AP, AFP, Islamabadi Lahore

Pakistan arrested hundreds of opposition activists yesterday and banned protests in two regions ahead of a planned rally outside the parliament that could weaken the already shaky rule of the country's USallied government.

The crackdown by police and intelligence agencies stands to damage the democratic credentials of the ruling party of President Asif Ali Zardari and stoke further anger at the government's one-year-old rule. The opposition, along with lawyers spearheading the planned protest, vowed to presson.

taken toward disastrous circumstances," Nawaz Sharif, the head of the largest opposition party told several thousands supporters at a rally in the Northwest Frontier Province. "We cannot compromise when all the verge of collapse."

Pakistan's most popular opposition leader, Sharif, vowed Wednesday to change the country's destiny as he urged the

FROM PAGE 1

sources said.

law ministry to take steps for

making necessary amend-

ments to the separation of

judiciary bill, committee

authority to take cognisance

of all offences and hold trial

of some offences summarily,

they proposed that amend-

ments are brought to the bill

to reinstate judicial power of

district magistrates, also

deputy commissioners, and

allow executive magistrates

to run mobile courts under

all minor acts and give them

authority to give police

posal, they said it has

become difficult for district

magistrates to maintain law

and order in districts and

implement the development

activities efficiently, sources

They also proposed that

district magistrates are

reinstated in the posts of

justice of peace. Now an

official acting as a judge in

the lowest court of law holds

Now scrutinising the bill

the office of justice of peace.

to introduce laws on separa-

tion of the judiciary, the

committee will sit today

again to decide whether it

will entertain any proposal

committee Chairman and AL

lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta

said the committee is con-

sidering the admin cadres'

proposal for reinstating their

authority to take cognisance

members after the meeting

After Monday's meeting,

of the admin cadres.

of offences for trial.

said quoting the proposal.

In defence of the pro-

administration directives.

In addition to getting back

and join a nationwide protest.

"Today is a defining moment in gizing the protest movement further. Pakistan's history. We can change the descrossroads today and it is your duty to save it," Sharif told a rally in the northwestern town Abbottabad.

The upheaval comes as nuclear-armed Pakistan is grappling to contain surging violence by al-Qaeda and the Taliban and fix an economy that functions only because of support from international lenders. It could lead to a political deadlock and even some form of intervention by the country's powerful military, which has "I cannot rest when Pakistan is being often seized power in the past following ists had been arrested there under a law chaotic civilian rule.

and two other smaller groupings are demanding Zardari fulfil a pledge to released them after a short time. restore a group of judges fired by former institutions are ruined and the system is on President Pervez Musharraf in 2007. Zardari is refusing to do so, apparently fearing they could try to limit his power or the movement which helped bring reopen corruption cases against him.

Last month, the Supreme Court banned would not falter.

of activists, bans rallies masses to defy a government clampdown Sharif and his brother from elected office, enraging the leader's followers and ener-

> The protesters have vowed to gather in tiny of this country. Pakistan stands at a cities around the country on Thursday before leaving for the capital, Islamabad, where they plan to stage a sit-in at the parliament buildinguntil their demands are met.

But public gatherings were banned in Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province and Sharif's stronghold, and Sindh, home to the country's largest city of Karachi, the home secretaries in both provinces said.

Rao Iftikhar, the home secretary in Punjab, said "around" 300 political activthat allows for six months imprisonment. Pakistan's feisty lawyers, Sharif's party Past governments have often rounded up activists to weaken demonstrations and

Aitzaz Ahsan, a lawyer's movement leader, said he believed "hundreds" of lawyers had been arrested, but insisted down the government of Musharraf

Shahbaz urges officials to defy unconstitutional orders

ANI, ahore

Sacked Punjab Chief Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shahbaz Sharif has urged security personnel and officials to defy all unconstitutional orders of the PPP- led coalition government.

Talking to media persons at his Raiwind residence, Sharif said the proposed lawyers protest march would receive an overwhelming response from the people of Pakistan.

He challenged the Zardari administration to stop people from protesting against the government's unlawful methods and policies.

Compressor

FROM PAGE 16

day (mmcfd) for free as majority shareholder. This means Bibiyana gas would become very cheap for Petrobangla,

On February 26, Chevron proposed to the authorities of court as the SC verdict that it would install a comthat it would not be easy for clearly asked for complete pressor at Muchai, but the government must give a goahead within March 14 Otherwise, the fund earcreate division between the marked for this project would cism as their demands judiciary and the executive is be diverted to some other schemes. The proposal undermined the Supreme completely unwarranted in addressed to the director, PSC such a difficult time of the of Petrobangla, was also for warded to the energy adviser In the Masder Hossain the BDR headquarters," he to the prime minister and the GTCL, among others.

