Dhaka fails to probe Rokanuddin for CTG MAYORAL POLL

"An entrenched climate of impunity, hampered by police corruption and torture occurred on a regular basis, it added.

The report said violence is a pervasive element in the country's political environment and continues to undermine democratic concepts and practices. The judicial system was hampered by lengthy pre-trial detention, corruption and a large judicial case backlog, mentioned the report.

freedom of speech, movement, assembly, political association and religious freedom. In June, the main opposition party, the Awami League, ended its boycott of Parliament, though it alleged that it is prevented from exercising parliamentary prerogatives," it said.

religious minorities was ongoing.

Referring to Ahmadiyya sect, the report said the government succumbed to pressure by some politically-affiliated religious parties and banned the publications of the members of the Ahmadiyya sect. "But by year's end, there was some improvement in government efforts to protect the Ahmadiyyas," it

child workers was widespread. Appreciating Bangladesh's government, the report said the government renewed its focus on trafficking in women and children for the purpose of prostitution and forced labour, and moved aggressively and successfully to arrest, prosecute and convict traffickers.

"The US human rights and democracy strategy in Bangladesh aims to strengthen democratic institutions, transparency and accountability to citizens, and respect for the rule of law and human rights," the report said.

"To do this, the United States seeks to reform political parties, increase informed citizen political participation, strengthen local government, improve police and

The United States encourages better governance, a reduction in corruption, promotion of religious tolerance, and reduction in violence against women and trafficking, as well as improve women, children and workers rights, the report

After release of the report in Washington DC, Secretary Condoleezza Rice said, "This congressionally mandated report details the many ways the United States is working to advance the cause of freedom worldwide

"As this year's report describes in detail, we are working tirelessly to support democracy and human rights in every country where these principles are not completely fulilled." she said.

Rice said. "America's belief in human dignity and human rights will guide our policy...Working together with our friends and allies in the community of democracies, we can indeed forge a path toward freedom for all persons around the globe."

On the South Asia region, the report said, "Throughout the region, torture and illegal detention by security forces remained widespread, eroding public trust in government authorities. Sectarian tensions exploited by home-grown and foreign terrorist groups, extremism and ineffective legal systems threatened peace and stability."

Rampant corruption in South Asia perpetuated inefficiency and often blocked the administration of justice, leading to further abuses against members of the most vulnerable communities, such as women and minority religious and ethnic groups. Trafficking in persons remained a significant problem in the region.

Millions of people were recruited through force, fraud or coercion into servitude or the sex trade. While there were differing levels of commitments from the governments of South Asia, many took encouraging steps to address these issues,

nonpartisan president in caretaker rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday proposed that a neutral person acceptable to all parties should be the president during the threemonth period of the caretaker government to hold general elec-

"The incumbent president will have to resign along with the prime minister and other ministers with the dissolution of parliament, because he is elected on a political party ticket," Rokanuddin Mahmud said while addressing a discussion in the

"A person having no links to any political party should be made president for the three months during the caretaker administration

Awami Jubo League, youth wing of the main opposition Awami League, organised the discussion, which was also addressed by a number of senior AL leaders.

AL leaders addressing the discussion said that reforms in the caretaker government system are a must to ensure neutrality of the interim government as well as the

The opposition leaders mainly pointed at the president's power to control the defence ministry during the caretaker government's threemonth period. The armed forces usually maintain the law and order during the polls and the president controls their deployment.

AL Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu said a neutral caretaker government alone cannot ensure a free and fair election as long as a partisan president heads the interim body with adequate power and room to manoeuvre the

Awami League leaders Tofail Ahmed, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Jubo League General Secretary Mirza Azam also addressed the discussion chaired by Jubo League President Jahangir

AL leader

Babu, Alam, Shameem, Faruk. Santu, Abdur Rashid, Sujon, Aynal

Of the accused, Babar was arrested while Abdur Rashid was killed in violence, Alam was absconding, and others were on bail.

Mamtaz Uddin, a freedom fighter and former AL lawmaker and district vice president, was murdered at Darapara in Lalpur upazila on June 6

Accused Babar Ali Babu confessed under Section 164 that he along with several others killed Mamtaz at the diktat of AL leader Anis, it was said in the charge framed under Sections 302 and 34.

