Conviction and release

said, "The way the cases were run and presidential pardon was granted has impaired credibility of the legal

The teachers now need to file an appeal with a higher court against their conviction, he observed.

M Hafizuddin Khan, a former adviser to caretaker government, said the government should not have made a drama out of the release of teachers and students. If it was to let them off then why having them convicted.

does not show the government's magnanimity. If similar situation arises in future, I wonder how that will be controlled after this bad example," he added.

Referring to teachers' arrest, he said, "The government calculations have gone wrong. It probably wanted to punish the teachers, but failed for

pressure from different quarters." Thanking the government for freeing teachers and students, rights activist Sultana Kamal said, "What is happening today will become an example for future and so we should not do anything that might return to

shame our conscience. Akbar Ali Khan, head of regulatory reforms commission, said the issue should be resolved peacefully

and without delay. Another former adviser, SM Shahjahan, said, "A number of murders were committed on Dhaka University campus over the years, but I never heard any of the cases regarding those going anywhere. Had both the government and university authorities taken the decisions they are taking now, things

would not have been this bad." Lauding the release of the four teachers, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said, "We all wanted a solution to the unrest and a return to normal in Dhaka University."

He, however, stopped short of commenting on the conviction of the three teachers or the government decision to prosecute seven students on charge of assaulting an army man

in August. The Awami League's acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam expressed sadness at the conviction of the three teachers because "it ripped the dignity of the Dhaka

University teachers to shreds". "What is the point in pardoning

them as soon as they were convicted?

Welfare body

meeting with mid-level officials of BGMEA, BKMEA and officials and workers' leaders of seven garment factories of Mirpur area held in the conference room of the Ministry of LGRD and Labour and

Employment with its Adviser Anwarul Igbal in the chair. Addressing the meeting, the adviser urged the mid-level officials to work for the welfare of the

owners and workers of the garment factories.

He also urged the workers to

The adviser also declared a move to file cases with labour court against the management of 150 garment factories who failed to

work sincerely and not to get con-

fused with rumours.

implement the agreed minimum wage scale. Labour and Employment Ministry Secretary Ashfaq Hamid and senior officials of the ministry were also present at the meeting.

Hopefully, an appeal would clear them of any wrongdoing," he said adding that it is hard to believe that teachers would be involved in vio-

against the seven students, Ashraf said the decision has jeopardised their future and urged the government to refrain from such an aggressive approach.

The BNP's pro-reform leader Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman welcomed the release of the teachers, saying, "The pride of Dhaka "Releasing the convicted teachers University has been restored; it reflects the sincerity on all sides to resolve the ongoing crisis."

On the bid to prosecute the seven students, he said, "Truth has to be respected. It's a sensitive issue; we must tread delicately but surely to establish peace in the country."

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said the decision has proved again that an unpopular government views Dhaka University as an opposing force.

He said, "It's a sign of the government's vindictive attitude and this will not bode well. It shows that they are in a lot of troubles and they're

FROM PAGE 16

is complete, the IO added. A BNP central committee leader, Pintu was taken to the court of additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani at around 4:30pm. He was arrested on January 18 in

In the bail petition submitted to the court, the defence lawyers mentioned that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him adding that Pintu's name was not included in the FIR (first information report). He was shown arrested in the case on the basis of a false allegation, they added.

After the hearing, the court ordered to send Pintuto jail. Sources in the CID said though the investigators have confirmed information about the role of Pintu in the ghastly attacks, he denied of having any links to the incident

during the interrogation. He also did not give any information about the connections of former home ministry boss Lutfozzaman Babar and Hawa Bhaban to the

attack, the sources added. In a recent statement to a court, operations commander of Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) Mufti Abdul Hannan said the plot to launch the grenade attacks on the Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in 2004 was hatched at a meeting at the Dhanmondi resi-

dence of Pintu. The grisly attacks left 24 AL leaders and activists dead and scores

injured.