To install this compressor, Chevron will also install a 800 metre-long pipeline with a diameter of 12 inch at a cost of \$1.5 million . With this pipeline, gas supply from Bibiyana can be increased by 60-80 million cubic feet a day, said a source in Chevron.

Increasing gas production further from Bibiyana would not damage the gas structure, he claimed. "New data shows the field can sustain larger production without damage.

Meanwhile, Petrobangla last week held a meeting to review GTCL's bid for the compressor stations. It noted that the GTCL drew two offers -- ABB of Italy sought \$256 million excluding 8.5 percent tax while Hyundai of South Korea \$149.7 million including tax. But the estimate for this project, prepared by an international consultant in 2006, is only \$55 million. The GTCL, which is also floating tenders for four gas transmis-

sion pipelines, needs addi

tional funds for the job. The Petrobangla board spelled out some options as alternatives for the compressors by prioritising the pipeline projects. At the bottom of this list of options later sent to the energy ministry for further directives, Petrobangla oddly mentioned the Chevron proposal. "This is odd because this document is about the GTCL project and Chevron is a

PSC operator," said a source. "However, as the PSC does not allow such an installation, the government probably could not reach a decision about it within Chevron's deadline expiring on March 14. We shall need time," said a

Petrobangla source. "Again, we should also consider that the pipeline belongs to the GTCL. If a station is installed there, Chevron would become a party to the control of gas supply system. It has already become the dominant gas supplier in the

country," headded. The idea of Chevron's compressor station was first tabled a few months back at the level of the Technical Financial Committee under the PSC for Block-12. The committee flatly rejected it saying it is out of Chevron's jurisdiction. Later, the Joint Monitoring Committee--the apex body for approval of any schemes under the PSC-- approved it.

Pakistan detains hundreds Crackdown can't foil lawyers' long march

Says Sharif

ANI, AFP, Lahore

Defying the Punjab police ing Lahore. Police was ordered Prime Minister Yousuf Raza crackdown to prevent the to put Nawaz Sharif, Shahbaz Gilani on Wednesday to "calm lawyers' long march, Pakistan Sharif, Qazi Hussain Ahmed political tensions" after dozens Muslim League-Nawaz chief and Imran Khan under house of people were arrested ahead Nawaz Sharif has left for arrest. Abbottabad where he is public rally.

government against leaders of sources said. the opposition.

not be able to foil lawyers' long bers and PML-N leaders would British High Commission march and sit-in which is overpower all the barriers, and spokeswoman Jennifer Wilkes being struggled in wake of would successfully make their told AFP. restoration of judiciary and way to Islamabad for the long supremacy of law in Pakistan," march and sit-in.

launched a crackdown against address in Abbottabad.

lawyers and PML-N leaders in several Punjab districts includ- diplomat in Pakistan met

expected to address a huge out on homes and offices of to Pakistan, Robert Brinkley, Jamat-e-Islami workers, PML- held talks with Gilani as the The PML-N sources claimed N's members of the Punjab mission said it was "very conthat Sharif strongly condemned assembly, but all succeeded to cerned" about the reported the crackdown launched by the flee and have gone in to hiding, arrests.

"These house-arrests will unity of Jamaat-e-Islami mem- to calm political tensions,"

Meanwhile, Britain's top of an opposition rally.

Several raids were carried British High Commissioner

"Robert Brinkley met the Sharif reportedly said the prime minister today in a bid

The high commission said it was "very concerned by The News quoted Sharif, as Nawaz Sharif is expected to reports of arrests of opposition announce his party's future politicians and activists in rapid disintegration of the On Wednesday, police course of action during his Islamabad and across Punjab province.

Lincoln's watch carried 'secret' war message

AFP, Washington

Long-defined by his role guiding the United States through its Civil War (1861-1865), Abraham Lincoln even had a pocket watch that bore an inscription about the conflict -- although the president likely never saw it.

Historians have uncovered a secret message engraved by a watch repairman 150 years ago inside Lincoln's timepiece, shortly after his inauguration and the opening salvo the CivilWar.

The message notes the April 1861 attack on Fort Sumter, a battle that triggered the bloody northagainst-south war that killed more than 600,000 people.

Uncovered by the Washington-based Smithsonian Institution, the message may reflect concern about the Union after Lincoln's election in November 1860.

hold trial of offences.

Talking to The Daily Star day said the admin cadres'

The first directive says, country's stability. It will be

"The judicial service is a unfortunate if parliament

service of the Republic attempts to override the

within the meaning of article Supreme Court verdict on

152 (1), but it is fundamen- separation of judiciary,

tally and structurally distinct Malik said referring to the

and separate from the civil parliamentary body's

executive and administrative Monday meeting that enter-

services of the Republic with tained the admin cadres'

Following the SC verdict, separation of judiciary."