AL leader Anisur Rahman, a Dhaka-based industrialist hired a group of seven men at Tk 2 lakh to murder Mamtaz. Rahman had developed an enmity toward Mamtaz after he had failed to receive a nomination for the Lalpur-Bagatipara constitu-

The police and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigated the case twice and pressed charges against the AL leader and the seven BNP workers.

Following a no-confidence petition on the charge sheet by the plaintiff of the case Abul Kalam Azad, the victim's brother, a judicial probe found the 13 men involved in the murder. The case was then shifted to the tribunal as it was considered sensational by the home ministry.

Special PP Ketabuddin moved the case for the state while advocate Shakhawat Hossain Shawkat and Parvez Zahedy pleaded for the accused.

The tribunal will hear the witnesses in eight consecutive days starting May 10.

EC objects

FROM PAGE 16

holding a free and fair election. If then asked Mohiuddin, a mayoral candidate of the main opposition Awami League-backed Nagorik Committee, to refrain from launching fresh development projects and publicising those in the run-up to the

meeting preparatory to the upcoming election, the EC yesterday discussed this among other issues. The release, however, did not say anything about EC decisions regarding allegations of unusual ncrease in voter number, relocation of polling centres and transfer of government officials by the ruling coalition after the publication of the election schedule.

A meeting source said that the EC has asked the Returning Officer (RO) to probe all the allegations filed by the Nagorik Committee, and report back to the EC in three or four

The CCC in a notice published in local daily Dainik Purbokon of March 26 said the corporation has approved 169 development projects for eight wards in the Doublemooring Thana. Primarily, a project worth Tk 5 lakh will be implemented at each of the wards. The rest of the projects will be implemented in phases. The corporation has already invited tenders for the development projects, the notice

Following the notice by CCC, ruling coalition's candidate State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin filed a complaint against Mohiuddin accusing him of breaching the election code of conduct.

Mohiuddin vows city govt

Declares 40-pt programme

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Mayor and Nagorik Committee candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday pledged to establish a 'City Government' to live up to the expectations of the city residents without 'taking a single penny from the

Mohiuddin, also general secretary of main opposition Awami League's Chittagong City North unit, declared a 40-point set of programmes for the next five years as he eves reelection to office and asked for help to implement the programmes to make Chittagong one of the modern cities of the

"If you subscribe to my 40 points and believe I can live up to your expectations..., then I ask for your valuable vote to implement them and present a beautiful city in the next five years," Mohiuddin told the rally at Laldighi Maidan, organised by Nagorik Committee in what was his first major showdown ahead of the May 9 Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) elections

He said he would extend the city area to 120 square kilometres from the existing 60 square kilometres,

the citizens of erratic power supply and outage, ensure supply of drinking water to all wards, establish a Centre for Aids Treatment and Research' and rehabilitate sex

He also promised to set up a

modern 'pharmaceutical factory' on city's Sagarika Road, develop the Tk 500-crore 'Satellite Town' project on 11-acre land with assistance from South Korea, construct a 'Garment Village' on 1,000-acre land in Fateyabad area for promotion of the ready-mage garment industry, launch a 'City Circular Train Service' from Faujdarhat to export processing zones and the city to ease traffic congestion, build a two-way road network from Patenga to Kalurghat along the banks of the river Karnaphuli and expand railway communications from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar.

The programmes also include setting up of a Tk 500-crore tourism centre at Patenga, modernisation and expansion of Chittagong port, construction of a five-star hotel at Tiger Pass Hill and a deep seaport at Moheshkhali and Kutubdia and inclusion of 10.000 more madrasas and schools under the MPO.

Industrial growth

I think the government should not be in any kind of commercial business since it believes in market economy," Nizami told journalists.