Aug 21 attack

FROM PAGE 16

Railway Station on February 26 in 2006 with 3 kg of high-powered explosives RDX, two electronic detonators and two pistols. If the brothers could be brought back, important leads about the involvement of detained former

They have been there since the

Indian police arrested them at Delhi

deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu and other masterminds in the grenade attacks would surface. "As Muttakin and Mursalin were involved in the plot to carry out the August 21 attacks, once they are

brought back, they would be brought face to face with Pintu so that he cannot avoid his and other masterminds links to the attack," an investigator told The Daily Star seeking

Army vehicle

violence were dropped from the charge sheet Monday. Shahbagh police yesterday submitted the final report against the rest seven students in the case filed by the army personnel on August 26 in connection with torching his vehicle and assaulting him at Shahbagh. After Sub-inspector Asgar Ali

Khan, investigation officer of the case from Shahbagh Police Station, submitted the final report before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka appealing for discharging them from the charge, the court accepted it.

Muhammad Zahidul Islam Biplob, Deen Islam Angel, Rafiqul Islam Sujon, Liton Mahmud, Asaduzzaman.

Charge against Rashedul Habib, Muhammad Ibrahim, KM Mahbub Alam Shyamol, Enamul Haque, Golam Azam Khomeni, DU correspondent of Banglabazar Patrika, Kased Ali, Chanchal Karmakar, ABM Shamsuddoha, Siddique Nazmul Alam, Kamruzzaman, Sohel Rana Tipu, Abdul Karim, Abul Hasan, Arifuzzaman, Delwar Rahman Dipu, Mizanur Rahman, Rashedul Mahmud and Sarwar Alam were dropped Monday.

Three days before the army personnel filed the case, police filed a case in connection with the same incident. On January 7, charges were pressed against the seven and 18 others who are absconding.

draw 10 cases filed in connection with violating the EPR. Of them, two each were filed

with Mirpur, Ashulia and Savar police stations, one with Kotwali Police Station, one with Hathazari Police Station in Chittagong, one with Sylhet Police Station and Station

cases were baseless since the govwith the proceedings Zillur said, "I have to remember that the government has to think about different kinds of demands from different

Sources said several other cases filed in connection with the August demonstrations are yet to be with-

The government had tried and succeeded to work out a respectable solution on the basis of principle, the education adviser said, hoping that normalcy will be

"We do not want to plunge into the culture of anarchy again so that we can concentrate on national challenges like the upcoming elections," he added. A presidential order Monday

pardoned 10 Rajshahi University (RU) students and an employee of the institution, who were convicted

4 DU teachers

FROM PAGE 1

were detained by the joint forces while five other teachers surrendered to a court following issuance of arrest warrants against them.

None other than the teachers On moving ahead with the case | and students of DU and RU has yet been convicted, although police initially implicated 84,000 unnamed persons in 59 cases filed with different police stations in Dhaka, Rajshahi and other parts of the country.

> A government formed onemember judicial probe commission in its report submitted to the chief adviser on November 15, said the three-day student protest was initially spontaneous, but later 'a vested quarter and some politi-

cians' added fuel to it. The commission of Justice Habibur Rahman Khan made a 28point recommendation for ensuring congenial atmosphere in educational institutions, requesting the chief adviser to make the report public. But the report has not yet been made public in over two

months. The military backed administration also has yet to take any step to ensure trial of the killers of a rickshaw puller who was shot dead

during the violence on RU campus. The local police station on October 22 submitted the final report on the killing of rickshaw puller Afzal Hossain saying they could not identify the killers.

Freed teachers

FROM PAGE 1 the social science faculty, said, "Despite the torture and harass-

ment, we did not let anyone tarnish the image of Dhaka University. "We have struggled for the truth...If necessary, we will be in jail for five years instead of two years but we cannot let the image of the university be destroyed," he said, adding that they will raise their voice against any repression and

injustice. Prof Neem Chandra Bhowmik, chairman of applied physics and electronics department, said, "We have always spoken for the estab-

lishment of truth and justice and we will keep doing this in future." DU teacher Prof Muhammad Samad said Duta will organise a solidarity meeting at 11:00am today on the campus where the released teachers will narrate the

torture and harassment they suffered in the last few months.

goods.

Brac Bank FROM PAGE 16 case, told The Daily Star that they

have made no further arrests and

are yet to recover more stolen

The DB so far arrested eight recovered about 200 tolas of gold ornaments, five diamonds and Tk3 lakh in cash. Among the arrestees, only Raju is on remand while the others are in jail.