2007 during the tenure of the amendment to it," said

ceased to have effect on appointed as assistant com-

Later, the government nirbahi officers are consid-

After the separation of may appoint as many as

placed a new bill in the ered as executive magis-

yesterday another commit- demands verge on contempt

the committee to respond to separation of judiciary.

When contacted eminent

"The step which will

nation after the carnage at

be helpful for democracy or

"Such a division will not

Talking to The Daily Star

yesterday Abdul Matin

Khasru, a member of the

committee, however said,

"We should not do anything

that could ignore the

Supreme Court verdict on

the bill without brining any

Matin, also former law min-

of judiciary, all admin cadres

missioners, additional dep-

uty commissioners, upazila

Besides, the government

Following the separation

"I am in favour of passing

jurist Shahdeen Malik yester-

Handout picture released by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Defence on Tuesday, shows troops inspecting weapons and dead bodies of Tamil Tiger rebels recovered following heavy weekend battles in the north-eastern district of Mullaittivu. The military claimed that over 250 Tamil Tiger rebels were killed and as many weapons recovered after beating back several attempts by the guerrillas to overrun security force positions.

Admin vying for sweeping

executive magistrates'

authority to take cognisance

tee member however hinted

the admin cadres' proposal

in the wake of growing criti-

Court verdict on separation

gave a 12-point directive on

cannot be placed on par on

any account and it cannot be

amalgamated, abolished,

replaced, mixed up and tied

together with the civil execu-

tive and administrative

the separation of judiciary

took effect on November 1,

immediate past caretaker

government that promul-

gated two ordinances to this

effect. But the ordinances

February 25 as they were not

told The Daily Star that they judiciary, the administrative executive magistrates it

agreed to recommend that cadres lost their magistracy thinks fit from civil adminis-

ratified in parliament.

services."

separation of judiciary.

case, the Supreme Court said.

which the judicial service proposals.

of offences.

of judiciary.

Terror struck back at its buster

FROM PAGE 1

when the killings began inside the Pilkhana Headquarters around 9:00am.

Soon after the massacre coupled with a hostage situation where a few hundred people remained inside Pilkhana, rescuers found as many as 74 bodies and traced 51 army officers among them. But Gulzar was on the

missing list.

There were five unidentified bodies rescued from mass graves or sewers. These bodies bear the marks of severe brutality. Only a DNA test could confirm who is who. Gulzar's family could not say if one of those bodies was his.

Organic samples from these bodies were collected and close relatives of the missing army officers also gave blood samples for the DNA testing. Samples were cross-checked with Gulzar's 14-year-old daughter Zahin Tasnia's genetic imprint.

On Tuesday, two of the DNA test results popped up, one identifying Lt Col Elahi Monjur Chowdhury and the other Gulzar.

Gulzar's mutilated body was wrongly identified initially by another family and then his body was kept at the Combined Military Hospital. Sources say everyone is now confused whether his body was recovered from the sewers or a mass grave.

Sources say the killers smashed his body. "Some of his relatives were too afraid to see the decomposing, ruined body," says a rescuer. "Those who saw his body

said his eyes might have been gouged out; his spinal cord was broken and his body bears the mark of terrible torture. was unreachable, he says. Apparently, he was killed by gunshots," the rescuer adds.

face was bloated. "It was impossible for anyone to recognise him from seeing that face."

mutiny degenerated into a bloodbath inside the BDR HQ,

Gulzar had no time to call his bullets that killed three passfamily. He last saw his family members at his Dhaka home earlier that morning.

In a frantic bid to resist the "mutineers", Gulzar called his former colleagues at the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) repeatedly, seeking help. "He called me around

9:30am saying that random gunshots are being fired inside Pilkhana and that we should do something immediately," recalls Col Rezanur Rahman Khan, additional director general (ADG) of Rab, who replaced Gulzar in late January. By then we already

received news about the incidents and were mobilising our assignments. Of them, the troops. We were on the move most important was spearand I think I told him that we heading the investigation and unparallel," Khan says. were already mobilising our operation against the Islamist men," Khan says. "I have militants and terrorists. heard Gulzar called some other officers too." Rab Deputy Director in-

charge of Bomb Squad Maj Momtajur Rahman is one such officer who spoke to Gulzar by phone

"Around 9:40am, upon learning about the incident I called him. He told me: 'Bring in two platoons and make an armed followers. advance, these people will escape.' Gulzar had said they [the killers] don't seem to be organised," said Rahman, who assured him of Rab's move.