About a recent decision of the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) ncreasing the price of its sugar by Tk 2000 per ton, he said this will not influence the market as, despite the rise, the price set by the sugar mills is still below that of imported sugar. He said the BSFIC mills might not reach the production target

because of last year's floods that seriously affected sugarcane production in the country. Despite this adversity, he told the incurred by the state-owned sugar mills tremendously came down to Tk 10 crore in 2005 from

Tk 147 in 2001. He claimed that seven industrial units out of nine under Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) made a profit of Tk 6.65 crore in the last seven months (from July to February) of the current

In the last four years since 2001 till February 2005, the minister said, the BSEC-owned enterprises had made a profit of Tk 75.25 crore and

also paid Tk 308 crore to the national exchequer under different

This year, he said, production of salt under the supervision of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation might cross the target of 11.50 lakh tons as, until March 24, the production was 6.35 Nizami said the Bscic is develop-

ing the proposed leather city at ver at a cost of Tk 175.75 crore that will house 195 industrial units. These units will have modern aste-treatment facilities. Claiming that the country has

passed the peak seasons of fertiiser smoothly, the minister said the BCIC produced 13.50 lakh tons of urea fertiliser until February which met 95 per cent of the productior target.
"The government has given

utmost priority to developing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as part of its key strategy for the industrial sector," the minister told the

He mentioned that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) would provide \$ 50 million in technical assistance for the development of

Bangladesh sleeps

FROM PAGE 1 centres in Alaska and Hawaii in the US started sending wake-up calls to South and South East Asia.

The countries that received tsunami warning included Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Malaysia and

As the news of the 8.7 magnitude tremor and warning of a tsunami hogged the international media headlines. BDNEWS correspondents from Dhaka and in the districts tried to reach the deputy commissioners (DCs) and superintendents of police (SPs) between 11:00pm and midnight to know about their preparations

But none of the DCs and SPs in the coastal districts could be contacted as their staff or families said the top district officials had gone to

bed.
"We do not know anything about tournami. Sir is earthquake or tsunami. asleep," a man who identified him as Monir Hossain, a staff at the residence of the DC of Patuakhali, Prasanta Bhushan Barua, told BDNEWS when reached by phone

The wife of the DC of Khulna hung up the phone only saying that the deputy commissioner was

Explaining why the SP of Khulna, Mahbubur Rahman, was not attending to a phone call at his house a staff at his office said the police super was sick. The staff said he did not know of any step to evacuate people living on the coastal fringe.

No one picked up the phone at the houses or offices of the DCs and SPs in the coastal districts, including Noakhali, Feni, Bhola, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Cox's Bazar. "Just think how vulnerable we

Dead chickens FROM PAGE 16 'First the government should enact

a law setting the standard for restaurant food," he added. Different restaurant owners from

Mirpur and Pallabi yesterday said that they had long been selling chickens, and hardly anyone from DCC comes to check the quality of their foods. "They don't come here often.

They last came here a few months ago and went away after we gave them some money," said a restaurateur from Pallabi yesterday. Mipur police said that they plan to

start an operation today to nab the crooked restaurant owners and Azad's associates. The police sources also said that a syndicate of poultry farm and depot employees and restaurants

are involved in the dishonest trade.

are at the hands of the irresponsible officials. Thanks God that nothing nappened, but if the worst had happened, the government officials might have also been affected," said

Madagascar, thousands of miles to

commissioners were given a guide-line by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management on what to do in case of apprehension of a natural disaster, particularly in the coastal

FROM PAGE 1 The HC had ordered to stay all

activities relating to the matter until

committee members referred to the constitutional immunity of the parliamentary proceedings and said the Supreme Court does not have the jurisdiction to stay the subcommittee's activities.

Talking to The Daily Star, Committee Chairman Redwan Ahmed said he had told the meeting that the court does not have such iurisdiction. In this respect, he mentioned Article 76 and 78 of the constitution that deal with parliamentary standing committees and the privileges and immunities of parliament and its members.

"We will decide our next course of action on receiving the speaker's opinion." he said.

reads: The validity of the proceedings in Parliament shall not be guestioned in any court. It also says: A member or officer of Parliament in whom powers are vested for the regulation of procedure, the conduct of business or the maintenance of order in Parliament, shall not in relation to the exercise by him of any such powers be subject to the jurisdiction of any court.

