Khaleda to get

FROM PAGE 1

Khaleda Zia will be requested to leave the house within a specific period of time, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said.

He said if Khaleda Zia does not leave the house as per terms of the notice, then the law will take its own course.

He made the comments while talking to reporters after holding a three-hour long closed door meeting with the attorney general, additional attorney general, cabinet secretary, defence secretary and former director of Cantonment Board at his secretariat office vesterday afternoon. State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam was present at the meeting.

Barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon, a lawmaker and counsel for Khaleda, told The Daily Star yesterday that they will file a writ petition on behalf of Khaleda Zia with the High Court challenging the legality of the government's decision to cancel the allotment of her cantonment house.

He also said that they have already prepared the writ petition and it will be moved immediately after the government serves the notice.

On April 8, the government cancelled allotment of the house due to 'a number of anomalies regarding the allotment within the military zone'.

The law minister said there is no legal base for Khaleda Zia occupying the nine bighas of land in the cantonment area. "No authority even the government does not have the power to allot the cantonment house to any individual as per rules of the Cantonment Act 1924," he

will be in the possession of the government as per the law, he revenge.

New Market police said sepoy

Ashraful Alam, 26, of battal-

ion-13 committed suicide at

Sunday night by hanging

himself from the ventilator of

a bathroom with a gamchha

Police said he had fled the

Pilkhana during the mutiny

and later joined the headquar-

Pilkhana carnage while four

others were placed on a

fourday fresh remand for

shown arrested in the case.

interrogation and five were

Julfikar Hayat and Moazzem

Hossain recorded statements

of sepoys Mizanur Rahman

and Rafiqul Islam after the

investigation officer (IO) of the

case produced them before

Haque, Riaz Ahmed, Rafiqul

the four-day remand order for

Assistant Superintendent of

Islam and Zakir Hossain.

back to jail.

Metropolitan Magistrates ments.

(traditional towel).

Another BDR man

Meanwhile, two more BDR Moniruzzaman, Abdul

jawans yesterday confessed to Mannan, Habibur Rahman

their involvement in the and Bidhan Chandra Saha

Shafique Ahmed said quoting a resolution of the cabinet meeting held on June 12, 1981, that Khaleda Zia had earlier once refused to take the cantonmenthouse.

The cabinet at that meeting had recommended allocating a plot for Khaleda Zia at Gulshan or any other place in Dhaka, he

He said the cantonment house was allocated to Khaleda as a private citizen, not as BNP chairperson. There was no scope of doing politics in the cantonment residence, he said.

The law minister put a question on why a political party (BNP) has become aggrieved following the government's decision to cancel the allotment of lease of the cantonment house, as the land was not given to her to carry out politics.

The government has not cancelled the allotment from any envious view. Khaleda Zia should leave the house following the dictates of conscience,

The law minister said they are examining the laws regarding the allotment of houses in the cantonment and they will take necessary steps, if they face any legal difficulty in implementing the decision.

While asked about allotment of Gonobhaban to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he refused to make any comment saying 'that is a closed chapter'.

The government has to amend the Cantonment Act-1924 for giving a cantonment house to any individual, Shafique said.

On a query he said, the The land belongs to the decision to cancel the house government and that is why it lease was taken on the basis of existing laws and not to take

Criminal Investigation

Department (CID) produced

fiveday remand on comple-

tion of their five-day remand.

persons to jail. They are

Pulock Kanti Mallick, Rafigul

Islam, Lutfor Rahman, two

civilians -- Sujan Chowdhury

and Ajmat Ali; Four sepoys--

were shown arrested and later

With yesterday's two, 30

jawans and civilians had so far

given confessional state-

they were sent to jail.

The IO prayed for a fresh

The same court sent five

them before his court.

UNSC to adopt censure statement on

The UN Security Council was expected to adopt a formal statement Monday, rebuking North Korea for its long-range rocket launch and calling for a tightening of existing sanctions against Pyongyang.

agreed Saturday in closed-door talks among the five permanent members of the council --Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- plus Japan and was later submitted to the 10 non-permanent council members.

Mexico's UN Ambassador Claude Heller, the council chair this month, told reporters that the compromise text submitted by his US counterpart, Susan Rice, at an impromptu meeting of the 15-member body, "is an excellent basis for a consensual and clear message

ing was scheduled for Monday afternoon "to approve the statement" that had been sought by Japan.

the Security Council acts in a very unified manner," he added. "I hope this goal will be achieved on Monday with a formal adoption of this draft." Rice told reporters she

hoped the Council would adopt the statement "to send a very clear message to North Korea that what they have done launch is in fact a violation of their obligations and indeed that there are consequences for such actions."

also called for the council "to adjust the measures imposed in Resolution 1718 to include a tightening of existing sanctions against designated North Korean entities.

nated "would be subject to an asset freeze and the goods will be prohibited to be transferred to or from the DPRK," Rice said.

A Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a number of North Korean companies were to have their assets frozen by the end of the

Resolution 1718 provided for the creation of a Security Council panel to monitor sanctions against Pyongyang, but the commission was never activated so as not to jeopardize the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear disar-

The proposed statement, which falls short of a UN resolution that carries more weight, would also condemn last launch, "which is in contravention of Security Council

That resolution, adopted in 2006 after North Korea's nuclear and missile tests, bars Pyongyang from conducting

Mastermind

FROM PAGE 16

detained Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) commander Mufti Hannan, was arrested at a flat in Ashwini Nagar of Baguihati of North 24 Parganas district of West Department (CID) said. During the hearing of the

crossed over to India five years ago and was running an umbrella shop in Baguihati area, our New Delhi correspondent reports.

reports that he had undergone plastic surgery on his face, the CID said it was yet to be veri-

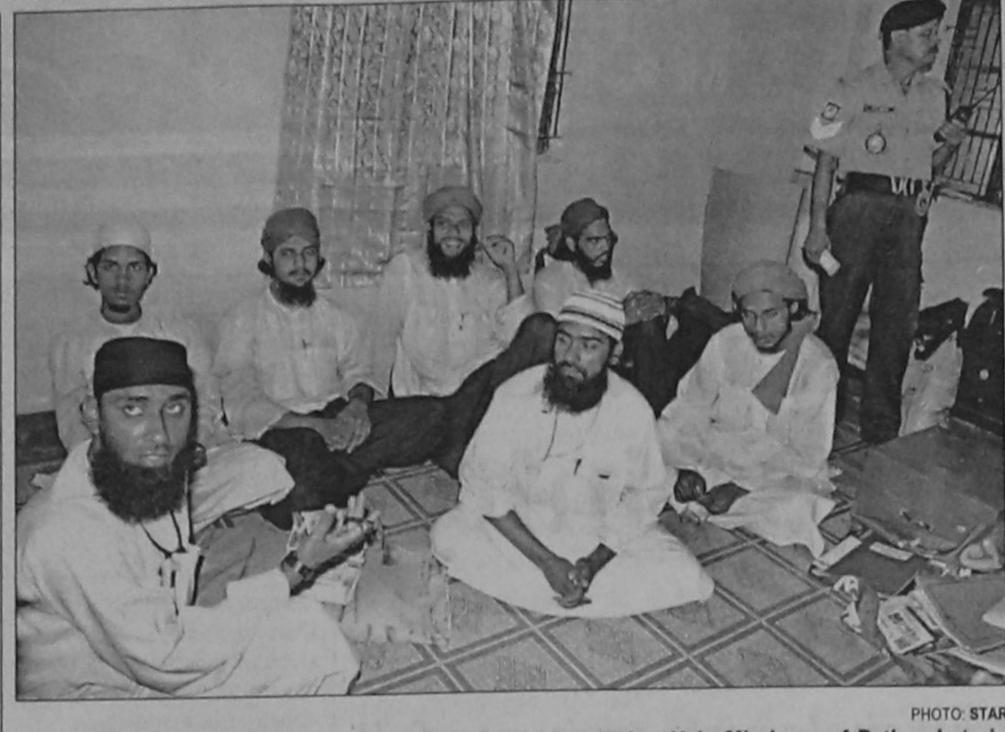
"We have taken him in custody and are interrogating | Police Station -- one for murhim," sources in the CID said.

Asked whether he was involved in any kind of antisocial activities in India, they said so far there is no such report but it can be ascertained with certainty only

after his interrogation. Mufti Ibrahim alias Munshi Ibrahim hails from Hiron in Kotalipara upazila of Gopalganj district, a correspondent in Gopalganj reports.

He was allegedly an accomplice of Mufti Hannan in his attempt to kill the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her entourage cabinet ministers and military and civil officials by planting two powerful bombs at Kotalipara on July 23, 2000. He is a fugitive in two

Locals and police claimed Ibrahim studied in Deoband Madrasa in India. He went to Afghanistan via Pakistan and participated in the war in Afghanistan, they claimed.



