Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1 perceived as pervasive.

ranged from 0 to 100.

This year the ranking covered 183 countries measuring 10 components of economic freedom. Score in each category

The components were business freedom, trade freedom, fiscal freedom, government spending, monetary freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom, property rights, freedom from corruption and labour freedom.

In the component business freedom Bangladesh scored 59.4 out of 100. The report said in Bangladesh it requires 44 days on average to start a business while the world average is 35 days. However, obtaining a business license requires less than the world average of 18 procedures.

Bangladesh's score was 58 in trade freedom component. Import and export restrictions, numerous border taxes and fees, burdensome import licencing rules, export subsidies, government monopolies, inefficient and corrupt customs administration, among others, add to the cost of trade in the country, said the report.

Twenty points were deducted from Bangladesh's trade freedom score to account or non-tariff barriers.

In the monetary freedom component where the country

scored 66.6, a total of 15 points were deducted from this component to adjust for pricecontrol measures that distort domestic prices for petroleum products, some pharmaceuticals, and goods produced in state-owned enterprises.

About the financial freedom the report said Bangladesh has made modest progress in recent years in its banking sector adding that the sector is underdeveloped and provides a limited range of banking ser-

Bangladesh's state-owned commercial banks, which account for more than 30 percent of total banking system assets, undermine the sector's efficiency, it said. Bangladesh scored 20 in the financial freedom component.

In the global context Hong Kong, Singapore, and Australia are the top three scorers in the index while North Korea, Zimbabwe and Cuba were top from the bottom.

In South Asian context Bangladesh's position was only above Maldives whose rank is 148th. Bhutan's position was the 103rd, Pakistan's 117th, Sri Lanka's 120th, India's 124th, and Nepal's 130th.

Though Afghanistan was covered in the index, it was not given any score.

told DB that Hakim requested

him to meet them at the club

and when Hannan and Lablu

went there, Hakim and his men

closed the door and beat them

themselves inside a room with

their hands and legs tied. He

said if they were not rescued

they might have been killed

since they knew the kidnappers.

used for abusing drugs and

doing criminal activities and

He said they are trying to find

He said the flat's front door

out who has the allotment of the

was locked and the criminals

in her face, throat, chest and

three people with Shibchar

Police Station in this connec-

where doctors declared her

bus but its driver managed to

Police said they seized the

A case was filed accusing

Acid attack

other parts of her body.

Reckless

flee the scene.

government flat that was used.

Hakim ran the club.

used the back door.

FROM PAGE 16

Sanwar said the club was

Hannan said they found

Two rescued Mouchak Market, and Lablu

unconscious.

flat where the detectives found Hannan and Lablu lying on the floor with their hands and legs tied. They arrested the rest three kidnappers there.

Hannan's wife Mohima Akhter Sraboni told The Daily Star that her husband during their last telephone conversation around 7:30pm Sunday told her that he was going to Fakirerpool and that he would come home around 9:30pm.

She said an anonymous caller demanded Tk 50 lakh ransom around 7:30pm the following day and around 11:00pm the caller raised the ransom to Tk 65 lakh and said, "If you don't pay the full amount you'll get your husband back with fewer limbs."

She said, "As I suspected that the caller might be Hakim, went to Hakim's Gendaria house but he was not there." She said Hakim, a neighbour of her in-laws' in Madaripur, is running from the law in connection with a murder case.

Sanwar said while making calls to Sraboni for ransom. someone at Hakim's end mentioned the name of Shawan. Sraboni reported this to DB Thursday.

Hannan, garment trader of

No law as yet

FROM PAGE 1 measures to translate it into law," Abdul Matin Khasru, chief

law minister, said the sub-

committee is also examining

whether a body headed by the

chief justice can be formed

through enacting the law to

recommend names of persons

to be appointed as SC judges by

emphasising the judge appoint-

ment process be time befitting,

so that no unfit person can be

picked as judges of the Supreme

said the judge appointment

tional provisions are not suffi-

cient to end controversy over

According to the provisions,

a person shall be qualified for

the appointment if he or she has

been an advocate of the SC or

has held judicial office for at

The constitution also pro-

vides "other qualifications" to

be prescribed by law. But since

1972, none of the successive

governments has moved to

enact a law prescribing the

rent criteria allowed all succes-

sive governments to pick per-

sons loyal to them as SC judges

without scrutinising their

academic qualifications, pro-

fessional ability, goodwill and

Throughout the rule of the

BNP-led four-party alliance, the

Supreme Court Bar Association

protested at the appointment of

additional judges in the SC on

the basis of political affiliation

17 additional judges again

triggered controversy over track

records of at least two of them.

