of the river Buriganga devoured 35 houses with more than

threatens to wipe out the entire Basila with flood plains on one side and the Buriganga on the other. The erosion was obvious

56 units of rooms at Basila. It still

lition of which Basila residents already demanded. The kiln owners. in the beginning of recent floods, dumped millions of rejected bricks into the river to build a solid dyke to prevent the river from flowing by both sides of their

structed illegally on the river, demo-

Between Mohammadpur flood protection embankment and Basila Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) constructed a kilometre long road from east to west over the flood plains, which lacked culverts for flow of water from upstream to Buriganga.

After the first phase of destruction, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) frantically tried to demolish the dyke, which temporarily weakened the river flow. But after recent heavy rainfall, the river flow again went furious devouring many more houses and threatening Basila's

Outlaw killed in gunbattle

One pipe gun and three cartridges were recovered from the outlaw before he died, said Mosharef Hossain, officer in charge of Khulna Police Station. Police and Kabir's accomplices exchanged at least 15 rounds of gunshots, he added.

Son of Amjad Ali of Rajapur village under Swarankhola unazila of Bagerhat district, Kabir Hossain was among the terrorists listed by Khulna Metropolitan Police. He was suspected of having links to a number of murders including those of iournalist Manik Saha. Havilder Akram, Satkhira-based shrimp trader Abdul Wahab, Batiaghata Union Parishad Chairman Amir Azam Khan, police informer Aslam Shaikh and journalist Humayun Kahir Balu Besides he was involved in bomb attacks on police in Khulna city, said Assistant Commissioner of police Anis

ARMS RECOVERY

Khulna police said arms and ammunition recovered from Dumuria upazila of Khulna on Friday night had been dumped by armed cadres of NBCP They had fled to India after murders of Mrinal and his second-in-command and Gutudia UP Chairman Khan Alamgir Kabir alias Alam.

A team of Dumuria police recovered one small carbine machinegun, one rifle, 17 foreign pistols with 16 silencer pipes, one nine shooter gun, one .22 bore rifle, two six-shooter guns and 114 bullets from Ghengrail Char in Shovna union. They were in a sack packed with a polythene bag. Superintendent of Khulna police soon more arms would also be recovered. Joint forces would not spare a cadre of NBCP from arrest, he added. Deputy Inspector General of Police (Khulna range) Abdul Aziz

Habibur Rahman said a thorough

search for arms is going on and

Sarker described Friday's arms recovery as the biggest achievement of police in recent years in southwestern region of the country. Meanwhile, hundreds of men and women of Dumuria yesterday brought out a procession to celebrate the recovery of arms and

ammunition. In a rally Dumuria sadar UP chairman urged the people to help police recover all the arms left by

RAZZAK SLAIN

Abdur Razzak, 40, founder of infamous 'Razzak Bahini' of the Sundarbans and his second-incommand Haidar Ali 36 were killed in a party feud at around midnight of September 30 at Tetulbaria village under Swaronkhola upazila of Bagerhat district, said Swarankhola

Razzak and Haider Ali were chopped and shot to death after a dinner party at Kadem Ali's house,

Razzak used to lead a group of 200 cadres who were notorious for robbery, abduction and plundering the forest resources. He surrendered to the police with eight arms in 1999 in presence of former home minister Mohammad Nasim at Swaronkhola Pilot High School ground, said Officer in Charge of Swarankhola Police

Agrani management

managing director of Southeast Bank Limited before his new assignment.

The CEO also assured the bank staff that no jobs would be axed and told them that the terms of reference that the government gave them do not mandate the private manage ment to privatise the bank.

Bakhtear, however, said branches of the bank that are in the red would be shut down in line with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with Bangladesh Bank. Earlier on the day, the Collective

Bargaining Agents (CBA) and the Agrani Bank Officers' Association demonstrated on the premises of the bank's headquarters at Motijheel before the CEO took over. Later, they met the CEO with their four-point demand.

