confrontations and recurrent vio-

workdays and the functioning of the

committee systems in the previous

apparently failed to make its stand-

ing committees function effectively,

witnessed a regular quorum crisis

and fewer workdays most of them

were boycotted by the main opposi-

tion. Besides, it passed some con-

troversial laws, a number of which

were passed without proper scru-

even nominated a deputy leader to

act in absence of the Leader of the

House. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

In her absence the Jativa Sangsad

functions with a proxy deputy leader

ensure female representatives.

although the constitution was

amended last July to introduce 45

reserved seats for women. But

election to these reserved seats is

The House engaged in only three

general discussions in the last three

years; on law and order, the August

21 grenade attack on an Awami

League (AL) rally and the recent

demanded discussions on various

burning issues and submitted more

than 500 notices but the speaker

rejected all of them, favouring the

treasury bench members who did

The opposition lawmakers

ikely to take few more months.

The parliament also failed to

from one of the senior ministers.

Until now, the House has not

The eighth Jatiya Sangsad has

Strike-struck DU bogged down | Parliament still hobbles

opposition-backed student bodies on September 14 has kept the varsity paralysed for 23 days to date, further aggravating its already

of tertiary education, the DU now barely manages to stagger on, tangled up in enormous session jams leading to two- to nine-year delays in academic activities.

Repeated strikes by students, teachers and other staffs, raging political violence, preoccupation of faculty in consultancy and other tions under students' pressure and late publication of results are some

The situation is the worst at the Institute of Fine Arts, which now caters for nine batches of students instead of five regular ones, with the batch of 1990/91 academic year still unable to complete its 3-year BFA honours and 1-year masters'

The DLI students are at least two years behind their academic schedules, said a DU official. And what is more alarming, the logiam is set to worsen thanks to the ongoing strike, he added.

He said the 30.000 students of the varsity might lose three to six academic months due to this abrupt pause. Classes and examinations have to be rescheduled. So results would come out later, resulting in more intense accommodation crisis

science undergrad, gave voice to the majority of students, saying, "We don't understand politics. What we know is it's really tough for our parents to send us money every month for studying. So, we don't

Skop will hold rallies and meetings at

Motiiheel. Hazaribagh and Teigaon in

the capital and in all divisional and

district towns during the hartal, its

leaders said at a press conference at

Skop-- an umbrella organisation of

workers' bodies-- to restrain from their

Federation General Secretary Mujibur

Rahman Bhuiyan said workers and

lower class employees have long

been deprived of just wages and

facilities but the government has taken

no steps to resolve their problems.

Continued price hike of essentials has

made their lives all the more misera-

The government had declared a

minimum wage for workers in 2000 through a gazette notification but it

was not implemented due to some

court proceedings. But the govern-

ment is still inactive in this regard, said

employees go if they are not rehabili-

in Bhola makes it hard for local officials

to probe the irregularities, sources

Meanwhile, tension mounted at 19

municipalities approaching the polls with a widespread fear of violence.

Elections of those municipalities,

where voters number 4.84.611, have

Santhia, Chatmahor, Swarupkathi,

Bazitpur, Narsingdi, Raozan and

Khagrachhari go to polls today while

those of Ishwardi, Betagi,

Mehendiganj, Islampur, Bhaluka, Bhairab, Bhedorganj, Chhatak, Srimangol, Sharasti and Rangamati

officials concerned to discharge their

duties sincerely for holding the polls

been taken to ensure the polls are held

free and fair. Law enforcers including

No 'hard evidence'

'To my knowledge, I have not seer

any strong, hard evidence that links the two," Rumsfeld added.

recently about one person who's

connected to al Qaeda who was in

and out of Iraq. And it is the mos

tortured description of why he might

have had a relationship and why he

might not have had a relationship. It

may have been something that was

March 2003 and toppled Saddam

and his government in a war whose

main justification offered by the

United States was the threat posed

by Irag's weapons of mass destruc-

tion. No such weapons have been

Saddam's government and al-Qaeda

analysis office found what it consid-

ered evidence of Irag-al Qaeda ties

Rumsfeld was one of the Bush

administration officials publicly

describing this link. On Sept. 26

2002, Rumsfeld told reporters at the

Pentagon of evidence of contacts

very reliable reporting of senior level

contacts going back a decade, and of

possible chemical and biological

agent training. And when I say con-

tacts, I mean between Iraq and al-

Qaeda," Rumsfeld said at the time.