The recent appointment of

Legal experts said the cur-

the appointment.

east 10 years.

criteria.

nonesty.

instead of merit.

judges in the past.

The sub-committee chief

He said they were

Daily Star yesterday.

the president.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reports: A child was run over and killed by a bus at of the sub-committee, told The Chandmari of Fatullah in the town yesterday evening. Matin Khasru, also former

Shahin, son of day labourer Lal Miah, was hit by a bus of Bandhan Paribahan on Dhaka-Narayanganj link road.

The driver fled immediately. Locals took the seven-yearold child to a hospital at

Khanpur where he was declared dead. Agitated people later damaged more than 10 vehicles on

the road. And traffic movement remained suspended for about half an hour.

Police later brought the situation under control.

Man jumps

process has reportedly been politicised in the absence of a aw, as the current constitu-

FROM PAGE 16 place in the hotel.

According to the staff, on hearing about the police raid, the man panicked and jumped from the rooftop and landed on a three-storey building.

Residents of the building rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Rezaul Karim, officer-incharge (OC) of Shahbagh Police Station said detailed information about the deceased could

not be known immediately. The OC also said the police arrested four men and six girls from the hotel for unsocial

activities. Clarification

forest department and other law enforcement agencies keep their eyes on the routes and apprehend illegally procured logs and timbers.

The picture carried along with the news item is undated and unspecified, his statement reads, adding that the correspondent should have informed the forest authorities and law enforcement agencies concerned instead of reporting on it.

Addressing a function in OURREPLY

2007, the then chief justice We did not state in our caption Mohammad Ruhul Amin said it that all forest goods carried would take at least 20 years to through the Sangu are illegal. It rid the judiciary of the effects of was also specified in the caption irregularities in appointing that the photo had been taken recently at Ruma, Bandarban.

MRPs from 3 dists this week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more regional passport offices have been set up to start producing machine-readable passport (MRP) this week.

The Comilla office opens today while Jessore office opens tomorrow and Sylhet office Tuesday. Meanwhile, the government decided to deploy the army at regional passport offices to provide technical support in issuance of MRP.

Earlier the machinereadable passport and visa project was launched only at the Department of Immigration and Passport office in Dhaka to meet the deadline set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

The regional passport offices in Mymensingh, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Barisal, Rangpur and Gopalganj will also be made ready to produce MRP by the end of this month.

"We are preparing all 34 passport offices across the country for MRP production and they will be opened gradually," Project Director Brig Gen Reyaet Ullah told The Daily Star yesterday.

An Inter Services Public Relations press release said required number of army personnel would be deployed at the nine regional passport offices opening this month following request of the home ministry and government orders.

"The army personnel would give technical support like filing of application forms, preservation of records and computer data entry," says the release.

Bhola result

FROM PAGE 1

boycotted parliament after that election and later resigned from parliament.

The BNP secretary general has already said it may not be impossible to repeat the things they (Awami League) had done after the Magura byelection.

Insiders say the BNP highups are now conducting a massive campaign to create anti-government opinion and as per the initiative the chairperson is addressing public meetings at the divisional headquarters.

Besides these, pro-BNP professional bodies are regularly holding programmes and BNP leaders are frequently attending programmes outside the capital to boost the

workers' enthusiasm. Party leaders believe BNP has restored its political strength and now they are planning to go for a movement step by step, which will get a strong shape through Bhola-3 by-election.

Khaleda Zia has already threatened to forge a movement if the Election Commission does not deploy army and the by-poll is turned into a one-sided election.

However, Election Commissioner Sohul Hossain on Thursday categorically said they will not deploy army for the by-election.

Asked about the EC's stance, Mirza Alamgir said people will not accept any stage-managed election.

War heroes

FROM PAGE 1

He said over four thousand doctors will be appointed in the country within next three weeks and the hospitals will get doctors as per requirement. Ruhal visited Mujibnagar

upazila health complex and directed the authority to run the hospital in a full swing.

