students threw brickbats on police.

when the three students, held at City College, were freed in the afternoon following negotiations between some teachers of the two colleges.

said academic activities would continue as usual.

Contacted, Principal of Dhaka College Bashirul Haque said, "I have heard that following a personal feud between two students of the two colleges, three of our students were held captive by City College teachers when they went

He denied allegations of vandalism committed by his students saving he did not get any such report. Dhaka City College Principal Md Hafiz Uddin told The Daily Star that such kind of attacks on DCC students by the Dhaka College take place frequently. He also alleged that sometimes the Dhaka College students snatch mobile phones from the DCC students.

One of the held students alleged that they were beaten up by teach-

ers of City College. Another held student said later they went to City College in an effort to resolve the earlier feud between two students of the two

But City College teachers said they held the three students with sticks while they attacked their students.

Menwhile, the clashes and police action on them a severe traffic jam in the areas as vehicular movement from Nilkhet intersection to Science Laboratory crossing on Mirpur road remained suspended for over two hours from noon. About10 motor vehicles were vandalised by Dhaka College students at the time.

IAGANNATH UNIVERSITY Activists of the BCL and JCD clashed on the campus yesterday morning as distribution of admission forms for honours classes started. Chase and counter- chase by the twosides continued for about half an hour.

Police lobbed at least 10 teargas shells and charged batons to disperse the activists and the latter retaliated with brickbats injuring

Police then arrested three activists of the two organisations.

At this, activists of both BCL and JCD together attempted to snatch away the arrested students. The led to clashes with police for about hour. And panic gripped area. Around 25 people including

students and five policemen were injured.

Two factions of the BCL clashed over domination at Latif Hostel

injuring at least 10 students in the

early hours yesterday. They also ransacked at least five

rooms of the dormitory. Tejgaon police said four students suffered stab injuries while many others were beaten in the incident. During the hour-long clash, many of the panicked students moved out on the road near dormitory.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1 No AL leaders could confirm when the party president will return.

After Hasina's return, a number of election activities is expected to start including formation of a grand electoral alliance, sharing parliamentary seats with its allies, party's election manifesto, the election conducting committee, electoral campaign strategy and nomination process, party leaders

AL acting President Zillur Rahman and acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam had said Hasina might return by the end of this month. Talking to The Daily Star recently, AL Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu said the AL chief would not return home before the first week of November.

Hasina's personal physician Modasser Ali, who has frequent contact with the AL chief, said she has an appointment at the John Hopkins Hospital in US on October 29. After her check-up she would finalise the date for her return, he

About Hasina's health, Joy said the condition of his mother is now better than earlier. Joy demanded that the government withdraw all the charges against Hasina immediately since filing of "false" cases against her was part of a conspir-

The government has given bail to all of the top corruption suspects... then why there are charges against her [Hasina]," he said.

Joy and Hasina's counsel Fazle Noor Taposh expressed concern over security of Hasina in Bangladesh. They demanded that the government ensure foolproof security since she had come under attack several times before.

Taposh, also Hasina's nephew said Hasina would take part in the upcoming elections from three constituencies, including the one that has Tungipara.

AL has been preparing to accord a grand reception to Hasina on her arrival. The AL acting president said they would mobilise five to 10 lakh people to receive Hasina.

Talking to The Daily Star a senior AL leader said the other aim of giving Hasina such a grand reception is to show-off the party's election preparation for the constituencies in the capital.

Jamaat recognises

parliament, as promised by it, both Muslim and non-Muslim members however must swear to abide by the rules and decisions of the party,

Among other fundamental beliefs and spirits, Jamaat also accepted the spirit of the heroic liberation war of 1971 by inserting a new paragraph into the preamble of its new provisional constitution.

The heroic struggle of the people and freedom fighters that liberated Bangladesh and put it on the world map as an independent country has been mentioned as a part of the fundamental beliefs and spirits of the party.

registration and the provisional constitution to the EC for being qualified to contest in the upcoming parliamentary election, Mohammad Kamaruzzaman, assistant secretary general of Jamaat, said his party has been in politics since May, 1979 by accepting the creation of Bangladesh

banned for years in the newly independent country for its antiliberation activities and collaboration with the invading army in 1971.