The CBA and association leaders demanded that no jobs can be axed and no loss-making branches closed down. They also asked of the management that the bank cannot be privatised and an inquiry committee be formed to probe the huge defaulted loans of the bank. They observed that the default-

ers were provided with fresh loans through rescheduling of their previous defaulted loans. The new management should expose those who rescheduled the loans through the probe and bring them to justice. The CEO held a meeting with the top officials of the bank and the

leaders of the CBA and the officers'

association. The leaders asked him

to clarify the private management's

He told them that the private management has nothing to do with the bank's privatisation and that it

depends entirely on the government. On closure of branches Bakhtear said each Agrani Bank branch has 14 staff on average and his earlier bank, Southeast Bank Limited, has 20 staff. It means the bank has no excess manpower and there is no question of retrenchment.

He however said the management will keep an eye on the performance of the staff.

The bank will have a participatory management approach in taking new decisions. The management will hold monthly meetings where CBA and officers' association leaders will be invited. The decisions reached at the meetings will be sent to the board of directors for approval and then to the finance ministry for final nod, the CEO said.

On formation of probe body, he told The Daily Star that there is no point digging into the past because unpleasant facts will surface. "We need to look forward," he observed. The union leaders called off their

FROM PAGE 1 agitation programme after the meeting with the bank management. The Left Front also demon-'So he needs to be interrogated to find strated in front of the bank's head out the whereabouts of his accomplices, office against the takeover by a the IO told the court. private management Earlier, Saibal Saha Partha, Abdur Samir Ahmed (treasury func-

Rahman, Habib alias Hannan and tions), Shahadat Hossain (ac-Badsha Miah were shown arrested in the counts) and Faruk Uddin (internal August 21 grenade attack case filed by audit) joined the bank yesterday. the police on August 22.

Azam Reza's bail move turned down

BSS, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday rejected bail petition of Azam Reza who is now in custody for allegedly murdering his wife Joyontee Reza a teacher of Scholastica School.

A vacation bench comprising Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Mohammad Miftahuddin Chowdhury passed the order after hearing the petition. Joyontee was found dead in her

house at Gulshan. A murder case was lodged in this regard. The case is now pending with the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka. Senior Advocate Abdul Malek

appeared before the court on behalf Azam Reza, while Deputy Attorney General Helal Uddin and Assistant Attorney Mollah General Mohammad Abdul Baset stood for the state.

CPA rebuffs

The report, "we guess, was done at the behest of some quarters with vested interest in privatisation of Chittagong Port." he added.

At the briefing Nurullah Bahar. a leader of the port's collective bargaining agent (CBA), threatened to sue the Bangladesh chapter of the Berlin-based governance watchdog and demanded unconditional apology from it for what he said was damaging the image of port "I will definitely go for legal action and

file at least two to three cases against the TIB for its derogatory report against my workers " said Bahar, also a leader of the workers' wing of ruling BNP, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal. The TIB in a stunning revelation Tuesday last said the port and customs

officials at Chittagong Port exact about Tk 783 crore from importers and exporters in bribes and tips a year. The report on a yearlong 'Diagnostic Study: Chittagong Port' conducted from July 2003 to June 2004 also found

berthing of a vessel here requires filling of as many as 42 forms, six times that at Malaysia's Penang Port. But the CPA chief said, "In fact, importers and exporters need to fill but two [for inward and outward shifting of vessell forms where they are asked to provide 42 information -

divided into two groups of 23 and 19 each.

The TIB in this case misinterpreted that 42

information as 42 forms."

"The report has many such exaggerations, which have damaged the image of Chittagong Port as well as that of the

country," he said. According to Shahadat, "The design of the vested quarters behind such exaggerations or smear campaign is apparent in the recommendations of the TIB report They want the port to be handed over to a trustee or privatise it to pave the way for Stevedoring Services America (SSA) or

such companies taking it over." Building on this hypothesis, the CPA chairman said, "Once the economy comes under control, the country is too. And Chittagong Port is the easiest tool to

hold sway over the country's economy. He said some of the blames that the TIB has dumped on the CPA resulted from confusion, for many irregularities or activities including those of the customs, clearing and forwarding agents, stevedores etc do not fall within its jurisdiction.

