Free judiciary must

walks of life to achieve a sustainable human development and to protect human rights. And that, he said. "could be possible only through strengthening of the democratic institutions and providing an independent judiciary having command over the hearts and minds of the people.'

He also observed that the concept of human rights and human security become meaningless for the poor and indigent people. "In fact, poverty not only denies access to justice but also makes the poor people unconscious about their right to get justice," he added.

If the judiciary were not made accessible to all including the poor and disadvantaged, the whole concept of human security and dignity would be nothing more than a theoretical and futile exercise, the chief of judiciary said.

The CJ also regretted the huge backlog of cases in the courts and

delay in dispensation of justice. But Law Minister Moudud Ahmed quipped that the country has a very active judiciary, which frequently issues show-cause notices on the government He also claimed that the country

has all the preconditions of good governance including a fine constitution, a parliament, an independent judiciary, a free media, vibrant private sector and NGOs, and an elected democratic government.

However he admitted to some weaknesses in the judicial system particularly in criminal justice and public prosecution service, which now functions only at an ad hoc stage

Lack of an independent investigation system is also a setback in bringing criminals to trial, Moudud said. To remove the weakness, he announced, the government has undertaken an initiative to set up independent investigation units in 300 police stations. Thirty such units, which do not engage in the regular police activities, have already come into operation.

UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons Advocate Sigma Huda, who presided over the function, stressed the need of introducing a human rights commission and a speedy separation of the judiciary.

A report of the Campaign on Human Security in Bangladesh was also presented at the meeting. Under the one-year project. BNWLA conducted a countrywide campaign on the key findings of a UNDP study in 2002 on the human security issues and concerns in Bangladesh. It held 31 district-level workshops participated by cross-section of people including members of administration, judiciary, local government, bar and civil society.

The campaign found high cost of litigation, outdated laws, lack of access to judiciary, political pressure and intervention. lack of cooperation among the agencies

Tk 1.8 crore concerned, biased and lengthy investigation, pervasive bribery and

nepotism in recruitment of police, and people's lack of legal awareness as some of the cardinal con-

The report recommended speedier trial, revision of the Code Civil Procedure, separation of investigation and other police officers, more media exposure, raising public awareness, stepped up co-operation among the agen cies and GO-NGO partnership in legal aid to improve the human curity and rights situation.

the seminar.

Rocca

row

Rocca will call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. She is expected to meet the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at Sudha Sadan at 4:00pm today. The trip of Rocca, who flew in

here at 8:35pm, is the first high-level one from America after President Bush was inaugurated for a second term in the White House,

FROM PAGE 16 that Nazmul Haq Nannu, APS of whip Ashraf Hossain, called him on his cell phone at around 11pm while he was having his dinner at his house in Sonadanga

Nannu first asked Nandi to explain why he wrote a news item. published in the Janakantha on Tuesday, detailing arguments between the Khulna mayor and Whip Ashraf.

'As I refused to answer his questo give me 'a good lesson'." 'You've witnessed many inci-

dents. You need to be punished for this," Nandi quoted the APS as saying. "He threatened to kill me, saying no one will be able to save

with the Sonadanga Police Station yesterday, seeking security.

armed cadre of the Khalishpur thana unit of BNP's student wing Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal, before he was made APS to Whip Ashraf Hossain.

Our Khulna correspondent was unable to reach Nannu over the phone for his version despite

repeated attempts yesterday.

Four to die for rape

case--Anis Shaikh and Kalam Sarder-- have been awarded life

of gang rape and murder. Investigating officer pressed the ac

cellphone sets seized in Sylhet STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

missioner, tipped off by customs

ntelligence and the National Board

sets, chargers and camera film.

Miah and Torikul Islam.

KIBRIA KILLING

Qaiyum's

rejected

UNB, Habiganj

murder case

bail prayer

said.