"The masterminds might be arrested with the stolen goods after Raju's interrogation," Nasirullah

A number of the locker renters whose valuables were stolen expressed concern about the recovery efforts. Sources said 43 of them so far submitted their claims to the bank authorities. However, none submitted their claim giving the estimated value of their missing things. Abedur Rahman Sikder, head of

Marketing and Corporate Affairs of BRAC Bank Ltd, said, "We could not assess the loss as 17 of the affected people have not submitted their claims yet. At least 15 lockers were allegedly

"After the submission of claims

of all affected customers, we would start procedures to estimate the loss," Sikder said.

BDR

FROM PAGE 1

its allegations that Bangladesh harbours Indian separatists and terrorists, Brig Gen MA Bari replied in the negative. He, however, said that they would examine whatever information the BSF has given.

general level meeting, India had given Bangladesh a list of 1,000 Indian criminals hiding in Bangladesh, IGRA Tiwari said. Both sides also agreed to solve

Earlier at a BDR-BSF director-

the issues of push-back and pushin on the basis of dialogue if those arise again. Brig Gen MA Bari said that the

nationals of both the countries detained by BDR and BSF would be released on humanitarian grounds as per the laws of the respective countries. They also claimed that joint

patrolling by the BDR and BSF has contributed to the decrease in intrusion, drug smuggling and other crimes adding that another high-level meeting between the border guards of the two countries will be held in mid-February at Shillong in India.

The land dispute in Naogaon will be solved on the basis of land record, the briefing was told.

UNB reports that the deputy director general level meeting also decided to arrange study tours between the two countries for promoting amity. Each group will contain 25 students, it added.

Wholesale market

FROM PAGE 1

Many of the traders have stopped purchase of rice from outside Dhaka fearing that the joint forces' monitoring would result in losses in their businesses, they said.

Imported Indian rice Swarna sold at Tk 26-27 a kg and local Guti rice at Tk 27-28 yesterday at Babu Bazar and Badamtoli -- two major wholesale markets in the city. The price increase was Tk 1 per kg over the price on the previous day.

In retail markets, coarse rice was selling at Tk 28-30 a kg yesterday as

on the day before. Meanwhile, coarse rice being imported from India at \$ 425 per tonne has not yet arrived in the city markets, traders said.

"We are now selling Indian coarse rice at Tk 25.50 - 26.50 a kg since it was imported at \$320 per tonne. But when we will start selling rice imported at higher price, we cannot sell it at less than Tk 32 a kg," said a wholesaler at Badamtali market.

Monir Hossain, a rice miller from Chapai Nawabganj, said he incurred a loss of Tk 60,000 by Rahman and Abul Hasan Manjur selling 17 tonnes of rice to wholesalers in Dhaka. He attributed this to higher paddy price in rural

markets Meanwhile, following a meeting with BDR and joint forces,

Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners' and Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association fixed the price of 5-litre bottled soyabean oil at Tk 494 at the maximum, effective from yesterday for 15 days. But the price was

up to Tk 499 yesterday. At Moulavi Bazar, the largest wholesale market in old part of the capital, price of non-brand soyabean oil, which sold at Tk 92-Tk 93 a litre on Monday, rose by Tk 1

Bazar wholesale market said they bought the best quality palm oil from Moulovi Bazar at Tk 3,170 a maund on Monday and at Tk 3,220 a maund yesterday.

Edible oil traders at Karwan

"Distributors are showing reluctance to supply oil to wholesalers in a bid to increase its price," said a

wholesaler at Karwan Bazar. Mashhud

FROM PAGE 16 rallies, human chains, free discussions will have to be organised in a bigger way as part of the campaign

to prevent corruption. ACC commissioners Habibur Mannan, Secretary Mokhles ur Rahman, director general (prevention and research) and some members of the corruption prevention committees also spoke on the

Institutes certifying

occasion.