"We have what we consider to be

also figured in the US case for war.

But the relationship between

A small Pentagon intelligence-

US-led forces invaded Iraq in

not representative of a hard linkage.

"I just read an intelligence report

The EC yesterday directed all the

All necessary preparations have

Municipalities of Charghat,

been staggered in two days.

"Where will the workers and

duties and make the strike a success.

They called upon all members of

Bangladesh Mukta Sramik

its office vesterday.

ble, he mentioned.

Polls today:

free and fair.

FROM PAGE 1

want to linger on here unnecessar-

Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz said, "We would need considerable time to make up for the delay and session iam this closure will inevitably produce. We will try our best to minimise the loss of academic time by rearranging the postponed examinations.

Mohammad Abdul Latif said, since February last, frequented strikes forced some 550 examinations at different departments and institutes of the varsity to be postponed.

Another official however put the figure of postponed examinations at around 600 and said at least 2,000 classes were dropped this year due to strikes and closures for other reasons. The fresh dates for the deferred exams have yet not been

also lends support to the session jam. Though they are required to submit results to the controller of examinations within three months time but the faculty of most of the departments and institutes consume at least five to six months for

"The day would come soon when no one will want to enrol in public universities fearing the repeated closures." said DU Treasurer Hasan. "But, we are really helpless, we can't do any thing to stop student organisations calling strikes," he

FORCED STOPPAGE

Apart from the scheduled vacations, the university was forced to keep shut for about 670 days in the last 14 ademic years.

90 days of vacations. Together with

ties, it remained closed for 22 months in the last four years and three months from July 2000 to September 2004.

On an average the varsity has lost over 47 days a year to strikes and other impediments.

This year academic activities at the university were suspended for 22 days due to the attack on late Prof Humayun Azad, 18 days to flooding, 30 days to strikes of students and teachers, and another 10 days to hartals and other reasons, official sources said.

The varsity lost 21 academic days in 2003-04, 72 in 2002-03. 74 in 2001-02, 22 in 2000-01, 23 in 1999-00, 56 in 1998-99, 18 in 1997-98, 23 in 1996-97, 55 in 1995-96, 42 in 1994-95, 22 in 1993-94, 10 in 1992-93, 94 in 1991-92 and 51 in 1990-91

TOO MANY TOO LONG

At least seven batches of students instead of five are currently studying at the various DU departments and institutes. The students of 1997-98 batch are yet to finish their 5-year

The situation is worse at the Science Faculty, where the 1996-97 batch is still to pass out. While the worst condition is at the Institute of Fine Arts, with nine batches swarm-

The session jam has also brought in acute accommodation crisis in all the 19 student dormito-

The students are also being deprived of many other facilities, including transportation, library food and study materials, due to the

The DU VC said, "I hoped they [the opposition combine] would call off the strike for the greater interests of students and studies." He sought cooperation from all to bring back normalcy on the campus.

not agree to hold discussions on the UK ready The main opposition, AL, did not participate in discussions concern-FROM PAGE 1 Scotland Yard has already been ing the August 21 grenade attack and recent floodings as the speaker handed to the Bangladeshi side and did not agree to hold the discussion adjourning other business of the

The current parliament began its ourney on October 28, 2001 with the main opposition boycotting the State Minister for Home Affairs House, rejecting poll results and Lutfozzaman Babar on Monday. alleging widespread persecution of The issues Jay had brought up with its leaders and minority communi-Babar were related to human-rights ties after the October 1 elections.