Customs officials seized mobile phone sets, chargers and photo film worth about Tk 1.8 crore from the luggage of a Bangladesh Biman flight that arrived from Dubai at the Sylhet Osmani International Airport in the early hours yesterday. A customs official said Sylhet Customs Commissioner Firoze Shah Alam and an assistant com-

UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner, Netherlands Ambassador Kees Beemsterboer and BNWLA Executive Director Advocate Salma Ali also spoke at

FROM PAGE 1 government officials and members of the civil society today and tomor-

Whip's APS

documents of the case to the magisreiected Qaivum's bail praver. also turned down the prayer of Qaiyum's lawyers, seeking more

tion, Nannu told me I'll be forced to reply," said Nandi, adding, "When I said I am not bound to reply, he hurled abusive words at me and threatened

Nasir greets FROM PAGE 16 the mayor would continue uninter-

rupted for the welfare and development of the people of Chittagong. Nandi filed a general diary (GD) Mohiuddin Chowdhury won the CCC election for a third consecutive term, defeating the ruling coalition-Locals said Nannu had been an

backed candidate, Mir Nasiruddin, by 91,481 votes. HC extends

FROM PAGE 1 bodies

Rights organisations view the ban as the government's surrender to agitation by anti-Ahmadiyya zealots believed to be spearheaded by Islamic Oikya Jote, coalition partner of ruling BNP.

time to procure necessary papers

attack at Boiddver Bazar in Sadar

upazila of the district on January 27.

Kibria was killed in a grenade

and documents for submission.

Six civil society groups and a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Bangladesh (AMJB) filed the writ challenging the ban on

Grenade found

NEWS

device, possibly a hand grenade, had been thrown near the stage during Bush's speech, hit someone in the crowd and fallen to the ground

Bezhuashvili said, however, that was not thrown but "found." "The goal is clear -- to frighten or

to scare people and to attract the attention of the mass media," he said. "The goal has been reached and that is why I'm talking to you now."

"In any case there was no danger whatsoever for the presidents," he said, referring to Bush and Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili.

of Revenue, seized eight pieces of Bezhuashvili said the grenade unaccompanied luggage containing a huge number of mobile phone was found in "inactive mode." He described it as an "engineering The luggage was booked under the names of four passengers--Fakhor Uddin, Abdul Jabbar, Anu grenade" -- one that is used for demolition or to simulate the effect of an artillery shell. Such grenades' blast-effect can be fatal at close The customs officials made an inventory of the seized items in the range, but unlike offensive grenades, they are not designed to presence of the police and other department officials. The filing of spread shrapnel cases was on process, the official

"I am not an expert, but it was not possible to detonate it there," Bezhuashvili said.

A spokeswoman for the US Embassy, Khatiya Dzhindzhikhadze, said "this question will be resolved jointly by American and Georgian specialists.

Security was very tight at Freedom Square, where Bush and Saakashvili gave speeches. Georgian police were deployed, and U.S. snipers were visible on The District and Sessions Judge's the rooftops, scanning the crowd Court here yesterday rejected the bail prayer of AKM Abdul Qaiyum, with binoculars

US agents, together with their the prime accused in the former Georgian counterparts, manned the finance minister Shah AMS Kibria security gates, making even Judge Md Azizul Islam directed Georgian performers who in some cases were decked out with fake the authorities concerned to send all ammunition as part of their costumes remove every piece of metal trate court, which had earlier before passing through the detec-Court sources said the judge tors.

Many in the crowd were carryng plastic soda bottles, which they

Sultry weather leaves

FROM PAGE 1

be boiling," said Raju, a rickshaw puller from Daskhin Khan.

A traffic policeman standing at a corner at the Mahakhali rail crossing almost collapsed, not realising how much heat he had taken while standing in the scorching sunlight vesterday at noon. "I could not take the heat anymore. I was feeling drowsy and at one stage almost collapsed," said Borhanuddin.

political parties and professional

including in the capital. The heat wave is now sweeping over Syedpur, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Tangail, Faridpur,

Dhaka. The met office also said that, in

this season's mercury may cross

last year's record," said an official of

robber Rab used to squirt water on each other to stave off the heat after hours of men starts standing without shelter under the bright sun. There were many **COURT CORRESPONDENT** young people horsing around

Trial of four

Trial of four members of the Rapid

informants began yesterday on

charges of their involvement in a

Locals on March 23 caught red-

handed Rab Sergeant Atiqur

Rahman, 30, while five others

Complainant Ratan yesterday

identified the accused Rab sergeant

Metropolitan Magistrate Towfiqu

Alam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal,

Dhaka recorded Ratan's statement

while the defence lawyers also

On completion of the cross-

The policemen -- havilder Hiron

Miah and constables Abul Kalam

Azad and Nasir Ahmed -- appeared

court the Rab sergeant and five

ened him with death in 'crossfire'