Many Jamaat leaders were facing charges of war crimes and some of

them were on the run. But the party was allowed to resume its activities in 1979 as the constitutional ban on forming religion based political parties was repealed after the bloody regime

facing difficulties again as the revised RPO made political parties' registration with the EC mandatory for contesting in the parliamentary election.

The strict new provisions forced the party to change the preamble to its constitution accepting the historic liberation war as its original constitution contradicted the

Jamaat, traditionally an Islamist fundamentalist party, in its revised constitution replaced the phrase describing its goal of 'establishing the rule of Allah' with a new phrase of 'establishing a fair and just

Islamic society'. The party included a new section in its constitution's preamble that says, "Jamaat-e-Islami will work to establish an Islamic social system that guarantees justice for all, since Bangladesh emerged as the third largest Muslim country through a

According to its interim constitution, Jamaat also co-opted the country.

members of its women's majlish-esura into the central majlish-e-sura,

the highest policy making body. It also added provisions for reserving 33 percent seats for women in all its committees with a promise to achieve the target by

In line with the amended RPO, the new Jamaat constitution also promises to nominate parliamentary contenders from a panel created by the grassroots level committees and forwarded to the party's parliamentary board.

About severing its ties with front organisations, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman who yesterday went to apply for the party's registration, said Jamaat has no front organisation.

Jamaat, a key component of BNP-led four-party alliance which ruled the country just before the current caretaker government, had earlier refused to get registered with the EC under the current RPO, and challenged its legality in the High Court terming some of the amend ments unconstitutional.

Reinstall baul

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, many other organisations continued their protests against the removal of the sculp-

Expressing resentment over the removal of the sculptures, Samajik Pratirodh Committee (SPC), a combine of 41 organisations, in a statement yesterday said the government should take firm stance against all provocative activities.

They also demanded immedi-

ate reinstallation of the sculptures. Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Advocate Sultana Kamal, former adviser to caretaker government and executive director of Ain o Shalish Kendra, Shirin Akhter, president of Karmojibi Nari, Dr Badiul Alam Mazumder, country director of the Hunger Project Bangladesh, barristers Tania Ameer and Sara Hossain, among others, signed the statement.

The students of the DU Institute of Fine Arts also held cultural programmes at the institute protesting the incident.

Women for Women, a research and study group, also expressed concern over the removal of the sculptures.

Left-leaning political parties will hold a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar today protesting the removal of the sculptures and Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini's remarks on the sculptures in the

Chittagong Test

FROM PAGE 1

Redmond fours came almost 20 overs later, when he crashed two off Tigers captain Mohammad Ashraful. He moved from 45 to 53 with two consecutive boundaries off Shahadat, reaching his maiden Test fifty in 135 balls in over three hours.

Redmond and Ryder grafted long and hard and thrived on a surprisingly better surface, which seemed refreshed by a bout of the heavy roller during the innings break, although Bangladesh didn't produce enough wicket-taking deliveries.

The two Kiwi openers gave them a fine start, adding 55 before Jamie How (36) played back to Abdur Razzak, only to see the off-stump disturbed. Ashraful rotated his bowlers around but luck took a nap for the Tigers.

But unlike the first three days, Bangladesh began well with Mashrafe and Razzak carrying on from their overnight partnership, adding 40 for the ninth wicket. Mashrafe was enterprising to the hilt, notching up 44 with seven boundaries and also adding another crucial 22 with last man Shahadat.

Mashrafe, who had a plan to attack the spinners, did just that as he smashed Vettori for four boundaries, twice over mid-on. And there was a game of cat-and-mouse when Vettori's over-the-wicket delivery that slid down the leg-side was kicked away by a charging

But the Tigers innings ended when Mashrafe, having treated Redmond's leg-spin with disdain, was controversially given out stumped in the 108th over.