Shahadat, however, admitted some loopholes present in the overall operations of the port. "We don't claim to be angels We do have some faults but the exaggerations by the TIB go beyond limits and reality." He said the port authorities are mulling over some massive changes in

the existing operating system to raise the

port's capacity, competence and perfor-

mance so that it can achieve a competitive edge over its counterparts across the "Some of the changes are already being taking place so that no body can term us inefficient in the future," he

Other top CPA officials present at the briefing followed the chairman's suit in taking swipe at the TIB report.

CPA Member (Operations) Kamrul Islam decried the report as an on-going hate campaign out of petty personal interests, "They have long been doing it to prove the port as a failed one.'

UK under-secy

tomorrow on a two-day official visit.

Jay will hold official talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Foreign Secretary Shamser Mobin Chowdhury to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations and ways to further boost cooperation between the two countries. The talks will also focus on developments at regional and international arena Aforeign ministry release said Jay will be

accompanied by his wife Lady Jay and Head of the South Asia Department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Stephen Smith. Britain is the fifth largest bilateral development partner of Bangladesh and

the third largest destination for export.

Meanwhile, Commander of Rab's Chittagong unit, Lt Col Kazi Emdadul One more Hug said efforts to free Chittagong from crime are on. He said his men are going allout to arrest the rest of suggesting Walin's involvement.

> Huq and Bidhan Barua. and his aides has relieved some of their fear and anxiety for the time

Hasina emerges today

FROM PAGE 1
On the eve of the showdown, AL
General Secretary Abdul Jalil in a statement yestérday urged all secular democratic forces and members of different professional bodies and social organisations to attend today's rally at 3:00pm.

The AL Presidium sat in a meeting at 5:15pm yesterday with Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Meeting sources said the highest decision-making body of the party drafted a series of programmes and decided to adopt those after consulting with its allies.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm until 11:00am todav. "The programmes are yet to be

finalised and we [AL and its allies] will announce fresh programmes simultaneously tomorrow," Jalil said after "The programmes will be fixed

oust-government movement," he Party insiders however hinted at a hartal to be called on the occasion of the ruling coalition's third anniversary

after discussion with our allies in the

n office, October 10. After the August-21 grenade attacks on its rally that had killed 20, the AL enforced four hartals in two weeks. It later dropped hartal from its strategy facing criticism from the business community and its left-leaning allies. But the ongoing crackdown on opposition activists in the form of mass arrests ahead of the grand rally has prompted the party to reconsider such tough programmes,

sources said. Earlier, on January 10 last, from another grand rally in Paltan Maidan Leader of the Opposition Hasina gave the government a month to fulfil her party's 15-point set of demands or step aside. The demands included an end to violence allegedly unleashed by the ruling alliance loyalists and also to corruption, nepotism and politicisation, and to disband the so-called alternative centre of power Hawa Bhaban.

Police made a sweep of the Paltan ground and the meeting podium by a dog squad yesterday afternoon. Explosive experts also inspected the

Contingents of police have already been deployed in and around

The podium will be encircled by a bamboo fencing along a safety chain and none will be allowed to enter the enclosed area without security

clearance authorised by the AL. Apart from law enforcers, a large number of party volunteers will also be engaged in the security.

Every one will have to go through netal detectors at different entry points to the rally ground. Ten teams of plainclothesmen will mingle with the crowd and look out for any

untoward elements. The high security measures are prompted by the widespread allegations of poor security arrangement by

police for the August-21 meeting. "We have been providing tighter security for the opposition rallies in the recent past, even better than those of the prime minister," said a

ton DMP official wishing anonymity. The DMP high command held a meeting on Friday with an AL delegation to consult the security arrangement for today's rally.