Police questioned Sgt Atiq

arrested Rab members Waliullah

and Khorshed Alam following his

statement and recovered Tk 2.55

Ratan filed the case with Mirpur

The investigation officer in the

case, AKM Nahidul Islam, assistant

superintendent of police (ASP) of

Rab-1, pressed charges against Sgt

Atiq, Sgt Waliullah, ASI Rafiq Islam,

constable Khorshed Alam and their

informants Mofizur Rahman alias

Babul were present in the court,

while Rafig and Masud are at large.

Robbers stab

Dutch couple.

Atiq, Waliullah, Khorshed and

Police Station under the Speedy

Trial (Law and Disruption) Act the

same day against six people.

Babul and Masud Mridha.

CNG-run three-wheelers.

cross-examined him.

order said.

said Ratan

lakh from them.

Police commissioner.

in the dock and demanded justice.

robberv.

during the speeches especially when the translation was muffled and the speech unintelligible and some threw plastic bottles at one another for entertainment.

HSC exams FROM PAGE 1

managed to flee with Tk 7.8 lakh in the business administration robbed from cattle trader Ratan Ali examinations, and 48,052 will at Mirpur in the city. appear in the Madrassa Education Board examinations.

The total number of candidates under the Dhaka board this year is 133.690. of which 32.744 are from the science group, 56,347 from the humanities group, and 44,599 from the commerce group. The total number of HSC candi-

dates under the Rajshahi board is 105,740; 34,630 under the Comilla for next hearing of the case. board; 70,066 candidates under the Jessore board; 33,174 candidates under the Chittagong board; 27,766 departmental action against three under the Barisal board; and 17,405 policemen for violating its order. under the Sylhet board.

The total number of examination centres is 991, of which 261 centres including five in Doha, Abu Dhabi, before the court for giving their Jeddah, Riyadh and Tripoli fall statements in the case as witnesses on May 5. But they left the court under the Dhaka board. without permission, the court in its

This year the total number of candidates has decreased by 72,000 while the number of centres has increased by 22 compared to those of the previous year.

The reason there are fewer candidates this year is that cheating has been significantly checked on others went to his Mirpur house at the one hand, and on the other. about 12:20pm. They identifying principals have been instructed not themselves as members of the Rabto allow any student unqualified in 4 and asked him how much he had the test exams for the final exams, in cash. said Chairman of the Dhaka Board Prof Shaheda Obaed 7.8 lakh from his almirah and threat-

"This will keep the rate of failure low," she said.

Meanwhile, doctors have

the met office yesterday.

advised people to drink enough water, if possible cold and particularly during the daytime, to replace dehydrated water. "Excess water is naturally drained out from the body, but it can be dangerous if one does not possess enough water in the body to replace the dehydration." said a

physician of Dhaka Medical College The met office yesterday said a mild heat wave is sweeping through BNP, AL meet the northwest, southwest and central regions of Bangladesh. The highest temperature recorded FROM PAGE 16 yesterday was in Rajshahi, at 39.4 party leaders said.

degrees Celsius. The met office said The government is yet to make the heat wave may last for another its position clear about reforms in few days in the northern districts, the EC. After the working committee's

decision and finalisation of the draft proposal, the main opposition party will prepare an unanimous proposa Satkhira, Chuadanga and parts of for reforms in consultation with all opposition parties and present it by

office wounding 34, hospital sources said. A third suicide bomber blew up

N Korea raises nuke stakes

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 12, 2005

15

mothball the North's plutonium-

based nuclear program in return for

energy aid, including two prolifera-

broken in late 2002, igniting a new

crisis. The United States accused

the North of running a covert ura-

nium-based program, a charge

had resumed operations at the

plants frozen under the deal

because "the Bush Administration

theatened the DPRK with nuclear

"Accordingly, the DPRK keeps

taking necessary measures to

bolster its nuclear arsenal for the

defensive purpose of coping with

the prevailing situation, with a main

emphasis on developing the self-

reliant nuclear power industry," the

progress, and the process has

stalled since the last meeting in

South Korea said on Wednesday

was very concerned about the

"Such a move by North Korea

North's announcement and urged

runs counter to moves to make the

Korean peninsula free of nuclear

weapons, the government is

expressing deep concerns," the

Seoul Foreign Ministry said in a

which has come under pressure

from Washington to get the North

cise restraint and we hope that they

will do nothing that is detrimental to

the resumption of the six-party

talks," Foreign Ministry spokesman

governor of Anbar a few days ago

was abducted with four bodyguards

on the road from the town of Qaim

near the Syrian border, to the rebe

lamed Nawaf told Reuters.