The Health Minister also visited Meherpur General

hospital. Chairman of parliamen tary standing committee on ministry of communication Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and local lawmaker Jainal Abedin were present.

3 carjackers

FROM PAGE 1

high prices to the owners and some to shops in city's Dholaikhal, Major Hayet said.

Gulzar told Rab they usually stored parts of new cars at his house.

Major Hayet said the gang dismantled parts from businessman CRM Mahbub's car parked at his Uttara residence on August 14, 2009. Since then the gang had been offering Mahbub over the phone to return the stolen parts in exchange for Tk 10 lakh.

After months of negotiation, the amount was fixed at Tk 3 lakh in December 2009. Meanwhile, Mahbub informed the Rab about the matter.

The Rab personnel then contacted the gang and arrested the trio.

No UN letter

FROM PAGE 16

army had played any role in the general election originally slated for January 22, 2007.

"This was never discussed," Renata added.

The former army chief in his book "Shantir Swapne" (Dream for Peace) said he received a phone call on January 11, 2007 from UN Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Guehenno who told him that the elections without participation of all political parties would not be acceptable. "If the army plays any role in

such elections, the UN will consider with due importance the withdrawal of Bangladeshi armies from the UN peacekeeping missions," Moeen quoted Guehenno as saying over the phone.

Renata said the UN secretary general expressed his concern over street violence on several occasions including those in October 2006 and early 2007.

She said several missions of the UN electoral specialists visited Bangladesh while the secretary general appointed a personal envoy who visited Dhaka in December 2006.

The envoy had meetings with major political parties and urged them repeatedly to hold dialogues, to be accommodative and to find a solution that both political alliances could

"Telephone calls from high level UN officials to Dhaka were made to try to defuse the rising tensions so as to allow more space and time for the parties to negotiate an acceptable solution," Renata said.

The UN official said when the UN secretary general and any UN staff makes any statement, the copy is sent to the respective governments ahead of the issuance of such statements to the press according to international practice.

Asked about separate meetings of western diplomats with senior Awami League and BNP leaders at the residence of the Canadian high commissioner on January 11, 2007, Renata said the meeting with the BNP leaders was dispersed in the afternoon as the news of declaring the state of emergency had been circulated by that time.

She said the main message of all these statements and meetings were to resolve the issue through dialogue and in nonviolent fashion.

When asked about the performance of the Fakhruddin Ahmed's Caretaker Government, Renata said, "we focused on elections but general criticisms were that the government was doing too much and it had broad agenda."

Renata recalled a number of impediments like two floods, cyclone, food crisis in the wake of price hike of food and oil in the international market and spread of avian flu. It is difficult for a caretaker government with 10 advisers to deal with all these

problems, she continued. Terming Bangladesh a complex country, she said, "Managing a complex country like Bangladesh, I think, is even more difficult. Each government faces challenges to imple-

ment its policies." Asked about the performance of Awami League government Renata said the Bangladeshi people have to evaluate it. She said energy is a big challenge while population is increasing. Each year there is bigger crisis in energy sector,

a general diary with Hathazari

Police Station on Friday night.

ASP Babul Akhter of Hathazari

Circle said they are trying to

Mohammad Al Amin of the

Institute of Forestry and

Environmental Science of the

university was asked to submit

its report within 15 working

are Md Rashed Un Nabi of

Marine Science and Fisheries

department, Md Emdadul of

Statistics department and

assistant proctor Md Ali

including SP Habibur Rahman

and investigation officer SI

Abul Hashem yesterday after-

noon visited the CU Railway

Station where Asaduzzaman

was stabbed to death on

Moajjem Hossain, a friend of

Asaduzzaman and also a

student of CU Philosophy

department, filed a case with

GRP Chittagong station

against 21 identified and

case against eight students

and 30 unidentified persons--

for obstructing in discharge of

Meanwhile, police filed a

government duties during the der.

unidentified persons.

Earlier on Friday night were formed.

Thursday night.

Other members of the body

The committee led by Prof

FROM PAGE 16

trace the callers.

Haider.

she said, adding that it will take time to resolve the problem.