Monirul Huq Chowdhury, a lawmaker of ruling BNP, told the meeting that in the parliamentary history of this subcontinent there is no instance of such stay order by the

matter in respect what is done of the House or which effects the interna

4 die in road crash in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Four passengers of a Rangpurbound bus from Kurigram were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident at Borail under Kaounia upazila yesterday morning on Rangpur-Kurigram highway.

the bus (Rangpur Ja-13) fell into a roadside ditch trying to avoid collision with a van.

identified as Moshlem. 46. Bimol Chandra, 43, and Azizul, 45.

The injured were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. The condition of four passengers was stated to be critical

avert head-on collision

from a disaster on the western side of the Brahmanbaria Railway Station at about 1:50pm yesterday.

Commuter Train left the Brahmanbaria Rail Way Station for Dhaka through the Down Line. At the same time, another train, the Nasirabad Express bound for Chittagong, was rushing to Brahmanbaria on the same line from the opposite direction.

train drivers, who at once braked and stopped the trains at head-on positions on the down line near the Brahmanbaria Povrtala Rail Gate At least 10 panic stricken pas-

sengers were injured when they jumped out from the train onto the ground.

the Brahmanbaria Rail Way Station. Due to the incident, road commu-

nication on the Comilla Sylhet Highway stopped for half an hour through Brahmanbaria.

Rights group FROM PAGE 16

termed as alarming the government's move to give Rab a military

a part of the armed police force and is assisting the general police force, said the statement signed by Sultana Kamal, executive director of ASK. "Rab was not formed to perform

war and we should not forget the basic difference between the tasks of the police and the armed forces." the statement added.

its formation with a view to giving the elite squad a military shape, whereas the reform of the police force has been overlooked over the

killing people in 'crossfire' does not indicate that their life is under threat while on such operations," ASK statement added.

Giving Rab a military shape would create imbalance among different other forces rather than serving to improve the country's law and order, ASK statement said.

FROM PAGE 1 others protested the drive, Wasa officials said.

A Wasa survey with the assis-

on eight canals, including the Kalyanpur canal, on a priority basis this year. The rest are Begunbari canal, Mohakhali canal, Zirani canal in Rampura, Katasur canal in Mohammadpur, Ramchandrapur canal in Mohammadpur, Ibrahimpur canal and Gulshan-Banani Lake. An inter-ministerial meeting at

in pursuance of that decision. Joynal Abedin, who owns a plot beside Kalvanpur canal, said, "We

also want an end to illegal encroachment but the canal should be properly demarcated". The drive began without any prior notice following 'hefty pay-

secretary of Janata Housing. Of the 43 canals in the capital, 26 are recognisable. But only 19 of them still have lean flow due to

Pro-govt panel

FROM PAGE 16 grounds that the voter list was

Pro-Awami League Sammilita Ainjibi Samonnoy Parishad has

regretted the boycott. As many as 551 of the 1,550 voters cast votes on the first day to form a 14-member executive committee of lawyers of the highest

The seven-hour voting began at Supreme Court Bar building at 10:00am amid uncertainty over participation of the pro-BNP panel.

Bikalpadhara Bangladesh O Swadhin Samomana Ainjibi Parishad is also contesting the The pro-government panel

decided at an emergency meeting

at 10:30 Monday night to boycott the election protesting participation of 493 SCBA members in the voting They continued campaigning until Monday evening, however. The announcement of their boycott came from a press conference at SCBA South Hall at around

10:30am yesterday. But they are yet to officially inform the election commission of the decision. Ruling BNP's Secretary for Law and Member Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad Joynul Abedin read out a written

statement at the press conference where the panel's presidential candidate and former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali and some other candidates were present.

Asked about their not informing the election commission about the

boycott, Razzak told reporters later: 'We don't need to inform the election commission about it.' "Although we continued campaign until the evening, we unanimously decided at 10:30pm

(at Monday's meeting) to boycott the election." he said. After the start of the election, the Panel submitted an application to the election commission for stopping the election and said the election will be illegal if it is held with an

legal voter list. The High Court granted two weeks' time to the Bangladesh Bar Council chairman to scrutinise the voter list and the election will be illegal if it is held during this time, the application contends.