FROM PAGE 16 diploma or training. Conflicts arose between the IHTs approved by the health ministry and the TEB, hampering the quality of education while the country lacks skilled health tech-

nologists, essential for ensuring quality health service to people. Following the dispute, an interministerial committee was formed on September 6 last year with the

direct intervention of the chief adviser. Shefyetulla is the member secretary of the committee, which

decided at its meeting to run all IHTs under the health ministry. In its November 18 report, the committee said the 77 institutes approved by the TEB should be

affiliated with the health ministry-

approved State Medical Faculty. The other members of the committee are the additional secretary for health ministry, joint secretary (vocational and madrasa) for education ministry, and the joint secretary for law, justice and parlia-

mentary affairs ministry.

The Technical Education Board is an autonomous body and so it did not seek permission from the health ministry before introducing Regulation of Health Technology people in this connection and | these courses on health services, Institutes in private sector, Education Secretary Momtajul Islam told the meeting. He said he had talked to the TEB

and it stopped approving such Talking to The Daily Star over

telephone, TEB Chairman Dr Netai Chandra Sutradhar, however, said, "There is a legal basis for the Technical Education Board to approve health technology "The Technical Education

Board is a regulatory body and different courses like diploma engineering, textile, agriculture and SSC vocational have been running through its approval," he

When contacted, Prof MA Based, president of Bangladesh Association of Medical Technology Institutes (BAMI), an association of the TEB-approved health institutes, said, "We have heard that the

institutions will have to continue their activities as they are doing now until the authorities take a decision in a year or two.' Shefyetulla said, "The IHTs

approved by the Technical Education Board are only doing certificate business. Even question arises on the quality of education these institutes are providing. The students of these institutes are being deceived.

"We recommended bringing all these institutes under one umbrella and that all these institutes should be approved by the health ministry and obey its rules

and regulations," he said. An act

will be formulated soon to run all

IHTs by the Board of Diploma

Education, he added. The recommendations included forming a standing committee to monitor these IHTs and report their performance to the health ministry. On the basis of that report, the ministry will then affiliate the IHTs with it within a year.

The private IHTs approved by the TEB will also get a chance to be affiliated with the health ministry after fulfilling the conditions of the amended Establishment Shefvetulla said.

Experts said health technologists equipped with better understanding, knowledge and skills, especially in highly advanced imaging service like MRI, CT Scan and radiology, are an integral part of the pathological laboratories. They are equally essential in the physical medicine department for rehabilitation of the physically challenged. Unfortunately, the number of

medical technologists in the country is only 10,653, according to the health ministry.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline suggests the ratio of doctor and medical technologist to be 1:5, but it is exactly the opposite in Bangladesh, they said.

To meet the WHO guideline requirement by 2025, 4.29 lakh medical technologists have to be prepared in the country.

No hike in prices

FROM PAGE 1 price of fuel in domestic market,

said Tamim, who attended one of the two meetings that focussed on the demand and supply of diesel and electricity. CS Karim chaired this meeting and Food and Health Adviser

Shawkat Ali chaired the other meeting on fertiliser situation. Agriculture ministry sources said the government would give around Tk 3,500 crore subsidy on urea and non-urea fertilisers this

fiscal year. Tamim said it is not possible to run the BPC with huge losses year after year. The government will have to find a way to reduce the subsidy. "We are heading towards a

critical situation and we need an

alternative to subsidy on fuel and other sectors because the huge subsidies are putting pressure on the national exchequer," he added. Agriculture ministry officials placed at the meeting on fertiliser an estimate showing that 12 lakh tonnes of urea are required in the current Boro season. The meeting noted that the stock of urea now is

that will be met through import. CS Karim said the government has increased the number of fertiliser dealers to 16,000 and each of them will distribute fertiliser packets of power gel from there. among 800 to 1,000 farmers. "We don't have any crisis of urea case with Melandaha Police Station

and we have made all preparations

for proper supply of fertiliser," he

satisfactory, and there is a small

shortage of non-urea fertilisers

problem in distribution, the government will take quick action. Tamim said the government has decided to supply electricity to rural

said, adding that in case of any

areas during the current Boro season on a priority basis. "If necessary, we would go for load management of power in the urban areas," he said. "The gap between demand and supply of power is not too high as we have overhauled a number of power stations, and added 200

grid recently," he said. The BPC has been instructed to ensure smooth supply of diesel in this Boro season keeping in view the total demand for 8.38 lakh tonnes.

megawatt of power to the national

3 JMB men

FROM PAGE 16 The sentences will run consecutively. The three JMB cadres were

present in court during the verdict. According to the prosecution, Habibur Rahman Yousuf was rrested in connection with a grenade attack on police at Bhatara in Sarishabari upazila in 2007.