Explaining UN's position on the trial of war criminals, she said the UN has received a request from Bangladesh government for information about how war crime tribunal operates in the context of other countries.

positively as we consider it important to share lessons of international experience with Bangladesh authorities in order to help them meet international standard, she said. Renata, however, said the UN has not been asked for any

The UN has responded

other form of assistance in connection with Bangladesh 's war crime trials, nor has it offered any additional assis-Asked about her farewell meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the

Opposition Khaleda Zia, Renata

said the energy and water short-

ages as well as other challenges

like food security and disaster preparedness were discussed. Renata stressed the need for strengthening democratic institutions to deepen democracy in Bangladesh and said since parliament is one of the most important institutions in any democracy all parties should sit in parliament and put

table for constructive debates. She highly appreciated the formation of the parliamentary standing committees during the first session where chairs of the seven committees were given to other political parties. She also welcomed BNP's return to Jatiya Sangsad ending theirlongboycott

their different agenda on the

Expressing her firm conviction that Bangladesh has a bright prospect, the UN official said the country has demonstrated its remarkable capacity to overcome crises -- from the War of Independence to repeated floods and cyclones, to food security and many more

"I do not minimise the very real and pressing problems that currently face the country.... all that's required is the strengthening of good governance. The key is already in the hands of decision makers. If their time and energy is spent in patronage pursuits serving special interest groups or individual interests, overall social progress will be suboptional and beset with setbacks," she added.

Toxic ship

ship-breaking yard owners, the government is violating all national and international laws, conventions and the HC directives. The government also has moved from its ethical

position, he added. ASM Shajahan, the former adviser to the caretaker government, said no one wants the policy which goes against human health and environment. He urged the prime minister to look into the matter and investigate who will derive benefits out of the

entire process. He also demanded that the culprits behind the scenes are found out and proper rules and regulations followed in

the ship breaking industry. Safety and security of the workers in the ship-breaking yards have to be ensured, the speakers stressed.

Friday's agitation following

the death--with the Hathazari

against the five BCL men

arrested on Friday for possess-

ing arms. One Jahangir Alam

of Jobrapara village near the

university also filed a case

police for damaging shops

not interrogate any students,

as the academic activities

Mohiuddin Masum, a fina

vear student of CU Political

Science department, was

Sholoshahar Railway Station

while Harunur Rashid alias

Kawser, a 3rd year student of

Marketing department of the

university, was killed at

Chowdhuryhat on March 28.

Separate probe committees

"unfortunate incidents," CU

VC Abu Yusuf told The Daily

Star that he has received the

probe body's report on the

about the report, the VC said

the committee could neither

identify the killers nor find out

the reason behind the mur-

Without giving details

killing of Masum.

Terming the three murders

IO Hashem said they could

On February 11, AAM

and looting valuables.

remained suspended.

Railway Police (GRP) hacked to death in the city's

Another case was filed

Police Station in the evening.

CU student's death

"We do not have enough

The PDB chairman said, against 28 students with the the committee has started feasibility study and hopefully sign the joint venture agreement between BPDB and NTPC soon. Earlier the committee

> selected two sites, Khulna and Chittagong. Finally, both the parties agreed to install a 1,320 MW plant in joint venture. The committee also worked out on the grid interconnection between India

and Bangladesh as well as cooperation between NTPC and BPDB. Bangladesh and India has signed a memorandum of

understanding on exchange of power during the off-peak hours (17 hours a day) during the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in January last.

sources said, NTPC offered to carry out technical assessment for BPDB's old thermal power stations to improve efficiency, do renovation and modernisation work.

FROM PAGE 16 country and assumption of power by the AL-led grand alliance government.

Khaleda

Begum Zia is going to Khulna today to address the second divisional level rally after Chittagong as part of her programme for antigovernment campaign.

The grand rally will begin at 3:00pm at the Babri square under Sonadanga police station of Khulna city. Meanwhile, all preparations

have been completed to hold the grand rally peacefully and successfully where leaders and activists of BNP and all its front organisations of ten districts of Khulna division will join to express solidarity with the programme for movement against the government's misrule, said ex-minister Tariqul Islam at a press confer-Tariqul is a member of the

party's standing committee and also chief coordinator of the Khulna divisional rally implementation committee. Over two hundred ceremo-

nial arches have been erected at different points of Khulna city to welcome BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and other central leaders. Security measures have

rally of BNP. Apart from police, Rapid Action Battalion and intelligence agencies, over 300 volunteers of the party will remain vigilant and on high alert to

been stepped up in the entire

city in view of today's grand

maintain law and order. A three-tier security blanket would be thrown from tonight to check any untoward incident in the rally, said KMP Commissioner Helaluddin

UNB adds: After Khulna, Khaleda will move on to another grand rally in Rajshahi on May 5, before the finale in Dhaka on May 19. Earlier, Khaleda's public meeting in Barisal scheduled for April 29 was postponed due to the byelection for the Bhola-3 parliamentary constituency, to be held on April 24.