Members of the Panel said they submitted the application at 9:40am but Chief Election Commissioner Amzad Hossain told reporters: "I got

Dead man

FROM PAGE 16 to the hospital and was given an injection' only to be declared dead again, they added. A mob then ransacked the hospi-

tal and assaulted four doctors,

disrupting its activities for about six At least 20 people, two of them ournalists, were injured when police charged batons to disperse

the mob. According to police, Wali Ullah Oli, 45, president of the district unit of Tempo Owners Association, was admitted to the hospital at about 10:45am for chest pain. About 40 minutes later, three attending doctors declared him dead and the hospital authorities issued a release

At about 1:00am, relatives of the dead' giving him a funeral bath found that he was moving his limbs The stunned relatives immediately took him to a local clinic and then to the general hospital.

Wali was admitted to the hospital for the second time. Four doctors examined him, gave an 'injection' and again declared him dead at about 2:00pm, locals said.

A mob including Wali's relatives, members of the association and workers then attacked the hospital. ransacked at least 14 doctor's rooms and assaulted four doctors including the resident medical

Police rushed to the spot and charged batons on the mob to bring the situation under control. Later they arrested two brothers and one sister of Wali. When contacted, Civil Surgeon

Dr SM Abu Taher said an autopsy of the dead body would be conducted tonight (Tuesday night). No case was filed late into the evening.

Rupali Bank FROMPAGE 16

bank will be handed over to the private sector, with the government retaining a few shares," the commission chairman said. He however refrained from elaborating the details.

Chowdhury said the government currently holds about 96 percent shares of the bank, with four percent stakes already been offered to the public. On what would happen to the

present human resources of the bank once it is privatised. Chowdhury said the new private-sector management would decide the issue. An official said, in a bid to bring in parity, the commission might also ask

the current public shareholders to offer their stakes to the public. At Yesterday's meeting, the working group informed the privatisation commission about the various steps it

has taken so far and will take in the future to privatise the bank, working group convenor Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor Nazrul Huda told He said the commission will carry out the necessary tasks for privatising

the bank with the technical assistance from the working group. The government earlier appointed British consultant firm GBRW Ltd as a financial adviser to Rupali Bank to

ensure a smooth privatisation. GBRW to date has submitted 15 reports to the government including a numan resources review, a report on fair value of all freehold and leasehold property, a financial report on recruitment benefit schemes and a privatisation option report.

The firm has also submitted an information memorandum on the

the application after the casting had

On the boycott, he said, "It is not my job to see who are taking part or who are not. I am here to ensure a fair election and see how the voters can cast their ballots properly.'

Member-candidates of progovernment panel Abu Shams Khaliquzzaman and Nasrin Aktar filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) on March 22 and an HC division bench issued a rule or Bangladesh Bar Council and the SCBA to show cause why the voter list should not be declared void and why they should not be directed to amend the list The same bench on Monday

rejected the petitioners' plea for a stay on the election.

Adjourning its hearing for two weeks, the court asked the attorney general to submit a report after scrutinising the SCBA voter list by Bar Council Chairman and

Attorney General AF Hassan Ariff yesterday afternoon convened a meeting of the council to discuss about whether to contest the HC Speaking on the boycott, SCBA President Barrister Rokanuddin

Mahmud said: "It appears they boycotted the election to avert a debacle. "This election will not lose its credibility because of their boycott since voters from all sections are

he added. Presidential candidate of the pro-AL panel Mahbubey Alam said: "No group has boycotted election in such a way in the 57-year history of the Bar Association. We all have taken part in the election no matter what the political situation was

casting their votes. [Besides] more

than one panel are still in the race,

In another development, seven pro-government members of the 27member election sub-committee resigned yesterday morning without citing any reason.

Secretary candidate of

Bikalpadhara panel Mohammad Salim Ullah, meanwhile, verbally announced his withdrawal from the election yesterday noon, but he also did not assign any reason. He however, declined to term his withdrawal as a boycott.