"He called me back around 10:10am for a fast move. I asked him what condition he was in. He said he was lying on the floor of the Darbar Hall [where the killing had begun]," Rahman added. That was the last call.

Rahman ranghim back many times, but the calls went unanswered. At one point, the phone

its forces around 10:30am A family member said his near Pilkhana. The army also sent out troops around 12noon. But neither Rab, nor the army could enter the HQ

ers-by. CAREER When Rab was formed on

March 26, 2004, Gulzar took charge of the commanding officer of Rab-3 on deputation January. from the Bangladesh Army.

sensational case was handling the grenade attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury in May 2004. Gulzar was a member of the Week. He and 11 other sector government committee commanders took part in it. formed to investigate the None of them survived.

appointed the head of the Intelligence Unit of Rab from where he took up several major

He played a major role in investigation into all other major terror attacks.

Gulzar led the drive against Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) terrorists and succeeded in detecting and arresting the dreaded Bangla Bhai, JMB chief Shaekh Abdur Rahman and their

He also spearheaded the drive against Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji), one of the largest Islamist militant groups found to be involved with the many bomb attacks, including the grenade attack on Sheikh Because of his knowledge

about the militants' network, Gulzar was a revered name in the country's lawenforcement and defence agencies.

At the end of 2006, Gulzar was promoted to colonel and then transferred to BDR. On that day, Rab mobilised However, within the first one or two months of Fakhruddin Ahmed's caretaker govern- bullets. ment, he was brought back to Rab as an additional DG.

As the Awami League govas the killers had taken advan- ernment's explicit commit-On February 25, when the tageous position by the gates ments include a fight against to leave. and behind walls and were terrorism and religious ruthlessly firing machinegun extremists, it was expected come back.

that the government would benefit from Gulzar's skills and knowledge on the matter.

But he was transferred to BDR as the commander of Sylhet Sector at the end of

After a brief vacation, he As a Rab officer, his first joined BDR on February 3. As per the convention, all sector commanders should join the conference at the Darbar Hall on the occasion of the BDR

Col Rezanur Rahman Khan In 2005, Gulzar was believes Gulzaris a "legend" in the anti-terrorist and antimilitant drives. His skill, professionalism, knowledge and sincerity are beyond question. "His commitment was

"We are taking his absence as a challenge. We will continue the task he has left the country with and we will uphold what he was trying to do," Khan adds.

Rab DG Hasan Mahmood Khandaker says: "He was all along a resourceful and professional officer in regards to militancy, terrorism or any heinous acts. He was honest down to the core."

"Gulzar had a high standard of commitment. His absence is a great loss for the nation," Chowdhury adds.

Gulzar's father Anwar Uddin Ahmed was a civil servant working at the Ordnahce Factory in Gazipur under the defence ministry. On April 4, 1971, the

Pakistan army picked up Ahmed along with around 20-25 officers of the factory along with their families. They were brought to the parliament area in Dhaka.

The Pakistani army then separated the men from their families to kill them in a hail of

The Pakistani forces told the families that the men had been kept with the army for questioning and asked them

Anwar Uddin had never



Vacancy Announcement

Promotion of Development and Confidence **Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts**



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancies for the following position for "UNDP-Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility" under "Service Contract" modality. The duration of the contract is one year initially and subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance.

- 1. Deputy Director
- 2. QIF Associate
- 3. District Community Mobilization Expert
- 4. District Agriculture Expert
- 5. District Community Empowerment Officer
- 6. District Livestock Expert
- 7. District Fisheries Expert

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs. Hard copies of the TOR's can be collected from UNDP-CHTDF Offices of Dhaka, Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. Applications should be submitted no later than March 25, 2009.

"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants" "Women are strongly encouraged to apply "



Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO) House # 3, Road # 24, Block-K, Banani Model Town, Dhaka-1213.

House for continuation of trates.

Corrigendum

The Experience and Resources Criteria of the Consulting Firm on Expression of Interest (EOI) invited for providing consultancy services in preparing reports and recommendations to meet up power shortage in DESCO against Ref. No.: DESCO/Procurement/Local Tender/2009/115; dated- March 02, 2009, are hereby revised as follows:

- 1. Ref: Experience and Resources Criteria-1
- Replace: "ten (10) years" by "three (03) years"
- 2. Ref: Experience and Resources Criteria-4 Replace: "Average Annual" by "Aggregate"

One of the committee separation of judiciary.

the House reinstate the including the authority to tration.

Revised Marking Criteria for Short-Listing may be collected from the office of the undersigned.

All other contents of the EOI Notice shall remain unchanged.

Khandaker Najibul Alam March 11, 2009 Memo No. DESCO/Procurement/2009/136 Manager (Procurement & CM), DESCO