Following his confession, Rab raided the houses of Sultan and Sohel at Charaildar village in Melandaha upazila on March 24 last year and recovered 75 grenade bodies, 77 grenade caps and 27 A Rab sub-inspector later filed a

against eight people including the

three convicted.

demands of Iraq's Kurdish minority who threatened not to fly the banner during a pan-Arab meeting in the Kurdish-run north next month. The measure, which expires in one year, was approved by show of hands, with 110 lawmakers of 165 present voting in favor of removing the three stars and changing the calligraphy of the words "Allahu

Akbar" in a symbolic break with the

A law to establish a new banner must be passed in one year. The absence of Iraq's internationally recognized flag during a regional gathering on the territory of a founding member of the Arab League would have created negative publicity in the Arab world, where many see the Kurds as being too close to the Americans or harboring separatist intentions. In Iraq, not

flying the country's flag would be seen as fresh evidence of the Kurds' go-it-alone policies. To head off embarrassment for the Shiite Arab-dominated central

government, parliament in Baghdad had scrambled for a solution in time for the conference. "It's a potentially explosive issue and we need to tread carefully," said

Haidar al-Abadi, a legislator with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Dawa party. Many Kurds remember Saddam's forces hoisting the Iraqi

flag during campaigns of persecution that saw thousands killed with

poison gas.

Trial court

FROM PAGE 16 Telecommunications minister Mohammad Nasim, facing trial in WorldTel scam case. A division bench comprising

Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice MA Hye passed the order upon a revision petition, which was earlier rejected by the special court.

Abdul Hye, an officer of the

now-defunct bureau of anti-

corruption, filed the case against Nasim and another person on January 8, 2002. According to the prosecution, Nasim had allowed WorldTel Holdings Ltd to install 3 lakh digital

telephones in the capital without

floating tender. Advocate M Enayetur Rahim appeared for Nasim, also a frontranking Awami League leader.

Freedom fighters

FROM PAGE 16

Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad termed it "distorting real history of Liberation War" They urged people to be careful

about the "conspiracy of the

adviser". Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad along with Muktijoddha Shanghati Parishad, Muktijoddha Naval Commando Association Muktijoddha Smrity Rokkha Parishad, Mahila Muktijoddha Parishad, Muktijoddha Kendria Command Council, Muktijoddha Samannay Parishad, Muktijoddha Sangram Parishad and Muktijoddha Ainjeebi Parishad

made the joint statement. Meanwhile, Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 published a joint announcement of 71 organisations, in booklet form, demanding trial of war criminals. They will send the English version of the booklet and related documents to foreign embassies and heads of mission in Dhaka today.

Sheikh Helal

FROM PAGE 1

Director Syed Ahmed, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet against the two to chief metropolitan magistrate's court, showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses. BARGE-MOUNT POWER

PLANT CASE The court told the relevant authorities to publish advertisements in newspapers after different police stations submitted reports on attachment of property of six of the accused, including ex-PDB boss Kamal, which the court ordered

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, now behind bars, is also an accused in the case.

The five others, whose names will appear in the advertisements, are Aziz Khan, managing director of Summit Industries and Mercantile Corporation Private Ltd, its director Farid Khan, United Group Chairman Hasan Mahmud Raja, its Director Abul Kalam Azad and curator of Bangabandhu Memorial Trust (BMT), Sayed Siddigur Rahman. ACC Deputy Director Sabbir

Hasan lodged the case with

Tejgaon Police Station on September 2 last year; the watchdog's Deputy Director Morshed Alam, also the IO, submitted charge sheet to Dhaka's chief metropolitan magistrate's court on January 10 this year. Seven people were accused of corruption in the first information report (FIR), but the name of BMT

curator Sayed Siddiqur Rahman

was included in the charge sheet

after investigators found his

involvement in the offence.