Mashrafe's contribution was minimal but could well be the foundation of something great

Ex-ministers

FROM PAGE 16 Anti-Corruption Commission

Upon separate stay petitions filed by the ACC against the HC

orders, the apex court also asked the ACC to file regular leave to appeal petitions with it against the HC orders. Barrister Ahsanul Karim, counsel for Mosharraf, Altaf and

Mohiuddin, yesterday told The Daily Star that following the SC orders, there was no longer any legal bar to his clients' release from jail since they got bail in all cases against them.

The proceedings against them in these cases would continue in trial court as the SC vacated the HC's stay orders, he said.

Mosharraf is an accused in two cases--one for amassing wealth illegally and hiding information about it to the ACC, and another for land grabbing. Ataf and Mohiuddin are indicted in two corruption cases that accused them of amassing illegal wealth and hiding information to the ACC.

Akhter's lawyer barrister Nasiruddin Ahmed Asim said the SC turned down its chamber judge's order staying the HC bail to his client, and also the proceedings against him in the case accusing him of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information to the ACC

"Following the Supreme Court order, the High Court order for his bail, and stay of proceedings in the case remain upheld. There was no legal bar to his release from jail since he was earlier granted bail in all cases against him," the counsel

Police rearrested Akhter after his release from Dhaka Central Jail on August 30 on charges of violating Emergency Powers Rules.

Dhaka extradited

FROM PAGE 16 them returned home exhausting jail terms.

Officials said 10 alleged operatives of outlawed National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) were killed in an encounter with the anti-crime elite force as they

infiltrated into Bangladesh terri-

The revelation came against the backdrop of a protracted accusation by the Indian authorities and media that Bangladesh harbours their separatist elements, an alle-

gation that Dhaka consistently Bangladesh and India agreed on "expeditious" return of criminals staying in either of the countries as home secretaries of the two countries ended a two-day annual meeting in Dhaka on

August 31. Both sides also agreed to "continue efforts" to track down criminals who took shelter in either country to evade justice and send them back "expeditiously" as Dhaka also sought India's cooperation to take preventive measures against anti-Bangladesh outfits

based in its territory.

Bangladesh handed over an updated list of 1,648 Bangladeshi criminals hiding in India while the Indian side gave a list of 464 Indian criminals during director general level talks between the Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Forces (BSF) of India ahead of the secretary level meet-

BNP chairperson

However, it allows associated organisations made up of students, teachers and others pro-

fessionals. On foreign chapters, he said the Bangladeshi expatriates willing to champion Bangladeshi nationalism abroad can organise on their own, subject to the law of

the country they reside in. In line with the RPO stipulations, the revised BNP constitution provides for the grassroots level committees to select panels of prospective candidates for parliamentary election. The parliamentary board shall pick the contenders from those pan-

"In absence of committees in a constituency, the parliamentary board will step in to choose contestant there," Nazrul explained.

In the interim charter, the party pledges to ensure 33 percent seats are reserved for women at all committees by 2020. Replying to a query, he said BNP maintains two bank accounts. "Of those, one has Tk

purposes and the other Tk 46 lakh for relief funds." He said the provisional constitution requires the party to have its incomes and expenditures audited in every three months instead of six months.

"If necessary, the national

5.80 crore for organisational

council will bring about more changes," Nazrul added. BNP and its allies including

Jamaat-e-Islami had been vehemently opposed to registration with the EC under the new electoral provisions.

They had been demanding that some provisions of the revised RPO be scrapped or suspended till the ninth parliamentary election is over.

Then in a major development, BNP and Jamaat collected application forms for registration Sunday, a day before the deadline for submissions. The other partners of the BNP

led coalition--Islami Oikya Jote and Bangladesher Jatiya Partytoo turned in applications yester-Explaining the rationale for the shift in registration stance,

the BNP joint secretary general said it occurred to the party high ups that a conspiracy was on to leave BNP out of the upcoming election. "We have opted to apply for registration to frustrate the plotters."

Nazrul said the party's constitution was democratic, and the changes were made to conform to the RPO provisions.

According to the pre-revision BNP charter, national council was supposed to elect party head in every two years.

On election, the chairperson was to pick 14 members for the national standing committee and 251 for the executive committee.

The grassroots level committees would be elected at councils.