A number of suspected militants of Dawat-e-Islami arrested at Naju Mia Lane of Patharghata in Chittagong yesterday.

Tipaimukh Dam

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1

whenever we feel. We feel that many of the issues that we might have had difficulties with in the past are now coming right to a situation where we can move forward."

Foreign ministry sources said this is for the first time an Indian foreign secretary came to Bangladesh without prior announcement and in such a short notice.

The diplomatic circle in Dhaka also expressed their astonishment, as they knew nothing in advance about such a high profile visit. Not only the media, officials in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the foreign ministry were also unaware of Menon's possible visit, the sources said.

An official of the foreign ministry wishing anonymity told The Daily Star that there was a violation of protocol. According to the protocol, the Indian foreign secretary should have held official talks with his counterpart first before making courtesy calls on the foreign minister and the PM.

"This time the protocol was violated as the Indian foreign minister was allowed to meet the prime minister first, and then the army chief," said the

When contacted, a spokesman of the Indian High Commission termed Menon's visit a regular one, saying they usually do not make public announcements if anyone comes from India. "It is rather on the host to announce the arrivals of such foreign dignitaries," he added.

At the meeting with Menon, Dipu Moni expressed Dhaka's concerns about the controversial project, lest it eats up Bangladesh's due share of the international River Meghna, which supplies water to hundreds of water bodies in the region.

"They are trying to remove Bangladesh.

Both the prosecution and

the defence had earlier com-

pleted hearing on the charge

framing. The prosecution had

argued that the charges

brought against the accused

were primarily proved and

they be charged with carrying

On the other hand, the

defence argued that the

charges brought against their

clients were false, fabricated

and baseless. So they prayed

for discharging their clients

place during the Pahela

Baishakh celebrations on

April 14, 2001 left 10 people

cases were filed with Ramna

der and the other for posses-

sion and use of explosive

the Criminal Investigation

Department (CID) pressed

charges against Huji chief

Mufti Abdul Hannan and 13

others for committing the

Mohammad Yusuf, investiga-

tion officer (IO) in both the

cases, submitted the charge

sheets to the Court of Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate,

Dhaka showing 84 people as

accused are Arif Hasan Suman

alias Abdur Razzak, Moulana

Akbar Hossain alias

Helaluddin, Shahadat Ullah

alias Jewel, Moulana Abu

Taher, Moulana Abdur Rauf,

Moulana Mohammad

Tajuddin, Moulana Abdul

Hannan Sabbir, Moulana

The other charge-sheeted

prosecution witnesses.

CID Inspector Abu Hena

On December 30 last year,

Following the carnage, two

dead and scores injured.

The bloodbath that took

out the grenade attack.

from the charges.

substances.

heinous offence.

FROM PAGE 1

against the accused.

our concerns about the Tipaimukh Dam. He told me that Bangladesh should send a delegation comprising technical and political people to see the project firsthand," Touhid Hossain told reporters following his meeting with Menon.

He said through the proper forum Bangladesh will take a decision regarding the invitation.

"On water, for instance, there were some concerns expressed and I said we would be very happy to receive a delegation from Bangladesh, to show them exactly what is happening, what we planned,' Menon told reporters after he met Dipu Moni, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud, and the foreign secretary.

"What we planned is a river project which will not affect the down stream flow at all, Menon said adding, "This is a part of the on going dialogue between friends, between neighbours, it is natural, we will keep discussing the issues finding ways forward."

He said security was also one of the issues he discussed with Dipu Moni. "We discussed it in all the conversations, about how important it is for both Bangladesh and India. And this is something that is in our common interest, that we eliminate terrorism from our region, and that we do this together. So, we will continue to work together in that direc-

The Indian foreign secretary left Dhaka last night.

India in 2003 initiated the move to construct a dam over the cross-boundary River Barak which enters Bangladesh through Sylhet region ultimately meeting the Meghna. It started the construction work by the end of last year without consulting

7 held in Ctg for 'link with militancy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police and Rab in a raid held seven members of Pakistanbased Islamic organisation Dawat-e-Islami from Patharghata area yesterday 'on suspicion of their link with militant activities. They are Sohel Tahery,

Mozammel Attary, Kalimullah Qadery, Mahmudul Hasan alias Mehmud Attary, Boshar Attary, Nurul Azim Attary and Faruk Attary. Acting on a tip-off, police

and Rab men raided Najumia Lane of Patharghata at about 12:00 noon and detained them from a flat. Nine passports, four com-

puters, one scanner and one printer, a number of CDs and VCDs, several booklets and leaflets on teaching of Islam and some documents were also seized during the raid.