SEC faults

Sources said SEC can take disciplinary action only against DPs and issue managers while action against the management of a bank

can be taken by Bangladesh Bank. Highest punishment is five years imprisonment for such civil or criminal cases, the sources said adding SEC may also go for its own punitive actions against the persons responsible imposing a fine of no less than

The probe team found evidence that some 32,000 fake beneficiary owner's (BO) accounts were opened apparently to secure most of the shares in the bank's IPO

subscription, the sources said. The probe committee, formed following suspension of a Tk 55 crore initial public offering (IPO) of Premier Bank, also observed that

and BO accounts. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bank in its separate investigation also detected irregularities in opening some 18.000 bank accounts with different branches of the Premier

After the investigation, the central bank issued a show-cause notice on the managing director asking him to explain his position on the irregularities. On receiving the reply, BB is now weighing its puni-

Sources said the SEC and BB will sit to decide on a fresh date for subscription for the Premier Bank IPOs after taking the punitive

actions separately.

The SEC on February 12 suspended the Premier Bank IPO after a huge number of BO accounts suspected to be fake had been found in its preliminary investiga-

In its 45-day investigation, SEC interviewed Premier Bank officials officials of DPs and issue manager, Equity Partners Ltd. The team visited the offices of suspected DPs.

alpractice, sources said.

eligible for applying in the IPO people go wild for opening the accounts to get primary shares which often provide good returns. According to SEC rules, an investor can apply for a maximum of two IPOs, one in single and another in ioint name.

allotment lottery, sources said.

Police delay

JIC recommendation.

Meanwhile, in a letter on January

18 police sought the necessary permission from the home ministry to file a sedition case against Kawsar and sent copies of a draft sedition case. On March 8, senior assistant secretary of the home ministry Sayed Nawara Zahan issued an order to file the case.

Raishahi on March 14, police twice took 15-day periods after pleading

"The government restricted

The US report said violence against women and discrimination against indigenous people and

observed. It said child labour and abuse of

Zahiruddin Khan He left behind his wife, two sons, two

daughters and a host of relatives and

admirers to mourn his death. Foreign

Minister M Morshed Khan is one of his

Zahiruddin Khan was born in Chittagong in 1936. He was managing director and chairman of AK Khan Group of Industries, chairman of AKTEL,

Bangladesh Ltd. He was also founder chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association and founder director of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh. He served as a Chairman of Sonali Bank

Bengal Fisheries Ltd and Coats

dent of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry for two consecutive terms from 1975 to 1978. Khan also played an active role in the liberation war in 1971.

He held the position of the presi-

He joined the BNP and was elected

Zahiruddin Khan became a mem-

member of parliament in 1979.

ber of Khaleda Zia's cabinet as the planing minister from 1991 to 1993 and industries minister from 1993 to 1995. As industries minister, he promoted

the innovation of green jute pulp for

His Namaz-e-Jansza will be held at

Gulshan Azad Mosque after the Asr

producing paper and fabric.

Qatar emir FROM PAGE 16 will be accompanied by Qatar Foreign Minister Shaikh Hamad bin

Jassim bin Jabor Al-Thani. Al-Thani will hold talks with Khaleda and meet President. lajuddin Ahmed before his departure on April 14. Officials here told the news agency that the Al-Thani-Khaleda talks would focus mainly on invest-

ment in potential sectors in

Bangladesh and recruitment of more Bangladeshi doctors, nurses

Earthquake

FROM PAGE 1

ing in Gunung Sitoli. From the air it was possible to see about 1.000 people who had gathered in a large field in the town. The epicenter of the quake measuring 8.7 on the Richter scale

was just 320km from that of the

December 26 quake which sent

At least two fires were still smoulder-

giant waves crashing into 12 nations, killing over 273,000 people. Indonesian officials said at least 430 people had been confirmed dead on Nias and Simeulue islands off Sumatra. But Vice President Yusuf Kalla told the BBC that reports from Nias indicated 1,000 to 2,000

Indonesian Red Cross said yesterday more than 1,000 people are estimated to have died in Indonesia's Nias island following a massive earthquake there.

"About a third of Gunung Sitoli the main town in Nias, is reported to have undergone the heaviest damage. It is estimated that more than 1,000 people in Nias island died," the Red Cross said in a statement. Sweden's foreign ministry said

His second Namaz-e-Janaza will be held on Friday at Jamaat-ul-Falah in Chittagong after the Juma prayers. He will be buried in his family

aveyard at Batali Hills in Chittagong.