Madrasa students

FROM PAGE 1

not allowing admission, in some departments, to the students who did not study Bangla and English of 200 marks each in their higher secondary or equivalent courses.

Meanwhile, several hundred madrasa students in the morning formed a human chain at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) intersection to press home their demands. Former Duta president Prof

AAMS Arefin Siddique said a department itself sets the admission criteria. "The students who want to get admitted to those departments

have to fulfil the required criteria, "It was a planned attack. There might have been an instigation from a certain quarter", Prof Arefin

said adding that a proper investiga-

tion into the incident is essential. When asked whether it was part of a conspiracy to shut the university, Prof Arefin said such a possibility cannot be ruled out.

Social Science Faculty Dean

Prof Harun-or-Rashid said the people responsible must be brought to book immediately. "It was not a stray incident. There is a link between the attack on the vice chancellor's office and the removal of sculptures in front of

Zia International Airport," Prof Harun said. Duta General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof Sheikh Abdus Salam, Dr Zinat Huda, Dr Ahiduzzaman, Assistant Prof Hafizur Rahman Curzon, Prof Dr Hossain Mansur, Dr Syed

Manzurul Islam, Prof Fakhru Alam, Prof AKM Golam Rabbani and Dr Salma Chowdhury, among others, were present.

the subject of intense speculations Sources said none from the for how he kept attending different BNP-Jamaat backed 'White-Panel programmes in public despite an participated in the programme arrest warrant against him in although the decision of holding Barapukuria graft case. At that the programme was made at a Duta time, police described him as a meeting with its president and fugitive to the trial court. White-Panel Convener Prof Sadrul Amin in the chair. Meanwhile, several hundred

madrasa students formed a human chain at the TSC (TSC) intersection demanding cancellation of the university authorities' decision.

weeks to the trial court that had issued the warrant for his arrest. against the people involved in the vandalism.

While talking to The Daily Star, Officer-in-Charge of Shahbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim said, "We need clear-cut orders to go for action on the university campus. Besides we have to be cautious that no untoward incident occurs on

the campus," he said. He also said they had already identified some madrasa students involved in the vandalism and would take action against them

DU authorities on Saturday night filed a case against 150-160 unidentified people with Shahbagh Police Station in connection with the vandalism at the VC office.

He said the dialogues with

political parties and other stake-

holders will continue through the

run up to the election to create an

atmosphere of trust and mutual

confidence will continue through

having discussions for an eventual

"I think the atmosphere of

Zillur told the reporters that the

foremost responsibility of the

caretaker government is to ensure

a congenial atmosphere conducive

to the election, for making sure that

the parties may contest in the poll

and the voters may exercise their

right to universal franchise suc-

pects from contesting in the elec-

tion, he said the political parties

must decide on the issue. "They

their candidates," he added.

Unfit buses

will discuss and decide on selecting

Communication Adviser Ghulam

Quader, and LGRD Adviser

Anwarul Iqbal also attended the

They also allege in the name of the

drive, the traffic policemen are

of the traffic department (north) on

Sunday held a meeting at

bus owners and employees.

which are over 20 years old."

Mohakhali bus terminal with the

Khan, joint convener of BSPMSF,

told The Daily Star, "The govern-

ment on October 14 assured us that

the traffic police would go for

action against only those buses

Osman Ali, executive president

of Mohakhali bus terminal, said, "If

the traffic police violate the agree-

Following the protests, officials

Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff,

About barring corruption sus-

confidence.

cessfully

meeting.

FROM PAGE 1

harassing them.

transition," he said.

Fresh talks

and deferral of upazila election will

feature the talks." he said. Speaking to reporters after a meeting with three other advisers in Bangladesh Secretariat, Hossain Zillur said, "The political parties are talking about an election environment and they might have many things to say. On the other hand, citizens expect qualitative changes in politics. We want to take all these issues to the talks."

He however skirted a question regarding whether the chiefs of Awami League (AL) and BNP --Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia -will be barred from contesting in the stalled ninth parliamentary

The first round of talks between five advisers to the military backed caretaker government led by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and all major political parties started on May 22 and ended last Tuesday with a dialogue with BNP.