Operation Matador began.

stronghold of Ramadi, his brother

major offensive in the desert north of

Qaim, which it says is a key base of

foreign fighters entering Iraq from

Syria. The military says it has killed

more than 100 insurgents since

The U.S. military has launched a

China, the North's main ally

"We ask all the parties to exer-

Pyongyang to return to talks..

statement on its Web site.

back to talks, urged restraint.

Liu Jianchao told Reuters.

weapons in violation of the AF.

The North's spokesman said it

The agreement was effectively

tion-proof nuclear reactors.

Pyongyang denies.

spokesman said.

June 2004.

REUTERS, Seoul Action Battalion (Rab) and their two

North Korea sharply raised the stakes in its nuclear standoff with regional powers yesterday, announcing it had finished extracting nuclear fuel rods at its Yongbyon plant and taken steps to expand its atomic arsenal

It was the first time North Korea had effectively confirmed it had been working on its reactor at the Yongbyon nuclear complex north of the capital Pyongyang. Regional powers, notably South Korea, voiced concern and urged it to return to talks designed to end its nuclear ambitions.

The North said in February it was pulling out of the six-country talks examination, the court fixed May 15 and confirmed for the first time it had nuclear weapons. It has since said it The court also directed the would enhance its deterrent force, deputy commissioner (West) to take and Washington fears Pyongyang

could be preparing a nuclear test. He added that construction of "The relevant field of the DPRK two other nuclear power plants had has successfully finished the also resumed, one with a capacity of 50 megawatts and another with a unloading of 8,000 spent fuel rods from the 5 mw (megawatt) pilot 200-megawatt capacity. Three rounds of talks involving nuclear plant in the shortest period the two Koreas, the United States, recently," the North's Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a Japan, Russia and China aimed at English-language version carried by dismantling the impoverished North's nuclear programs made little

the official KCNA news agency. DPRK is short for the state's The court also directed the authorities to send a copy of its official name, the Democratic order to the Dhaka Metropolitan People's Republic of Korea.

Officials in Seoul said in April the During hearing, Ratan told the North had suspended the operation of its reactor in Yongbyon. Analysts said this would allow it to extract spent fuel rods, which could be turned into weapons-grade plutonium. Outside experts say the North could already have up to eight nuclear weapons.

Following his reply, they stole Tk "The DPRK had already declared in Dec. 2002 that it would re-operate the above-said plant and resume the construction of two Locals held the Rab sergeant but other nuclear plants," the North's his accomplices drove off in two spokesman added

The North did not say whether reprocessing of fuel rods -- necessary to make material for nuclear weapons -- had started.

South Korean officials have said they are more concerned about the possibility of reprocessing than a nuclear test.

Pyongyang and Washington signed the Agreed Framework agreement in 1994 in Geneva to

Mainly Sunni guerrillas have

often targeted Shias, sparking fears

they are trying to stoke sectarian

of the strategic oil city of Kirkuk in

northern Iraq, a suicide bomber

walked up to an army recruitment

centre and detonated an explosive

belt, killing at least 32 people and

A suicide car bomb attack on a

police patrol in the Mansour district

of Baghdad killed two policemen

and a civilian. officials at the Interior

Insurgents have launched a blitz

of attacks since Iraq's political

leaders announced a new cabinet

Insurgents have also snatched two

more foreign hostages -- an

Australian engineer captured in

Baghdad in late April and a

Japanese security contractor

Canberra insisted it would not

Last week, Wood's captors

released video footage showing him

looking distraught as two masked

a foreign security convoy was

ambushed in western Iraq on Sunday

evening. One of Iraq's most feared

insurgent groups, the Army of Ansar

Japanese media said Saito was

Ansar al-Sunna has killed scores

a 20-vear veteran of the French

Foreign Legion and had spent two

of hostages, including foreigners

from countries with no connection to

the Iraq war. Last August, the group

killed 12 Nepalese migrant workers,

beheading one and then riddling the

allies of the United States in Iraq.

insist they will not withdraw their

troops. Japan has already had six of

its citizens taken hostage in Irag.