Next target was US Karachi Consulate

Says Benazir killing suspect

PTI, AFP, Islamabad Hussein-era flag, meeting the

> A teenaged boy arrested last week on suspicion of involvement in former Pakistan premier Benazir Bhutto's assassination has told investigators that his next target was the US consulate in the south-

ern Pakistani city of Karachi. Aitezaz Shah, the 15-year-old who was trained as a suicide bomber, told officials that he had been asked to attack Benazir Bhutto in Karachi in case she escaped the

bid on her life in Rawalpindi.

Shah was part of a five-member squad sent by Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan commander Baitullah Mehsud to kill Benazir Bhutto. He had earlier said a member of the squad named Bilal killed Benazir Bhutto by shooting her and detonating his explosive vest as she was leaving an election rally in

Rawalpindi on December 27. The boy was arrested in Dera Ismail Khan town of North West

Frontier Province along with an accomplice named Sher Zaman on Thursday.

Shah told interrogators on Monday that after Benazir Bhutto's assassination, he was directed by his minders to move to Karachi to target the US consulate, the Dawn newspaper quoted sources as

The sources said Shah also told his interrogators that he had received terrorist training with two terror suspects Bilal and Ikram, whose names were mentioned in a phone conversation between Baitullah Mehsud and another unnamed militant leader that was intercepted by security agencies a day after Benazir Bhutto's assassi-The other militant leader had

Bhutto. Meanwhile, British detectives helping Pakistan investigate the murder of Benazir Bhutto may quiz a teenager and another man held for alleged involvement in the plot

named three men Bilal, Ikramullah

and Saeed as the persons who had

carried out the attack on Benazir

to kill her, officials said Tuesday. Fifteen-year-old Aitezaz Shah was arrested on Friday in the northwestern city of Dera Ismail

Khan along with his "handler". He allegedly told police he was in a

nate the former premier. Officials said Shah allegedly confessed that he received orders from Baitullah Mehsud, an al-Qaeda-linked tribal warlord accused by Pakistani and US of masterminding the December 27

back-up squad tasked to assassi-

Benazir Bhutto attack. A senior anti-terrorism official said that a team of British police from Scotland Yard, who were invited by President Pervez Musharraf late last month to help

probe Benazir Bhutto's death, were

Lanka signals

likely to question Shah.

FROM PAGE 16 "We have to face it. The idea of these attacks is to create panic and give the impression that Colombo is not safe...

It is clear that these are not LTTE bombs. This is what I believe. We are investigating," he said. "There could be more incidents

like this in Colombo and (the adjoining district of) Gampaha," the president warned, without giving futher

The president's comments, however, came as fighting continued to rage in the north -- with security forces reporting 46 people killed, most of them rebels. In fresh violence, suspected

rebels shot dead a police officer and two constables on Monday night near the southern township of Thanamalvila, police officials said. They had been deployed to the area to protect civilians from guerrilla

attacks.

regions, where the Tigers maintain a de facto mini-state, the defence ministry reported a death toll of 31 on Monday, including five soldiers. "We are sending several senior officers together with reinforcements to bolster security in the area,"

In heavy fighting in the northern

personnel had been deployed. Since the start of this month, the Sri Lanka defence ministry has claimed it has killed 592 rebels

The military's death toll claims

on the campus protesting the "farci-

cal" verdict that sentenced three of the

four detained teachers with two years'

imprisonment and Tk 1,000 fine each.

The other accused of the case, one

teacher and 15 students, were acquit-

platforms -- Students Against

Repression, led by left-leaning stu-

dent organisations, Chhatra-Bondhu,

led by Bangladesh Chhatra League

and Nirjatan Protirodhi Shikkharthi,

led by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal -- took

part in separate processions on the

campus. They all chanted anti-

Bangla, the students said although the

government pledged that it would

ensure a dignified release of the teach-

ers and students, it breached its

pledge through the conviction of the

A number of teachers including

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former

president of Duta, its former general

secretary Prof M Akhtaruzzaman and

Prof Muhammad Samad joined a rally

of a student platform to express their

solidarity with the students' move-

have been dignified for both the

teachers and the government if the

teachers were freed after the cases

president and general secretary of

Duta, who belong to pro-BNP-Jamaat

White Panel of teachers at DU, said

they were disappointed and hurt at

the conviction of the teachers and

In a press briefing, the acting

filed against them were withdrawn.