Although the dialogues, especially with AL and BNP, ended inconclusively, the government and the two largest parties agreed to sit for another round. Hossain Zillur, who is acting as a

mediator between the government and the parties, termed the ongoing registration of parties with the Election Commission (EC) 'a major step forward'. "We are very delighted that we

are getting over the registration hump," he said, welcoming BNP's and other political parties' move to get registered as parliamentary parties, adding that they acted 'responsibly'. The adviser also welcomed the 'powerful' role the political parties

played in helping the government move towards a 'fruitful political transition' Zillur said the government is preparing for the second round of talks. "We want to move forward step by step. The second round is a ment, we would go for movement."

Earlier, DU VC Prof Faiz said stern actions would be taken

government not to harass or arrest But the law enforcers deployed Mojahid within that period. at the TSC did not take any action against the madrasa students.

meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in jail, he said that was no formal meeting. "She [Khaleda] is our leader and it was necessary to know her views about matters regarding the election. "We visited her with permission from the jail authorities, and it was

possible because she had no objec tion to meeting me." meeting, Mojahid said they wished to meet her when BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain applied for permission to

visit the former prime minister in jail. "I won't say anymore about the Queried, he declined to disclose the number of seats they are seeking to run for on the alliance ticket in December 18 polls. For the cancelled January 22 election, they

> got 34/35 seats. "Five to six ministers have been dropped from the cabinet due to corruption at the beginning of the alliance rule. And I can assure you that we'll go tough on graft if voted back to power," he said.

"The anti-corruption drive by the caretaker government has failed because the way they went about the task was wrong."

BTTB toilet pan!

FROM PAGE 1

purpose, the safety tanks in Shiromoni and Doulatpur exchanges were not cleared in the past several years. Only two labourers cleaned nearby weeds for two days, while no electric repair was done, investigations reveal.

Investigators say only 15-25 percent of the total work shown was done as money sanctioned for completing the tasks was misappropriated through various illegal

The ACC investigations unearth that the ASE, TCT or TCM and linemen used to get Tk 4,000, Tk 1,100 and Tk 800 every month respectively once schedule of a job was submitted. The investigations were con

ducted through questioning the ASE, ADE, SDE, and DE and making field-level visits to Khulna, Khalishpur, Jessore, and Kushtia. Of the misappropriated money over Tk 33.52 crore was drawn by showing fake deployment of

labourers in the name of mainte

nance and preservation and was

shared among the government

staffs, while the rest was spent in Former lawmaker Shahjahan addition to the budget. Khulna division has nine telecommunication offices under its urisdiction.

> The investigations also show that about Tk 24.6 lakh was spent in addition to the budgets of the fiscal years fixed at Tk 73.29 crore. Of the amount, Tk 41.91 crore was spent through schedule work and Tk 6.05 crore through estimation.

Hillary joins Obama

FROM PAGE 16

BCL violence

DU unit president Sheikh Sohel

"The organisation is getting

weaker in the DU halls for dithering

over announcing the hall-unit

committees," said a president

He said the hall unit committees

"We've been involved in

should have been declared shortly

after the present committee for the

Chhatra League politics for over

four years now but did not get any

post at any level of the organisa-

tion. What we have got are police

repression during the Khaleda-

Nizami regime and a string of false

cases," another aspirant hall presi-

The top BCL leaders did not

show up on the campus on October

19 for a scheduled agitation

programme to press for the Awami

held the procession where they

chanted slogans demanding new

Allaying some controversies, Chie

Election Commissioner ATM

Shamsul Huda said registration

does not mean imposing the com-

it is aimed at bringing political

parties under a "legal framework"

to ensure accountability and con-

Huda said, "It's a big achieve-

ment of the present commission as

the previous Election Commission

Until recently, Mojahid has been

Asked about the matter, the

Two days later, the High Court

At the same time, it directed the

About his much-talked about

Asked who had arranged the

asked him to surrender within two

Jamaat leader said, "I'm innocent. I

didn't commit anything wrongful

and that's why I'm going about my

solidate democracy.