Meanwhile, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) workers yesterday repaired those parts of Paltan Maidan that were badly damaged in the recent downpours

PREPARATIONS

The AL has directed its front organisations across the country to help produce a huge gathering today and ts leadership believes if the government does not create any obstacle the rally will turn into a human sea.

On September 28, senior AL leaders held a preparatory meeting at the party's Dhanmondi office with the presidents and general secretar ies of its Narayanganj, Munshiganj Manikganj, Gazipur, Narsingdi and Tangail units and asked them to ensure large participation from their areas in today's meeting.

Earlier, from September 25 to 28 all the central leaders of the main opposition party in 15 teams visited most of the districts to mobilise and persuade people to join today's rally with the slogan 'Let's move to Dhaka to oust the government'.

Quality of life indexed

'Failure in good governance accompanied by pressure of globalisation, unemployment, outdated egal system and lack of political commitment are specific threats to human security," says the report about Bangladesh.

Among the South Asian coun-

tries, Sri Lanka ranks the highest but

it has been placed in 85th position

among all the countries surveyed. Sri Lanka is followed by the Maldives (107th), India (163rd), Bhutan (142) and Bangladesh. The report rated Bangladesh's performance in education, food security, reproductive health and science and information technology

public expenditure in 'belowaverage' situation. The report says 35 percent of Bangladesh's total population is suffering from undernourishment and the percentage remains

sectors to be in 'worst situation' while

unchanged for last one decade. In the field of education Bangladesh has made a significant progress in primary school enrol-ment with 90 percent in last one decade but only 64 percent complete primary education and illiteracy rates among 15-24 years hover around 50

According to the report, Bangladesh has also achieved progress in lowering infant mortality n last one decade but under-5 mortality still remains 77 per thou-About food security, the report savs the recent widespread cases of starvation in northern region of the

country indicates that food sovereignty has not yet been achieved due to an inefficient official distribution Health security has improved for most of the population but the government's overall health expenditures are not directed at securing poor people's health. "The marginalsed people continue to face strong barriers to access the corrupt public

healthcare system and are forced to

attend private clinics," mentioned the

Criticising the failure to ensure good governance, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said, "Our bureaucracy is busy serving their own interest, not the people.

government who want to do something for the country but they are unorganised," he observed. He also said the civil society is divided on political ideology.

Dr Atiur Rahman, president of

Social Watch Bangladesh, said

misgovernance and lack of transpar-

ency are two main obstacles to the development of Bangladesh. Absence of social security is also holding back the process, he said. Team Leader of Manusher Jonno Shaheen Anam said a right-based movement is very much needed for

people. "We have to look into the data of various reports for the sake of taking action-oriented programmes. Rasheda K Chowdhury of Campaign for Popular Education

FROM PAGE 1 student organisations

demands. Meanwhile, the DU authorities yesterday postponed all examinations scheduled for the day, except Computer Science and Biology departments' examinations, until October 7 because of the strike. Other examination dates would remain unchanged and fresh dates

press release of the university. The indefinite strike followed Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal's attack on a rally of the six student organisations and ransacking of the room of

DU Teachers' Association presi-

being.
"If the rest are arrested, we'll have

nothing to panic," said a resident of

has diminished much with the wiping

Ctg criminals

FROM PAGE 1

separate groups, have gone into hiding, said police and local sources. Fazal Huq and Bidhan groups maintain a strong pull with Raozan reportedly backed by a ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) stalwart and his brother, who had joined the party in 1996, sources said.