However, no document related to militancy was found in the seized items till examining of those items at 4pm, police said.

DC (North) of CMP Banaj Kumar Mazumdar said they were held 'on suspicion of their involvement in militant activi-

Claiming the organisation truly religious-based organisation, arrestee Nurul Azim said the organisation started its activities in Bangladesh in 1985 and now covers 22 districts of the country and around 70 countries.

On July 7, 2006, police arrested ten members of the organisation, including a Pakistani citizen, from Jhalakathi district but they were released later, DC Banaj said referring to a document, seized vesterday.

rented the flat 13 months back while they used to speak about Islam in a nearby mosque every Thursday.

days. But, we have achieved success in bringing down the prices of essentials and changing political culture," he told reporters at his office after a meeting with Chinese

like extortion and establishing supremacy.

"I cannot say there is no involvement of BCL activists in it," he said assuring that the government would identify

Replying to a question, Faruk said they think the trial of war criminals, reining in militants and improvement in law and order situation are some of the big challenges the

government faces. The minister said a parliamentary body and Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) would investigate all irregularities and corruption, as there was no virtual investi-

move in the last two years... whatever done that was done against politicians and democracy."

the irregularities in the ACC in the last two years. "No one, not even influen-

tial people, would be spared when it comes to corruption. There is no scope to keep them out of investigation," the minister also said.

the Awami League-led grand alliance government, Faruk said the activities of the government in its first three months are much better than any previous government.

Pahela Baishakh

and despair, thousands of men, women and children in traditional colourful clothes throng Ramna Batamul and other programme venues in the capital and elsewhere in the country to celebrate the first day of Bangla year.

A three-tier security system has been put in place at the traditional centres of celebration around Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Udyan and Dhaka University (DU) campus.

Around 10,000 members of police, Rab and Detective Branch of police will keep vigil roundthe-clock at the venues to ward offanyuntoward incident.

About 80 close circuit TVs have been installed at various places while 29 check posts and eight archways have been set up to ensure security.

After visiting Ramna Park vesterday, the minister and state minister for home affairs and the chiefs of law enforcement agencies expressed their satisfaction over the security measures taken in and around the park.

Rab said a total of 6,500 Rab members have been deployed across the country. Of them, 3,500 are deployed in the capital.

Ten people were killed and scores injured in a bomb attack on a Pahela Baishakh function at Ramna Batamulin 2001.

Thousands of people gather at Ramna Udyan where the artistes of cultural organisation Chhavanaut sing the traditional Pahela Baishakh song of Rabindranath Tagore -- "Esho hey Baishakh esho esho"-- to welcome the Bangla new year.

Institute of Fine Arts brings out Mangal Shobhajatra, a colourful procession, from the institute gate in the morning. Besides, cultural functions are to be held at Ramna Udyan, Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University (DU) and elsewhere in the capital. People from all walks of life

mill around Baishakhi Mela (fair) -- a major feature of Bangla New Year celebration. They have Panta Bhat and fried hilsha with lentils and green chillies at home and Baishakh gatherings. The day is a public holiday.

Numerous social, political and cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to celebrate the Bangladesh Betar and all

television channels air special

JS probe

"Violating the rules of maintaining district quota, he [Sircar] gave his own explanation in appointing employees in parliament like the way he illegally drew medical bill after being refused twice by the then prime minister Khaleda Zia," Rabbi added. The committee revealed

that the former speaker increased the number of employees of Parliament Secretariat to 1,001 from 778.

The committee also found that during his seven-year tenure, the former speaker directly appointed a total of 341 employees to the Parliament Secretariat.

"We have formed three subcommittees for thoroughly verifying different allegations brought against him," Rabbi said, adding that chief of a subcommittee Mujibul Haq Chunnu will deal with the appointment issue, chief Shahjahan Khan will look into the purchase and arboriculture allegations and Brig Gen (retd) SK Abu Baker will examine the medical bill issue.

Talking about the note former speaker gave for violating the district quotas, Fazle Rabbi said, "I think meritbased appointment should be applied in stead of district quota system.

When asked about the former speaker's claim that he was the supreme authority to make decision and run activities of the House, Rabbi said as per law Sircar cannot write the notes he had written for his different activities.

programmes while newspapers publish special supplements.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police said the roads stretching from Sheraton crossing to Hare Road-Kakrail crossing, from Shahbagh to Matsya Bhaban, from Nilkhet crossing to Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University, from Plassey intersection to Doyel Chattar via Shaheed Minar and Bakshi Bazar to TSC crossing via Jagannath Hall are off-limits to vehicles.