President lajuddin Ahmed

expressed his deep condolences at

death of the former minister.

The president recalled Zahiruddin Khan's great contribution to the development of country's industry and said his outstanding contribution as a politician and social worker will remain

Khan's departed soul and expressed his deep sympathy for the bereaved Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Minster Md Aminul Haque, Science, Information and Commination

border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

BSF Inspector General R K Panchananda was quoted by the newspaper as saying in Kolkata that a need had been felt for aerial surveillance in the riverine stretches where the border is particularly porous -- in mangrove forests of the Sundarbans and in Nadia and

yesterday as saying.

He said efforts were on to procure Russian MI-17 helicopters for To begin with, the helicopters are to be pressed into service along the southern sector of the border with Bangladesh and later it is likely to be extended to other stretches

Panchananda was quoted as say-

"The Hindu" quoted him as

saying that there are certain areas along the India-Bangladesh border where there are "char lands" and the height of grass made it difficult for vehicles to enter these areas and mount around viail. The BSF official said aerial surveillance will be used in

stretches of the border where there

is no fencing and where vehicles

cannot move in

He said about 30 percent of the 1,150km border in BSF's South Bengal border division falls in riverine belt where there is high incidence of smuggling and other trans-border crimes. Panchananda said surveillance

He prayed for the salvation of

reign Minister M Morshed Khan Posts and Telecommunications Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury. State Minister for

profound condolence at the death of **BSF** to use copters along

LGRD Ziaul Haque Zia and

Commerce Ministry Advisor Md

Barkat Ullah Bulu also expressed

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) will use helicopters for vigilance along certain riverine stretches dotting the border with Bangladesh to check trans-border crime and infiltration, a senior BSF official was quoted by "The Hindu" newspaper

mavor election of Mav 9. The press release said that in a Murshidabad districts.

a frustrated Nurul Amin of Bhola. Even countries like Mauritius and

the southwest off the quake zone issued warnings while the authorities here could not care less. Only a few days back, the deputy

JS body

disposal of the rule. Expressing their views on the court order, the parliamentary

Article 78 of the constitution

court on the business of a parliamentary committee Talking to The Daily Star, Huq said he had informed the meeting of the explanation of parliamentary affairs expert MN Kaul who says "the court has no jurisdiction to issue a writ, direction, or order related to a

affairs of the House.

Eyewitnesses and police said Of the four dead, three were

The driver and conductor of the bus fled the scene. A case was registered with Kounia Police

Train drivers

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Two passenger trains were saved According to sources, the Titas

Luckily this was noticed by both

The staff of Brahmanbaria Poyrtala Level Crossing said the incident was the result of negligence on the part of the Station Master of

"According to the law, Rab is only tasked with recovering arms and ammunition, nabbing criminals and

Creating an environment of indemnity for the Rab, the government has been investing in it since

years, ASK observed. "The way Rab has been safely

Wasa

tance of the district administration earlier detected 23 illegal structures that also include multi-storied buildings. Wasa sources said the drive aims to demolish illegal structures

the LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry in February decided to remove all sorts of encroachment on the canals in and around the capital for smooth functioning of the drainage system. The Wasa drive is

ment' by some interested people alleged Altaf Hossain, general

encroachment, Wasa officials said. The Wasa has 65-km canals, 225-km pipelines and nine-km box culverts for drainage. Its drainage system covers about 140 square kilometres inside the city flood protection embankment.

the management of Premier Bank is now taking steps to close fake bank

Bank apparently to use the accounts to apply for the IPO.

tive actions against the MD and other officials of the bank.

During the investigation, SEC and BB investigators worked closely by sharing information to dig out the As investors must have bank account and BO account to be

Being a bank and having a licence of depository participant, the management of Premier Bank used the facilities to open huge number of bank and BO accounts, mostly fake, to hook maximum shares in the

FROM PAGE 16 placed police source, quoting the

Before the home's nod reached

that they were waiting for the home order. They had been granted the 15-day time six times in the past for interrogation by JIC.

by helicopters is already in vogue along Tripura's border with

people had died.

two of its nationals were missing on

Other officials said the dead numbered in the hundreds, not thousands.