Biman

FROM PAGE 16

There is a possibility of delaying the Rome-bound Biman flight as the authorities of airports concerned are yet to give us clearance, Mamdud said.

Around 900 passengers of the three scheduled flights have been informed about the delay and asked to stay home, he added. Of the two London-bound

flights, one was to take off at 7:45 am yesterday but now it is rescheduled for April 19. The other flight, scheduled for today, has been delayed by at least 24 hours, "We are in touch with the

and Rome over the latest situation. Once we get clearance, we will inform Biman passengers," Mamdud said. The disruption from the spread of ash would continue

airport authorities in London

into Sunday, European aviation agency Eurocontrol said. "Forecasts suggest that the cloud of volcanic ash will persist and that the impact will continue for at least the

next 24 hours," it said in a

Chalna site

statement vesterday.

FROM PAGE 1 suggested the BPDB officials to engage local consultant to do the feasibility study on socio- environmental and ecological impact on coal fired power plant. It also suggested engaging consultant to workout on the plan of coal trans-

idea about coal handling, it would be a huge power plant and we need to import huge coal, depot it and to transport it. So, they suggested us to work on the issue", he said.

The power ministry gathering crowd.

Controversial

FROM PAGE 1

appointments of Ruhul Quddus and Khasruzzaman, terming them controversial for their roles in the past.

Many senior lawyers of the Supreme Court told The Daily Star that they could not recall if any chief justice has ever made such decision. "It [the CJ's decision] is

unprecedented," said senior lawyer of the SC barrister Rokan Uddin Mahmud. The CJ's decision must

embarrass the government

heavily, a number of senior lawyers observed. The law minister did no return from his trip abroad as of last evening and State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam last eve-

ning declined to make any

comment on the CJ's decision. Meanwhile, SCBA President Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, who met the chief justice following the judges' appointment and asked him not to administer oath of the two judges, expressed his happiness at the

decision. "This decision will brighten the image of the judiciary," he said, expressing hope that the government would not appoint such controversial persons in

While talking to The Daily Star, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, however, said, "I hope the chief justice will administer oath to the two judges in near future.' SCBA President Mahbub

Hossain, elected from the pro-BNP-Jamaat lawyers' panel told reporters at a press conference on April 11 that lawyers would not accept appointment of any controversial person as HCjudge. Ruhul Quddus was an

there is allegation against Khasruzzaman of kicking on the door of the chief justice on November 30, 2006, Mahbub said yesterday. Some pro-BNP lawyers including the SCBA president met the chief justice at his Supreme Court office yesterday

and urged him again not to

administer oath to any contro-

accused in a murder case while

versial person as HC judge. At a meeting on April 13, the pro-BNP-Jamaat leaders of SCBA decided not to accord felicitation to Ruhul Quddus

and Khasruzzaman. The newly appointed judges are SC Registrar Md Shawkat Hossain, Additional Attorney General AKM Zahirul Hoque, district and sessions judges of Dhaka Krishna Debnath and ANM Bashir Ullah, deputy attorneys general FRM Nazmu Ahsan and Md Khasruzzaman former deputy attorney general JBM Hasan, and SC lawyers M Faruk, Abdur Rob, Kazi Reza-Ul Huq, Md Abu Zafar Siddiqui, Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain, Habibul Gani, Md Ruhul Quddus Babu, Gobinda Chandra Tagore, Sheikh Hasan

Arif and Jahangir Hossain Selim. Their appointment will take effect from the day of their taking oath.

After assuming power, the Awami League-led grand alliance has so far appointed 36 judges to the HC.

Meanwhile, two of the newly appointed judges

requesting anonymity told The Daily Star last night that none of the 17 new judges has got any letter of the oath-taking ceremony.

Earlier, the then chief justices Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Syed JR Mudassir Husain administered oaths to a number of judges although the SCBA urged the CJs not to as the judges were "controversial" and "less qualified".