> The fifth (1991) and seventh (1996) parliaments saw participation of the main opposition at the beginning but both parliaments became ineffective in the wake of the boycott by the main opposition parties in the third year of their

The AL joined the House in June 2002 in the third session after bov-

cotting over 70 consecutive workculture of both the ruling and the days. It started boycotting House opposition parties has put the proceedings anew the following current parliament on a back burner year when a junior minister's and their activities are concentrated remarks on the Leader of the outside the House sparking political Opposition, Sheikh Hasina.

staged a noisy walkout. The Jatiya Sangsad, which After an 11-month boycott, AL should be the centre of all political returned to the House this year just activities, is functioning even worser for one day to participate in the than under the past two parliaments obituary reference on its slain -- fifth and seventh -- in terms of lawmaker Ahsanullah Master.

incensed its deputies and who when

Then the main opposition joined the budget session and again boycotted parliament proceedings from September 15 in protest against the speaker's refusal to hold discussions on the August 21 grenade attacks, adjourning the business of the House.

But the government and the speaker are so far unable to create an atmosphere in parliament, which

can bring the AL back to the House. As the AL boycotted the House frequently, the Jatiya Sangsad sat without the main opposition lawmakers on two-thirds of its workdays. So far, legislators of the AL were present in the House on 74 out of the total 226 workdays.

The current parliament met on fewer workdays than earlier two parliaments. Until the 13th session, prorogued on September 16, the parliament saw 226 workdays while the first 13 sessions of the fifth parliament saw 286 workdays and the seventh 256 days.

The fifth parliament had a total of 22 sessions with 410 workdays and the seventh parliament saw 23 sessions with 372 workdays. The statistics suggest that the current parliament would witness fewer workdays compared to the past two.

Yet the current parliament will go down in history for creating some rare precedents including the removal of an elected president, AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, by a parliamentary party resolution in

It created another precedent by adopting a censure motion against the sitting leader of the opposition for her comment about the late president Ziaur Rahman.

The House passed a total of 102 bills including the joint forces indemnity bill, which indemnified the army, Bangladesh Rifles and police personnel who manned the anti-crime Operation Clean Heart, in which about 50 people were killed across the country in 'mysterious circum-

Some other much-talked-about the portrait of the Father of the

The remarkable new legislation includes amendment to the constitution, anti-corruption commission act, two separate bills on the speedy trial act and speedy trial tribunal, the Gram Sarkar bill and the anti-money laundering act.

The role of the speaker to run the House was also questioned. In past sessions Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar was sometimes seen indifferent to the opposition lawmakers. but he extended his cooperation to the treasury bench.

COMMITTEE SYSTEM

The parliamentary standing committees are limping with the main opposition Awami League (AL) still undecided on joining the committee proceedings after the inclusion of AL lawmakers in the bodies on September 16 this year. In the absence of the main oppo-

sition deputies, the committee system has become virtually ineffective as the ruling party dominated standing committees on various ministries and important issues are failing to play due role. Most of the parliamentary bodies

do not sit regularly although the committees, according to the Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad, are supposed to sit at least once in a During the previous BNP regime

(1991), the committee system in the fifth parliament was ineffective as the ministers were appointed as committee chairmen and they were reluctant to discuss alleged irregularities in their respective ministries. The 1996 Awami League gov-

ernment, however, in the seventh parliament, brought a commendable change in the configuration of the parliamentary bodies, putting a bar on the ministers to become chairmen of the committees.

Amending the rules, AL introduced a new system enabling nonministers to be appointed chairmen of the committees where the ministers will remain as members.

During the seventh parliament the committee system started functioning effectively and many alleged irregularities and corruption were discussed during meetings The then main opposition BNP boycotted the House proceedings but continued to join the committee.

This time, however, the main opposition Awami League is not willing to join both the committees and the House proceedings.

Against the backdrop of the prevailing situation, uncertainty looms large over the fate of the eighth Jatiya Sangsad. Will the parliament be able to begin to function effectively in the next two years or will it pass the rest of the tenure in such an unwanted situa-

Troops at pump houses

additional water pumps, deep tubewells and power generators for an adequate production and supply of water. He also asked the Wasa authorities to utilise their water vehicles and manpower properly.

Officials of Wasa and other city corporations requested the minister to make special arrangements to avoid load shedding especially at the water pumps and treatment plants so that they can operate without any disruption.

Dhaka Wasa informed the meeting it can supply 150 crore litres of water a day against the demand of 210 crore litres in the capital. To overcome the shortage of 60 crore litres, it will install or repair and re-install 16 deep tubewells in the areas facing a deficit of water.