Five were freed but one

backpacker Shosei Koda, was

Insurgents have also kidnapped

the Iraqi governor of the rebellious

western province of Anbar and are

demanding that his tribe release

captured fighters loyal to Jordanian

leader of the al-Qaeda network in

Raja Nawaf, who only became

militant Abu Musab al-Zargawi

Japan and Australia, both firm

al-Sunna, said it was holding Saito.

years in Japan's army.

others with bullets.

beheaded last year.

rag.

seized on Sunday in western Irag.

Ministry said.

on April 28

HOSTAGE CRISES

In the town of Hawija, southwest

FROM PAGE 1

civil war.

ripped to pieces.

imprisonment and 10 years of rigorous imprisonment.

Judge M Kadir Newaz of the women and children Repression Control Tribunal, Bagerhat, pronounced the judgement at noon. A total of 22 prosecution witnesses deposed in the court during the trial. According to the prosecution, the

convicts stormed into the house of fish trader Niranjan Thakur at Komorpur village under Bagerhat Sadar upazila on the night of March 8. 2003 to commit robbery. During the heist, they raped two female inmates of the house. Anima and Sheuli, and killed Tapan Thakur, younger brother of Niranian

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia called Anima, Shiuli and Niranjan Thakur to her office few days after the incident. The prime minister handed over a cheque for Tk two lakh to Anima, wife of slain Tapan Thakur.

On March 10, Niranjan Thakur odged an FIR with Bagerhat Sadar Police Station, accusing six people

Mohiuddin thanks

FROM PAGE 16

Chittagong gave mandate in favour of his 40-point election agenda and sought prime minister's sincere cooperation in implementing the pledges. The pledges include establishment of "metropolitan government" in Chittagong, construction of Karnaphuli tunnel and hanging bridge and installation of 10 power stations.

"Being a part of the government, I expect your all-out cooperation in discharging my responsibilities for the development of Chittagong, said the mayor, who defeated the ruling coalition candidate with a big margin in the much-publicised city corporation pol **THANKS HASINA**

The newly elected Chittagong City father has expressed gratitude to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina for her all-out support and cooperation in the May 9 mayoral polls that helped him win the election

"I express my gratitude to you and through you to all party MPs, central and different district-level leaders as they formulated strategies and worked for me under your direct and indirect cooperation supervision, directives and guidelines," he said in a message to Sheikh Hasina yesterday

June, 2003. The case was transferred to Speedy Trial Tribunal, Khulna, on January 11 last year. But was sent back to Bagerhat Women and Children Repression Control Tribunal on February 24 this year for trial as the speedy trial tribunal failed to dispose of the case within 135 working days.

JCD activist

FROM PAGE 1

recovered from them. Nazmul's body was kept in the morgue of Narsingdi Sadar Hospital. Injured Sohel and Dulal were sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital for treatment.

Sources said the JCD men were allegedly selling arms in BSCIC Industrial Area at about 3:00pm. "As a Rab patrol team challenged the JCD men, they opened fire, trying to flee. In the exchange of fire, Nazmul

died," the sources added.

Mohiuddin Chowdhury also Mohiuddin said the people of

thanked the opposition leader for congratulating him and the people of Chittagong on the victory. The CCC mayor sought her

sincere cooperation in implementing his 40-point election manifesto for which the city dwellers gave him the mandate. Mohiuddin wished her good

health and long life.

Foreign ministry FROM PAGE 16

'The reality is that Ms Rocca did not discuss anything about Bangladesh in New Delhi. Even The Hindustan Times as has been quoted as a source in your item did not carry any such report," it said.

BDNEWS' REPLY

Regarding the news, BDNEWS has given the following reply: "Quoting Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) the HindustanTimes.com published the report that US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca on May 9 met senior Indian officials in New Delhi and discussed developments in Nepal and Bangladesh. The website address, where the

report would be available, is http://www.hindustantimes.com/ne ws/7598_1353981,000500020009.