Former SCBA president Rokan Uddin Mahmud yesterday told The Daily Star that he along with senior lawyers had requested the two former chief justices in 2003 and 2004 not to administer oath to the contro-

appointed during the rule of the BNP-Jamaat alliance on political consideration although they were not qualified enough.

Syed Shahidur Rahman, one of these judges, had already lost his job after the Supreme Judicial Council found him guilty of misconduct, Rokan said.

Chowdhury and Syed JR Mudassir Husain told us that they were constitutionally bound to administer oaths to judges appointed by the president," Rokan Uddin said.

EC seeks help

attack on Alam was by BNP

on April 24. by Alam attacked on his work-The Commissioner Sahul

at 116 polling stations in the constituency under two upazilas. Meanwhile, a gang of miscreants set fire to two shops

under the constituency. Local people alleged that members of the minority community there were

eral elections. Yesterday at a press briefing at the party's Nayapaltan central office, BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi alleged that the EC is implementing the govern-

the army during the polls. He also said, due to influence by "outside criminals", voters might show reluctance

Rizvi rejected Tofail Ahmed's comments on Friday that the BNP does not want to see Hafiz win in the bycontroversial role during the said Tofail commented for his

chief of administration, also

said 41 people died, including

Azmat Ali Bangash, a journalist

working for local TV channel

Pakistan is fighting on multi-

ple fronts against home-grown

Taliban in the tribal belt. The

military releases daily statistics

on the number of militants

killed but routinely makes no

mention of any civilian casual-

closed military areas, with

limited or no access to aid

workers and journalists, the

numbers and identities of the

dead killed during military

operations are impossible to

militants were flocking to the

Tirah valley, which it described

as a "stronghold" of local mili-

tant group Lashkar-e-Islam as

well as a "hub" of Taliban mili-

suffered a major internal dis-

placement of people as a result

of Taliban violence and a series

of military offensives concen-

trated on flushing out the

armed Islamists from parts of

million people are currently

The United Nations says 1.3

At least 210,000 people have

the northwest and tribal belt.

Northwest Pakistan has

tants and foreign fighters.

The military had said that

As the fighting takes place in

Samaa

ascertain.

day at a camp in northwest

Afghan border.

grave threat posed by extremists despite stepped-up Pakistani offensives and a significant increase in US drone attacks targeting Taliban and Al-Qaedanearby tribal belt.

He said the bombers walked into the crowd wearing burqas, the loose-fitting head-to-toe outfit that obscures the face and worn by conservative Muslim

Body parts of the bombers were recovered and most of the victims were members of the Mani Khel and Baramad Khel

gathered to register and receive relief items. A few minutes later the second bomber blew himself up in the middle of the

in Kohat and Hangu towns. Under US pressure, Pakistan has in the past year significantly

increased operations against militants in its tribal belt, which became a stronghold for hundreds of extremists who fled Afghanistan after the 2001 USled invasion.

versial persons as judges. He said many judges were

"Justices Mainur Reza

However, Shawon said the

men themselves aiming to create a law and order situation ahead of the by-election He also claimed that a group of outside criminals led

said as many as 1500 law enforcers including Rab and armed police will be deployed

owned by members of minority community Friday night at Kalibazar village of Chandpur union in Tajumuddin upazila

repressed after the 2001 gen-

ment's plan of not deploying

election as he had played a caretaker government, and own 'dubious role' at that

Pakistan. The bombers struck minutes apart in the Kacha Pukha camp on the outskirts of the garrison city of Kohat, a registration centre for people fleeing Taliban violence and Pakistani army operations close to the

linked commanders in the "We have 41 dead in the twin

women in parts of northwest

tribes who had gathered for registration after fleeing fighting in their home district of Orakzai, he said. Bangash said the first bomber detonated his explosives while displaced people

Khalid Omarzai, the local

to vote on April 24, but the EC refrains from taking any steps.

41 killed

Two suicide bombers dressed in burgas struck a crowd of displaced people collecting aid handouts, killing at least 41 and wounding more than 60 yester-

The attacks underscored the

suicide bombing. There are 64 injured," local police chief Dilawar Khan Bangash told AFP by telephone.

Pakistan and Afghanistan.

been displaced from the tribal districts of Orakzai and Kurram, most of whom have registered

displaced.