Eight deep tubewells will start

operation before Ramadan at

Dakkhinkhan (Mollartek), Nukunjal, Nikunja-2, Tajmahal Road (Kisholoy), Madhubazar (generatoroperated), Shaheenbagh, Khilgaon and Swadhinata Swarani (Badda). Another eight deep tubewells will

go into operation during Ramadan at DOHS-1, Agargaon-2, Eskaton, Uttara-2 (Armed Police Battalion), Sunibir Housing (Mohammadpur) Tekpara (Badda), Rajarbagh-2

(inside Police Line) and SM Sen Road, Narayangani

Twenty-one water-carrying vehicles Of Dhaka Wasa -- eight new and 13 old -- will remain operative around the clock. Moreover, 27 plastic tanks and nine trolleys will be

A number of complaint centres in the capital will receive complaints around the clock to ensure that required steps can be taken imme-

taskforces will work as vigilance teams and inspect water pumps and treatment plants.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Ziaul Haq Zia, secretary of the ministry, managing directors of Dhaka Wasa and Chittagong Wasa, chief executive officers of all of the six city corporations and other high officials were

Development Association) resources

would mostly depend on progress of utilisation of resources His assurances came as Saifur

president in the US capital, called for bank's support in the post-flood rehabilitation operation and additional IDA allocation to implement I-PRSP goals for accelerated economic growth and faster poverty reduction. The minister highlighted the recent

government as well as improvements in the performance of social sectors like health, education etc.

caused by the recent floods. He said Bangladesh has successfully managed the relief operations

people once again to face the natural Wolfensohn lauded the performance of the government as well as

the people at large to minimise the loss

of human life to a record level in the

face of such devastating natural calamity World Bank Vice-President Praful

C Patel, Bangladesh Ambassador to USA Sved Hasan Ahmad. Alternate

Executive Director of World Bank Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan and ERD Secretary Mirza Tasaddug Hussain Begwere present at the meeting. Earlier in the day, Saifur addressed the World Bank sector directors on the

political economy of reforms and development priorities of Bangladesh. The minister narrated the evolution of development strategies of

Bangladesh as well as reform initiatives in policies and institutions. He cited wide-ranging reforms initiated in various sectors by the

present government over a decade ago and benefits derived in terms of socioeconomic development of the He mentioned that Bangladesh

has already achieved 98 percent

Nation act and the Public Safety Act.

bail Taheruddin Thakur filed for deposition of Saifuddin, the then deputy superintendent of police and the second investigation officer (IO). The decision brought the case back to the trial stage, pushing into uncertainty the much-awaited verdict that was set to come about 29 years after the brutal assassination of four national leaders that still stirs up emotions among people.

The commission of Metropolitan Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdullah Mahmud Hassan, Officer-in-Charge of Sutrapur Police Station Awlad Hossain and Taheruddin's counsel ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul visited a bed-ridden Saifuddin at his Nawabpur house at 4:00pm yester-

"He is hed-ridden and has lost his memory," the PP told The Daily Star last night. "He is unable to move and too weak to appear before the court or speak to com-

Mukul, who filed the petition for lysed and cannot move at all.

Saifuddin has been suffering from Parkinson's disease since 1999.

know Saifuddin is so unwell. He even responds to the call of nature

Metropolitan Sessions Judge Mohammad Motiur Rahman fixed September 29 for recording his statement, but the 84-year-old former police officer failed to appear

member commission on that day, asking it to submit report by October 9. It also issued a non-bailable arrest warrant on Saifuddin for not appearing before the court.