Besides, Abu Tayab and Osmanul

Hug, who are based in Fatikchhari, have also disappeared from the locality, police and local sources said. Sources said both of them reportedly fled to India after Rab members had started raiding Fatikchhari and

arrested Jamaat-backed criminals

Bhagina Ramjan, Jamai Faruk and

Tayab and Osman, who are of Bangladesh Chhatra League allegiance, reportedly used to be shielded by an influential local Awami Leaguer.

the listed criminals in Raozan and Fatikchhari. Meanwhile, locals of Raozan demanded immediate arrest of Fazal

They said death of Jan-e-Alam

Raozan seeking anonymity. The municipality election in Raozan slated for October 6 is now expected to be held in a better atmosphere as fear of attacks by terrorists

Jan-e-Alam was a candidate for the post of commissioner of ward No.nine at Raozan municipality.

Emergency declared

out of Jan-e-Alam gang.

FROM PAGE 12 Both Washington and Moscow yesterday called for restraint by the

early on Saturday at Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. Mohammed al-Hashash, 63, was killed near his home during an Israeli incursion, the ources added.

Two Palestinians died and four were wounded in an Israeli air raid on the Jabaliya refugee camp in the north of the Gaza Strip overnight

Ísraeli military, a call apparently falling on deaf ears. Spain, Switzerland, the nternational Committee of the Red Cross and Canada all expressed concern at the continuing violence. Palestinian security sources said Israeli gunfire killed a Palestinian

Palestinian security officials said.

"There are some good people both within the bureaucracy and

Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum and NGO activists took part in

Deadlock

BCL President Liagat Sikder said they would call off the strike any time the authorities meet their

of the postponed examinations would be announced soon, said a

disorder and anarchy.

Cop hurt in

programmes to counter that of

Chaired by Juba Dal President Barkatullah Bhulu, the rally was also addressed by City BNP chief and Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, BNP Joint Secretary General Goveshwar Chandra Roy, State Minister Amanullah Aman, Juba Dal Secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal

incident like the one on August 21 at today's rally. Sylhet JCD

Shahialal Upashahar area.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader of Sylhet city unit and a pedestrian sustained bullet injuries as armed young men fired on them vesterday afternoon at the city's

The injured persons had been

into the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Rony said that he had asked Shaista, a youngman peddling heroin at the city's Bhatpara area, not to sell the item in the locality. At this, Shaista

JCD, swooped on me, Rony

his way home at Shibganj area from

Shahjalal Upashahar, Zaman and

While he was on a motorbike on

Shaista in an auto rickshaw chased him and fired all on a sudden. Emran Ahmed Chowdhury, president of JCD district unit, plamed Zaman for the incident Filing of a case was under process, he added. Meanwhile, a police team raided the house of Zaman at Shibganj in the afternoon but failed

were exchanged before Zaman escaped. A police official admitted the exchange of gunshots saying they will file a case. Shamsuzzaman Zaman, an ex-

Asked if that hindered the inquiry

facility under a free trade agreement

for better economic co-operation "It is not possible for Bangladesh to agree on issues that may cause substantial revenue loss for us," said a commerce ministry official when asked about the negative and

Without naming the main opposition Awami League (AL), Bhuiyan said this party has become isolated from people because of calling hartals frequently without any issue. On the AI 's demand for resignation of the government, the minister said this party is making the

secretary general said the government has shown its sincerity in probing the incident by forming a judicial inquiry commission and

A constable of Badda Police Station

fired accidentally, Badda police sources said. Sumon, constable No. 20498, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with pellet injures in his left foot. He is now receiving treatment at Rajarbagh Police Lines

He went on, "We don't need any Awami League because the party (AL) is completely isolated from people.

MP and city BNP General Secretary Abdus Salam. Goyeshwar urged the government to take precautionary measures so that the AL or 'conspirators' do not get any scope to 'stage' an

leader shot

identified as Wasimuzzaman Rony, a JCD leader and Kamal Ahmed, a Both of them had been admitted and his abettor Shamsuzzaman alias Zaman, a former leader of

to nab him. However, about 10 gunshots

leader of JCD and former organizing secretary of district BNP, was expelled from the party on the eve of the city corporation elections in