The Bangla year beginning with Baishakh was introduced during the rule of Mughal Emperor Akbar from 1556-

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages yesterday greeted the nation on the occasion of Bangla New Year.

The president said, "Pahela Baishakh is a unique day for nurturing our everlasting tradition.

He hoped that the Bangla New Year will 'unite us in all aspects of life and also be the harbinger of joy for all'. Sheikh Hasina said the

Bangla New Year's influence on the lives of Bangalees is diversified. She prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the people who were crippled in the Ramna Batamul bomb blast in 2001.

Hasina asserted that the government would bring the culprits to book through conducting fresh investigation into the bomb blast.

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said the New Year is an integral part of the national culture and urged all to play their respective roles for upholding Bangla culture in the world arena.

BCL leaders

FROM PAGE 16 academic atmosphere of Dhaka University (DU).

Rab-2 personnel and the elite force intelligence wing jointly arrested BCL Organising Secretary Ashraful Rahman and its International Affairs Secretary Sohel Rana Mithu at a house in the city's Moghbazar around 2:30am, said Director of Legal and Media Wing of Rab

Commander SMAK Azad Ashraful and Mithu were arrested on allegation of disrupting academic atmosphere on DU campus and making

chaos in BCL, said Rab officials. Adherents of Ashraful and Mithu had been demonstrating on the campus against Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's decision of stepping down from the organisational chief position. They demanded reconsid-

eration of her abdication. They also demanded resignation of BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon and its General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton.

As the news of the arrests reached DU campus, adherents of Ashraful and Mithu brought out a procession around 3:30am by forcefully awaking resident students of several dormitories. They demanded immediate release of the arrestees.

Campus sources said the procession headed towards Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique's office but drew back beholding huge deployment of police in front of the office. Talking to The Daily Star

some of the protesters alleged that top BCL leaders of DU had Ashraf and Mithu arrested as part of a conspiracy. Additional Director General of Rab Col Rezanur Rahman

Khan told The Daily Star that Ashraful and Mithu were arrested based on specific information of an attempt to create disruption on the cam-He also said law enforce-

ment agencies are keeping an eye on campus situation and would take action if someone tried to create violence there.

Rab officials handed the arrestees over to Ramna police around 7:15pm, Officer-in-Charge of Ramna Police Station Shibli Noman told The Daily Star.

Faisal's JMB link

being grilled by the Task Force Intelligence in the capital.

FROM PAGE 1

"With a PhD in chemistry, detained. Faisal has vast knowledge about how to make bombs. He can also make bullets. We suspect JMB cadres might have been taught the skills," another investigator told The Daily Star in return for anonymity.

About Faisal's relations with Shaekh Rahman, the sleuth said, "We have proof that the ex-JMB chief and Faisal met several times. Abdur Rahman even tried to visit the UK with Faisal's help."

Investigators said they believe the British chemist, who had faced terror charges in the UK twice, might even have been providing funds and logistical support for JMB to regroup.

Police filed two cases against 11 people in connection with the arms seizure at the Green Crescent madrasa. Of the accused, seven including the madrasa's caretaker Mohiuddin are still at large.

Initially, Faisal was not made accused in either of the cases.

He was shown arrested in

the case filed under the arms and explosives act following a court statement of one of those During a recent visit to

Borhanuddin and Doulatkhan, where Green Crescent runs a clinic and has its office, locals told this correspondent about some dubious activities in the name of charity. Though the NGO has no school in Doulatkhan upazila,

it has assembled a group of 35 poor children from local primary and high schools and put them through a physical training regimen. Its Office Secretary Humayun Ahmed would be

present at the exercise sessions and motivate the children not to watch television, said a class IV student of Uttar Char Khalipha Government Primary School. People from different dis-

tricts would come to work for Green Crescent in Daulatkhan and Borhanuddin. Around 25 foreign nation-

als, mostly Pakistan-born British citizens, visited the area since the NGO began operating there in 1999.

SQ Chy, Ruhul Amin

FROM PAGE 16

yesterday. andidacies of Salahuddin vitsigned by him.

polls. however accepted their applications. Their rival candidates filed appeal with the EC challenging this.

from Chittagong-2 constituency, mentioned in the affidano educational qualification.

eighth parliament.