More ammo found

abandoned in a shanty. However, it was not immediately known who Intelligence officials believe

Mukul, a suspect of the August 21 grenade attack, and his gang are inked to the grenades and firearms seized on Monday.

chargesheeted accused in last year's Badda grenade, time bomb and firearms case and has close ties with Imam Hossain, one of the top 23 police-listed criminals who controlled Sattola slum and nearby TB Hospital slum. The slums are hotbeds of drug peddling and gunrunning, sources said.

cache seized on Monday was under the possession of Mollah Shamim, who was the second-in-command of Imam, a former joint secretary of Dhaka City north unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

their drive to search out Mukul after a video footage confirmed his presence at the AL rally on August

pings on the August 21 grenade attack have reinforced the investigators' suspicion, another official Deputy Commissioner of North Zone of Dhaka Metropolitan Police

The bloodstained copies of

newspapers and some news clip-

Golam Rasul said they are suspecting Mukul's link to the seized cache Police recovered four AK-47

assault rifles, two revolvers, 20 hand grenades, four time bombs and huge numbers of AK-47 bullets and explosives after a gunfight with a criminal outfit at Kuril Badda last

Residents of Dakkhinpara in Sattola slum said two darkcomplexioned, medium-sized men aged around 40 lived in one of Kashem's shanties. The shanty had a secret passage where the cache was seized from.

"Some people including Mollah Shamim visited the two men and stayed there for long," said a neighbour of Kashem, wishing anonymity.

Infectious Diseases Hospital which is surrounded by Sattola slum. He lived in a room of the slum with his wife, a sari vendor, a son and a daughter. He moved elsewhere with his family after Mollah Shamim was

Staff, job seekers

during the recent recruitment of third and fourth-class employees.

The employees and job aspirants said the director had received bribe up to Tk 1.5 lakh from each aspirant assuring them of giving job. Dr Bhuiyan however denied the allegation and said he would take legal steps against the transfer.

Tension spread fast when the director received his transfer order at 10:30 Monday night. The employees and some job

aspirants gathered on the hospital premises and decided to demonstrate against the transfer order. "We will not let him go this way

before we get the job," an aspirant told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity. The hospital authority recently

employees. Interview of the aspirants for fourth-class positions has already been completed while that of third-class is scheduled on Fifty-three candidates passed the written test for third-class posts

invited applications for 15 third-

class and 105 fourth-class posts of

and the result was published Monday. But those who did not pass despite giving bribe to the director decided to protest the result and also the transfer order The resenting employees and

job aspirants brought out a procession on the hospital premises in the afternoon. They went to doctors' café and club on the first floor at around 1:00pm and damaged furniture. "Here sit the members of

LDCs FROM PAGE 12

three developing countries will

contribute a certain portion of their export income to compensate the revenue earnings of the LDCs. The developing countries have accepted it but the percentage is still being discussed. There will be another fund for

providing technical assistance to the LDC countries. Apart from arranging a fund, developing members will also extend expertise in some areas including a customs procedure modification. All the countries will sit at the

concluding session today to hold a

Power sector FROM PAGE 12

the Britain would invest more in Bangladesh availing of the advantages of investment-friendly atmosphere and policies.

between the two countries would be further strengthened in the days to

contributions to the UN peacekeeping mission. Jay renewed the invitation of British Prime Minister Tony Blair to Prime Minister Khaleda to visit

convenient time. Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Kamaluddin Siddqui and British High Commissioner in Dhaka

Its (the coin's) movements are in fact determined by the fundamental forces between the basic building blocks -- protons, neutrons, electrons, the Academy said.

of how the universe was born, how it works and how it will ultimately die, said Finnish theoretical physicist Stig-Erik Starck. Gross from the University of

\$1.36 million) prize.

FROM PAGE 1

Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number three.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay have been advised to remain close to the coast till 6:00am today and thereafter pro-

director's corruption, Dab members

Jay said the British government appreciated Bangladesh's major from the hospital should get priority

> Britain. The prime minister accepted the invitation and said that she would go to Britain at a mutually

recovered the dead bodies and sent Anwar Chowdhury were present.

FROM PAGE 12

Their research has built a model

California, Politzer from the

Bangladesh community in Britain is playing an useful role by making society and economy.

Referring to British scholarships provided for many Bangladeshi students for studies in Britain, Jay said the British government has also decided to increase the number of scholarships for Bangladeshi stu-

The prime minister hoped that

Nobel physics

California Institute of Technology and Wilczek at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will share the

Heavy rains Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's

owns the shanty.