Prof Arefin Siddique said it would

In separate rallies at the Aparajeyo

governmentslogans.

Students under three different

cannot be independently verified.

against just 26 soldiers dead.

a police official said, adding that

several thousand additional security

DU students vow

FROM PAGE 1 after the August violence would also

be revealed during the rally, they said. The demonstrating students decided to join the solidarity rally of teachers and urged all to boycott classes and examinations scheduled fortoday.

The DU students continued their

demonstration over the verdict

against three teachers all day vester-

day. In the evening they thronged the Central Shaheed Minar to cheer for the freed teachers. A large number of students, teach ers and families of the detained teach ers and students with flowers and garlands in their hands gathered at the entrance of the Dhaka Central Jail to receive the freed teachers and stu-

dents who were pardoned by the president Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta), said five of the detained students were to be released with the teachers, but the jail authorities said they would be feed a few hours later due to legal complica-

tions. The four teachers went home after placing floral wreaths at the Shaheed Minar and delivering short speeches. The crowd of students were still waiting at the Shaheed Minar as the

eight detained DU students would be released within the next one hour. However, they were not freed till filing of this report at 9:00pm yesterday. The disappointed students brought out a procession from the Shaheed Minar and marched the campus streets chanting slogans against the government and the

authorities assured that five out of the

university authorities. Earlier, the DU students held rallies and brought out processions

The White Panel teachers were against holding any kind of demonstration for the release of the teachers.

Pak militants attack

students.

been undermined by the death of Benazir Bhutto and by the wave of

violence, in which rebels have adopted a new tactic of massing by the hundreds to attack isolated military outposts. Militants early Tuesday tried to ment in Benazir Bhutto's killing but raid a fort and observation post at Ladha in South Waziristan, sparking

military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas told AFP. "It was an intense attack," Abbas said, adding that five soldiers were killed and seven injured. He later said 37 militants were also confirmed

a fierce four-hour gunbattle, chief

Two civilians were killed and five wounded when Pakistani jets later pounded suspected militant hideouts in Ladha, said injured resident Dildar Khan, who was brought to a hospital in neighbouring North Waziristan. A clash also erupted in North

Waziristan's Razmak town, near Ladha, in which two security personnel were killed and six injured, the army's Abbas said. Last week militants overran another fort in the town of Sararogha

in South Waziristan. The army, meanwhile, denied reports that troops abandoned a third border outpost in the region, in the village of Siplatoi. Abbas denied the army was

and US officials for orchestrating Benazir Bhutto's killing at a political rally on December 27. Mehsud has denied any involvewarned Pakistani forces not to attack his stronghold and accused the army

of killing civilians.

planning an offensive against

Baitullah Mehsud, the al-Qaeda-

linked warlord blamed by Pakistani

my area," Mehsud said in a statement released by his spokesman, Maulvi Mohammad Omar. Meanwhile British detectives helping Pakistan probe the former premier's murder may question a teenage suspect and his alleged

militant handler held in connection

with the killing, officials said Tuesday.

"Pakistani forces will face the

worst resistance if they try to enter

The 15-year-old, named as Aitezaz Shah, was arrested on Friday in the northwestern city of Dera Ismail Khan and allegedly told police he was part of a back-up squad tasked by Mehsud with killing Benazir Bhutto if an initial team failed. "The Scotland Yard team will be at

liberty to interrogate the two suspects arrested from Dera Ismail Khan, as they are assisting us in Bhutto's assassination case," Interior Ministry spokesman Brigadier Javed Cheema said.

vehicle during the August 20-22

The students are Kazi Manobendra Dev, Deen Islam and

initiatives for quick disposal of the

Meanwhile, in a bid to calm the escalating unrest in universities, the government decided to with-

another with Mymensingh Police Asked whether charges in the 10 ernment decided not to continue cannot comment about their legality and do not want to. You

restored on university campuses.

Talking about the charges, the on December 12 of torching a education adviser said, "There is Directorate General of Forces clear and strong evidence that the Intelligence (DGFI) vehicle during seven were involved in violent the campus violence there trigactivities. However, we have taken gered by the DU demonstrations.

Iraqi lawmakers vote to change Saddam flag AP, Baghdad

Iraq's parliament yesterday passed a law to change the Saddam