Mojahid

normal activities."

did not do it."

mission's control over the parties

Hall-level leaders and activists

League president's release.

107 parties

hall committees.

dent said preferring anonymity.

candidate for such a committee.

university unit was formed.

Rana Tipu told The Daily Star that a

few petty problems got in the way

men on the committees.

offorming the committees.

FROM PAGE 1

The Arizona senator was campaigning in midwestern Missouri yesterday, after Obama attracted a monstrous crowd of 100,000 people to St. Louis on Saturday.

He will fly onto Pennsylvania, a Democratic state in 2004 and a Republican target this year which now seems clearly tipping towards the 47-year-old Obama. Just two weeks from election

day, McCain's hopes rested on a hard-hitting campaign of mailings and automatic "robo-calls" to voters in swing states assailing Obama's character, past acquaintances and record on abortion.

McCain and his feisty vice presidential running mate Sarah Palin were also seeking to break through with claims that Obama is far more liberal than mainstream Americans, and is bent on pursuing "socialist" tax policies.

Powell, a Republican and former secretary of state and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the highest-ranking African-American ever in US government service.

In a stinging blow to his longtime friend McCain, Powell said on NBC that Obama, vying to be the nation's first African-American commander-in-chief, would be a "transformational

president. In another demoralising blow to McCain, the Obama campaign announced a record-shattering take of more than 150 million dollars last month -- nearly double McCain's budget for the entire general election campaign.

Despite claims by the McCain camp that the race is narrowing, daily tracking polls on Sunday showed a steady Obama lead. Gallup had Obama up by 52 to

42 percent among registered

voters nationwide, reflecting the

last presidential debate last week in which Obama was adjudged the winner by most snap polls. Rasmussen also had Obama above 50 percent, with a 51 to 45

percentlead. Obama's fundraising bonanza is helping him pummel his rival in a nationwide advertising blitz and allowing him to pin down McCain in Republican states, stretching his foe's resources even further.

Carolina that he was "beyond honoured and deeply humbled to have the support of General Colin Powell. Speaking on Fox News Sunday,

McCain said he had "always

The Democrat said in North

admired and respected General "We're long-time friends. This doesn't come as a surprise," the Arizona senator said, touting his endorsement by other former secretaries of state including Henry Kissinger and James Baker.

McCain on Sunday renewed his Melamine

Sultana and Dr Umme Ara, child specialist at national nutrition institute Dr Mukim Ali Biswas, two chemistry department teachers of Dhaka University, and Ziaul Abedin of Plasma Plus, a private labora-

The decision to retest the brands were taken following confusion arising from different test results from different laboratories.

The Dhaka University chemistry department found unacceptable levels of melamine in eight popular brands--Nido fortified instant, Red Cow, Yashili 1, Sweet Baby, Diploma, Anline, Yashili 2 and Dano.

the four brands it tested while the BSTI said it found melamine in Yashili 1. Meanwhile, different women and children organisations yesterday demanded that the government immediately impose restric-

tions on the milk brands found to

Private laboratory Plasma Plus

found the toxic element in one of

be tainted with melamine beyond tolerable level. "The detection of melamine in a few milk-powder brands has endangered the food security of children and the elderly," said a press statement from the Bangladesh National Women

It called for immediate measures against importers of the tainted brands and increasing awareness among people about baby foods.

Lawyers' Association (BNWLA).

Children organisation Shishu Kishore Mela formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the capital demanding punishment to those responsible for mixing melamine in powdered milk and ensuring children's food security, said a press release.

It criticised the government for not showing responsibility regarding the health issue. Sammilito Nari Samaj,

women's rights group, also made similar demands.

Ctg mayor FROM PAGE 16

October 30 for hearing of the case. The court however exempted the mayor from the charges brought in another graft case filed by the Bac.

The case was filed on July 9, 2001 accusing the mayor of embezzling Tk 2.44 lakh from the fund allocated for earth filling work of a CCC graveyard near Pahartali Eye Hospital.

condemnation of Obama's eco-

nomic policies as "socialism" and

warned a rally in Toledo in the key swing state of Ohio that Obama planned to "redistribute wealth" to the "more than 40 percent of Americans" who are too poor to payincome taxes.