Investigators and locals said the

Sub-inspector Jamal Uddin of Rab team filed two cases under

Gulshan Police Station vesterday. He accused Abul Kashem and Akkas, whom Rab claimed to be the owners of the shanty.

corporation authorities to install

used for emergency water supply, the meeting was told.

For revenue collection, six

Dhaka Wasa also plans to install 10 more deep tubewells soon at Kalwalapara (Mirpur), Rupnagar, Jatrabari Wapda Road, Monipur Chanmia Housing, Meradia School Lichu Bagan, Osmani Udyan Sundarban Park and Siddeshwari

present at the meeting.

WB works for urgent

FROM PAGE 12

He however mentioned that flow of additional IDA (International

Rahman, in the meeting with the WB

He informed the World Bank president about the colossal damage to agriculture and infrastructures

macroeconomic achievements of the

with its own resources and made particular mention about the unparaleled resilience demonstrated by the

primary school enrollment and gender parity in primary education. "Bangladesh has also achieved impressive success in decelerating population growth rate and reducing infant mortal

Commission visits

from delivering the verdict on September 21, responded to a Taheruddin, said, "It is impossible to petition the lawyer of accused-on- record his statement. He is para-A diabetic patient for 30 years.

"While filing the petition, I didn't

"I'll take no further steps that might delay the judgement of the case," he said. Deferring the judgement,

before the court like many times in the past. The court formed the three-

Mukul is now on the run as he is a

Intelligence officials stepped up

Arms and Explosives Acts with

Kashem was a night guard at the

arrested and killed in a 'crossfire'.

A strike enforced by a combine of six

too acute session jam syndrome. Once the country's prime centre

external jobs, deferral of examinaof the key stumbling blocks to maintaining the academic calendar.

at the dormitories. Mustafizur Rahman, a political

Opposition backs

Skop leader Skop leaders reiterated their demand to stop privatisation of government-owned commercial banks, mills and factories, and ensure job

security, just wages and other facilities

Labour and Employment said the

government has already increased

But sources in the Ministry of

of the employees and workers.

dearness allowance of workers by 10 percent and met some of the ninepoint Skop demand and some more are under consideration. A committee comprising workers'

leaders, government representatives and mill owners are working on setting up a labour court, they mentioned. State Minister for Labour Amanullah Aman at a meeting with Skop leaders on September 26

their problems but they are now

enforcing strike, the sources said

EC to probe 'unusual' paramilitary BDR, armed police and Ansars will be deployed at all polling

> Besides, striking forces and mobile teams led by magistrates will patrol the polling areas. Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong adds: Security in Raozan has been beefed up with over half a thousand law enforcers including Rab,

ntres to maintain law and order.

deployed to avert violence in todays municipality polls. Two platoons of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and two platoons of armed police battalion have joined the

regular police to maintain law and

BDR and armed police battalion

order in Raozan, said police officials. Besides. Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members have stepped up patrolling the area. Seven checkpoints will be set up to restrict all kinds of vehicular move-

ments until the election ends.

an influential BNP leader's reported move to get his favoured candidate elected as chairman of Raozan municipality, has increased the likelihood of Superintendent of Police in Chittagong Mahbubur Rahman told

The Daily Star that, all the 19 polling

centres of Raozan will be under con-

Local sources, however, said that

Customs releases kidney dialysis fluid at

last STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The customs authorities at Kamalapur Inland Container Depot (ICD) yesterday cleared the shipment of 28,000-litre kidney dialysis solution held there since September The ICD customs had been

refusing to clear the life-saving fluid known as kidney- or haemo-dialysis solution, a duty-free item. They asked the importing company, Bangladesh Health Product, to pay 22.5 percent tax, which it did not leading to a deadlock. The Daily Star yesterday published a report titled 'Tariff Row may Spell Patient's Plight' highlighting the possibility of a crisis of the life

saving fluid that eventually would

increase sufferings of the kidney

ily, adding to their troubles.' Referring to the strike. DU Vice

POSTPONED EXAMS DU Controller of Examinations

The sluggishness of examiners

Every year the DU enjoys some

tated after the factories are shut down." asked Shafigur Rahman, a

sought their cooperation in resolving

Private news agency UNB adds: Dhaka sought greater British invest-(MFA) during the meeting. Asked if London had asked Dhaka

He added the two sides discussed not only Iraq but also possible Bangladeshi peacekeepers to be sent to Sudan. He also said they had discussed how to strengthen the UN in global affairs. Jav also lauded Dhaka's

Jay is expected to leave today at the end of his three-day visit.