Moreover, 13 more BDR jawans were sent to Pilkhana yesterday from battalion-41 at Satkhira and battalion-1 in Sundarban. The soldiers were taken

the court. Later they were sent first to Khulna sector headquarters and then sent to The jawans who were Dhaka with police escort, remanded are sepoys Obaidul sources said. Contacted, Deputy

Assistant Director (DAD)

Metropolitan Magistrate Mahbubur Rashid of battalion-41 confirmed it. Faisal Atiq Bin Kader passed Earlier, around 2,00 jawans were sent to Dhaka from four jawans after Senior different BDR camps across

Police Abdul Kahar Akand of the country.

"We will write to the speaker informing him that both the lawmakers were disqualified for contesting the election, and are now ineligible to continue as members of parliament if they fail to submit copies of their educational certificates within the time (May 31)," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda told journalists

As per the Representation of the People Order (RPO), and Ruhul Amin were supposed to be cancelled as they did ..ot submit attested copies of their educational certificates along with the applications seeking to contest the

Salauddin, who contested

vit signed by him that he had He gave incorrect information since he obtained BA (Hons) in political science from Punjab University in Pakistan. His educational qualification was mentioned in a book published by the parliament secretariat on the biography of lawmakers of

Barisal-6 constituency, stated he obtained BA (Hons) in the national election.

public administration from Dhaka University but he could not provide copy of his certifi-

cate as he had lost it.

appeals, Salauddin pledged to submit copy of his certificate as soon as possible, EC officials said. Similarly, Ruhul Amin also

pledged to submit copy of his

certificate as early as possible.

Talking to journalists on

the EC Secretariat premises, the CEC said one must not give false information in the affida-"By providing (attested) copy of certificate of educational qualification, a candidate has to prove what he

claims in the affidavit," Huda

According to Clause (3b) of The returning officers Section 12 of the RPO, every nomination paper shall be delivered along with an affidavit singed by the candidate, which shall include a set of information and particulars including an attested copy of the certificate of his educational qualification.

A person shall be disquali-

fied for election or for being a

member of parliament if he

does not comply with the

provision along with other conditions stipulated in the RPO, it says. EC officials said the commission did not cancel nomination papers of Salauddin and Ruhul Amin on grounds of Ruhul Amin, elected from 'doctrine of political necessity' as it sincerely tried to hold



AFP, United Nations

The non-binding draft was

by the Security Council." He said a new council meet-

"What is important is that

under the guise of a satellite The proposed statement

The entities once desig-

week's North Korean rocket

Resolution 1718.'

missile-related activities.

Mufti Ibrahim, also nephew to

Bengal, sources in the state Crime Investigation Sources said Ibrahim

Although there were

cases filed in this connection.

Ramna blast Badar, Moulana Abu Bakar the Court of Metropolitan alias Selim Hawlader, Mufti Sessions Judge would give the Shafiqur Rahman, Moulana order on charge framing

Yahiya and Mufti Abdul Hye.

Of them, Hannan, Suman,

Jewel, Abu Taher and Rauf are

behind bars, while Akbar is out on a High Court bail. On the other hand, former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu's brother Moulana Tajuddin and seven others are still at Following the incident, Akbar was arrested for his

alleged involvement in the carnage and later gave a confessional statement to a magistrate where he claimed Mufti Hannan was also involved. But the investigation was incomplete even though it

caretaker government came to During investigation, three others including Hannan and Jewel gave confessional statements to magistrates on dif-

The charge sheets say the

Huji members planned the

attack at their headquarters

and Saat Gambuz Mosque,

ferent dates.

received a boost after the

both located in Mohammadpur in the capital. Suman, Jewel, Johnny and Sujan carried the bombs to Ramna Park that day. Posing as decorators, they entered the park through the gate adjacent to the National Tennis Complex at around 4:00am. Johnny detonated the bombs

The charge sheets also say Ramna Batamul, where people pour in to celebrate the Bangla New Year, was chosen as the target because Huji considers Pahela Baishakh revels anti-Islamic. Moulana Tajuddin supplied the grenades. He also

supplied grenades for the

August 21 grenade attacks on

by remote control.

Shawkat Osman alias Sheikh an Awami League rally on

Farid, Hafez Jahangir Alam Bangabandhu Avenue in 2004.

Locals said the members

Govt failed FROM PAGE 16

Ambassador Zhang Xianyi. He said some people are trying to destabilise the campus situation in different ways

them and bring them to book.

gation into corruption in the last two years. "There was no anti-graft

Faruk said the parliamentary body would also look into

Listing the achievements of