In North Carolina, Obama told more than 10,000 supporters that McCain backed tax cuts for wealthy corporate bosses who have driven their companies into the ground.

"If John McCain wants to talk about redistributing wealth to those who don't need it and don't deserve it, let's talk about the 700,000 dollar tax cut he wants to give Fortune 500 CEOs, who've been making out like bandits -some of them literally," he said.

34 Taliban

FROM PAGE 16 ammunition, motorbikes and other vehicles used by the Taliban. Two policemen were wounded.

Last week, Taliban fighters launched several barrages of rocket and mortar fire into Lashkar Gah, which is the capital of Helmand

Suicide bombing kills two German soldiers, five children

A Taliban suicide bomber yesterday killed two German soldiers and five children in northern Afghanistan, the NATO-led force and local officials said.

The force did not give the nationalities of the dead troops but Berlin said earlier that the attack just outside the northern town of Kunduz was against German troops. The provincial governor said the two troops killed were Another soldier and a civilian

were wounded, the International

Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement. The soldiers had been on patrol when they were hit. Kunduz province governor Mohammad Omar, who gave the same toll, said the bomber had

been on a bicycle.

"The blast took place on a main road. This is the work of terrorists. We have arrested two suspects in relation to the incident," he said. A spokesman for the hardline Taliban, Zabihullah Mujahid, told AFP by telephone that the attack

was carried out by one of the militia's men. He claimed a dozen foreign soldiers were killed. It was the second suicide attack 'in' Afghanistan Monday after another bomber blew himself up against an armoured Afghan army

vehicle in the southern town of Lashkar Gah but killed only himself. The attacker, who detonated bombs strapped to his body, appeared to be around 15 years old, Afghan army officer Gul Noor said.

The vehicle was badly damaged.

44 killed

land area from the LTTE," the ministry said in a statement, referring to fighting on Sunday. The main frontlines are cur-

away from Kilinochchi, according to military officials. Sri Lanka's hawkish government -- which pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered truce in January -- said several weeks ago its

rently around 10 to 15 kilometres

troops were poised to capture Kilinochchi. It claimed over the weekend that it had breached the final LTTE defence line protecting the town.

But army units, despite high morale and a wave of public support in the ethnic Sinhalese-majority south, appear to have been held back by dogged rebel resistance and monsoon rains.

Iournalists are not allowed access

to the front lines but pictures

released by the defence ministry Monday showed vehicles bogged down as troops travelled cross country in muddied jungle terrain. Aid officials who had rare access to the region said the Tigers had built network of bunkers and other defences in the area, from where local civilians were evacuated weeks

ago to other LTTE-held parts of the

The casualty figures given yesterday marked the biggest single loss for the security forces since April, when 43 soldiers were killed and 38 reported injured after an offensive on the Jaffna peninsula north of

Since then, the military had moved into rebel-held areas by taking a different route through the northern mainland.

There was no immediate comment from the LTTE, but the prorebel Puthinam.com website said the ethnic rebels had allowed government troops to advance into their territory -- only to hit them with heavyfire.

FROM PAGE 1

election commissioner are repeatedly saying that the parliamentary election will be held on time but they are yet to create a congenial atmosphere for elections," he said. He said they applied for registra-

tion with the Election Commission for the sake of the party's existence despite the 'unjust conditions' imposed by the caretaker govern-Delwar demanded the govern-

ment arrange another round of talks with the four-party alliance. Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad

Mojahid, Islami Oikya Jote Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami, Bangladesh Jativa Party Secretary General Shamim Al Mamun, among others, attended the meeting.

Students clash

FROM PAGE 16 Police Station was injured as the

The situation calmed down

Principals of both the colleges

near that college.

colleges.

five policemen.

POLYTECHNICINSTITUTE

by a national council within six months of the first sitting of the next

giving the highest priority to implementing the decisions.

Submitting the application for

through the liberation war. Jamaat was constitutionally

change of August 15, 1975. Lately, Jamaat's survival was

Constitution of Bangladesh.

heroic battle of the people and freedom fighters."