Cabinet FROM PAGE 1 Justice Joynul Abedin, head of the one-man judicial commission that probed into the grenade attacks on a rally of the main opposition Awami League, earlier told journalists

about 'foreign enemies link' to the

attacks but did not reveal the name

The report was submitted to the

AL, whose 20 leaders and work-

ers were killed in the attacks.

government to make it public. PM urges

government on October 2.

of any country.

Bangladesh missions abroad have been activated further to create and expand the international market of Bangladeshi products. "Foreign investors have shown

nterest in investing in Bangladesh.

Foreign buyers are also coming to

Bangladesh to purchase various goods," she told the function, attended by diplomats, MPs, and local and foreign owners of factories and industries. Responding to the demands raised by BPGMEA, the prime minister assured that the demands would be considered through a review. The government will con-

sider with importance setting up of a

plastic industry city, she said

The prime minister suggested diversification of all products as well as quality improvement offering competitive price to survive in the present competitive world trade.

the outcomes of the investigation are expected to be released after the report is examined by the local intelligence agencies. Jay said he asked his counterpart about the issues he had raised with

Battalion (Rab) operations and an nternational threat from the possibility of Bangladeshi criminals going across The British head of the diplomatic service also said there is a need for shared perception of challenges

between each states in a world that is

Shamsher Chowdhury told the

becoming increasingly dangerous.

violations during Rapid Action

reporters that they had shared their thoughts on some issues' and that Jay had extended a British offer to cooperate in improving the quality of lawenforcement agencies in Bangladesh. The bulk of the discussion in the

ment to face an uncertain economy at he end of the multi-Fibre Agreement

for sending troops to Irag. Jay said, "It

is an issue for the Bangladeshi gov-

hour-long meeting centred on

strengthening economic relations and

co-operation between the two coun-

still sticks to its position on UN's assuming the central role for Bangladesh to offer any assistance to

Shamsher Chowdhury said Dhaka

commitment in the 'global war on terror'

October 13.

rejected the report but wanted the

wrap up discussion covering ROO. A total of 38 government officials from seven South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) countries are participating in the

Dab (Doctors Association of Bangladesh) who are behind trans-

sustained injuries to his whole body including head as one protestor hit him with an iron rod. Police rushed to the hospital and dispersed the agitating employees. Sources said in the wake of the

He, however, said the wards and

in the recruitment process.

One Sumon introducing himself as a regional leader of the PBCP-ML claimed responsibility of the killings

Alamdanga and Sadar police

them to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital

Separate cases were filed with

the police stations concerned. In another incident, three powerful bombs were hurled on the compound of Bangas Limited in Chuadanga, owned by ruling BNP lawmaker Haji Mozammel Haq, at

or damage to machinery. The police collected splinters from the scene and were examining

Qatar Major General Ahsan Nazmul Amin was called back to Dhaka and attached to the Army Headquarters. Executive Director of National Nutrition Council Ashraf

as additional secretary to agriculture ministry. Bangladesh ambassador to

ceed with caution

FROM PAGE 12

(finance) Rajab Ali were made Officer on Special Duty (OSD).

stances'. bills, passed by current parliament to repeal some laws passed by the previous government, include the repeal of the security of the members of Father of the Nation's family act, the display and preservation of

fer of the director," said one of the protestor. They later went to Dr Abdul Mannan's office and beat him up. He

and local lawmaker Nasiruddin Pintu recommended his transfer a month ago. Khayer told The Daily Star, "My transfer 84 days before retirement is definitely a breach of

relatives of those who have retired

I wo outlaws FROM PAGE 1

about 11:00pm. The police and factory authorities said the bombs hurled exploded

on the packaging floor when pro-

duction was going on, prompting

panicked labourers to rush out.

However, there was no causalities

IG prisons

Mohammed Iqbal and Director

She hoped that relations