December 20

They are AK Rezaul Karim, an AM.IB member and former deputy general manager of Bangladesh Bank, Odhikar, Sammilita Šamajik Andolan, Ain o Salish Kendra, Karmajibi Nari, Jatiya Ainjibi are not certain about the mercury Parishad and Nijera Kori. descending in the northern districts The HC stayed the ban for two in the next few days, but it is assumed by the existing trend that

weeks in two phases and later for four months. Gazette notification on the ban,

which was underway, stopped in the wake of the stay order. The anti-Ahmadiyya zealots,

who have used different banners in course of their agitation and are now operating under International Khatme Nabuwat Movement Bangladesh, demonstrated against he stav order.

They also issued threats at several rallies to the petitioners and lawyers moving the petition and took a swipe at civil society, rights organisations and newspapers for 'supporting the Ahmadiyyas'

Govt to probe

FROM PAGE 1 Sources concerned said that the meeting had discussion on the concerns expressed by European Union and others over the extraudicial killings

The main opposition Awami League also took a tough stance on the issue after a mid level leader of the party, Dudh Mia, was killed in crossfire last week.

Among others present in the meeting were Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, cabinet secretary, home

secretary, law secretary and inspector generation of police

The cabinet committee also discussed the organogram of Bangladesh Police. The government will adopt a new organogram for the 115,000-member police force, the meeting was told.

Other issues discussed at the meeting were police act, law and order situation, renewal of firearms' licences and withdrawal of politically-motivated cases.

The meeting was informed that the number of police stations under Dhaka Metropolitan Police will be 51 n next three years from existing 22. Creation of separate investigation unit in police stations across the country is also under process while procedures have started for appoint-

ng 600 investigation officers. The separate investigation units are now working in 30 police stations. Such units will be introduced in 270 other police stations in phases

the next 24 hours beginning at 9am this month today, there are chances of rain and

The opposition parties will start thundershowers over Dhaka. greater antigovernment agitation on Khulna, and Chittagong divisions. the issue to force the government to Officials said temperatures this meet the demands. season may set a new record. "We

AL and its like-minded parties have been demanding reforms for what they called strengthening the non-party caretaker government and the EC for making the future parliamentary elections more credible

Daily Star various development

"My first priority is to resolve the

benefit if Chittagong were devel-

candidate Mir Mohammad Nasir

Uddin would not have polled more

than 25,000 votes had the govern-

ment machinery not operated for

Mohiuddin believes that his main

for long

him.

oped properly."

FROM PAGE 1

Mohiuddin seeks

FROM PAGE 16 problem, he pointed out.

projects he has implemented during "The government would not have last one decade. He mentioned to spend money on the developsetting up of one new undergradument of Chittagong because it has a ate college, eight colleges, 41 high lot of resources. The only need is to schools and 410 Forkania use those resources properly."

madrasas in the city in last 10 years. He said if the government does On his programmes for developnot have reservations about the ment of Chittagong, Mohiuddin said idea of a city government, he will the 40-point charter of programme arrange the money and technical presented before the people during know-how necessary for the develthe election campaign would be opment of the city. implemented on a priority basis.

Asked how, the mayor gave an example.

"If I am given the charge of the project director of a hanging bridge over the river Karnaphuli, I would implement the project on a buildoperate-transfer basis within two years after which the government would own the bridae.

In this case, the government would not have to spend Tk 2 lakh a rival and ruling coalition-backed month in salary for the project director, he pointed out.

He referred to the steps he had previously taken to increase the earnings of Chittagong City Corporation. "Earlier, the earnings of the corporation were very insignificant, but now the earnings have increased so much so that we can give loans to banks."

Asked what was the secret of his overwhelming victory this time, Mohiuddin told this correspondent to ask three sections of people in society -- affluent, middle class and lower class. "Even the government officials in Chittagong were happy with my victory," the over-60-yearold veteran politician claimed.

People continued to throng his residence and garland him yesterday on his resounding victory in Monday's election. Mohiuddin spent the day speaking to them and distributing sweets. People of all faith, age and gender crammed the narrow lane in front of his residence to congratulate the city father. Mohiuddin described to The

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

loot NGO

Robbers knifed a Dutch couple and looted cash and valuables said to be worth over Tk 50,000 from an NGO office in the town in the early hours Tuesday.

robbers entered Rishilpi (a nongovernment organisation) complex and tied up the night guards. They broke into the NGO building and looted cash and valuables and hacked indiscriminately Dutch national Yan Branshautt and his wife Nelly.

locals rushed there and took them to a hospital.

alleged involvement in the robbery.

The officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station said they are interrogating the guards -- Nurul Islam, Ashok Kumar and Pradip -- and arrested a youth -- Alaudding of Magura village in the sadar upazila.

Hunger strike

acute crisis of water and power that intellectuals, professionals and the city dwellers have been facing political leaders, will join the hunger He regretted the government not

properly using the huge resources of Chittagong. "The whole would Kibria was killed in a Habigan grenade attack on January 27.

"We have organised the programme to press our demands. including a proper judgment in the Kibria murder case and punishment of the real culprits," said advocate Masud-ur-Rauf, member secretary of Narayanganj District Committee of Sammilito Ainjibi Samonnay Parishad.

JS session

Big plan FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, 46 percent of the ADP could be implemented. Although this is better than last fiscal year's 40 percent for the same period, planning commission officials are sceptic about any marked improvement in the scenario at the end of the budget year. Last year's ADP was trimmed to

Tk 19,000 crore from Tk 20,300 crore. But ultimately the government could spend Tk 16,796 crore.

reach the police station but blew up his car before reaching the building.

Police said a group of armed

Hearing the couple's scream

The police nabbed four people including three night guards for their

negotiate with kidnappers and the deadline passed with no word on his fate.

FROM PAGE 16

gunmen pointed rifles at him. His head had been shaven and he appeared to have a black eye. strike from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. The Japanese hostage, 44-year-

AM S Kibria as the speaker denied adjourning the House after adopting the obituary reference.

The much talked about bill proposing a blanket immunity to the World Bank regarding its operations in Bangladesh is likely to be passed in this session as a parliamentary body has already okayed the bill for passing.

Meanwhile, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar hinted that the session will be a very short one and new session will be summoned for the budget of the next fiscal year.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman earlier said he would place the budget before the House on June 9

"The region is used as his vehicle near a police station in area for foreign fighters who cross the southern Baghdad suburb of the Syrian border illegally through Dora killing at least three civilians smuggling routes," the military said Police said the bomber was trying to in a statement.

4 suicide blasts kill

"It is here that these foreign fighters receive the weapons and equipment to conduct attacks, such as suicide car bombs and assassination or kidnapping of political or civilian targets."

Three Marines have been killed during the operation, and overall since Saturday 14 American servicemen have been killed in Iraq, an unusually heavy toll for the U.S. military.

Blackout

FROM PAGE 16

Raozan, Kaptai and Shikalbaha are The captors of Australian hosage Douglas Wood, 63, demanded in full operation. that Australia pull its troops out of Power generation at Shikalbaha Iraq by Tuesday.

plant remained suspended for the last six days while four units at Kaptai have been inoperative for months together. The total generation at Raozan and Kaptai was 410 mw when the plants collapsed vesterday morning.

Human chain

FROM PAGE 16 old Akihiko Saito, was captured when

SCBA President Mahbubey Alam announced the programme yesterday from a human chain formed by lawyers on the Supreme Court premises. They will stage the onehour demonstration from 9:00am on Sunday.

Sammilito Ainjibi Samannay Parishad organised the human chain demanding withdrawal of Faizee from his bench and in protest against "politicisation" of judiciary and "conspiracy" to destroy the

udicial system. Lawyers participating in the human chain urged the chief justice not to become a victim of such onspiracy by the government.

"The ongoing movement of the Supreme Court lawyers will have be spread across the country," barrister Amir UI Islam said.

Former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru said, "Court is a place of public trust and confidence. The main responsibility of the chief justice is to uphold this trust and confidence. But he failed."

Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan advocate Abdul Baset Maiumder advocate Rahmat Ali, advocate Subrata Chowdhurv and SCBA Secretary Enavetur Rahim, among others, addressed the human chain.

allocations for each of their constituencies because of the elections.