Make a repressors' list, Hasina asks partymen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her party men to prepare a list of people who "unleashed repression" on them.

She also called upon then to unite to topple the "repressive BNP-Jamaat government". "They came to power through a conspiracy to sell out the country's resources"

Hasina's directives came while she was addressing a special extended meeting of the Jatiya Shechhasebak League, a front organisation of AL, at its central office in the city

She was critical of the government's stance on Iraq issue. "This government is neither with the Muslim world nor with the commonman of the country." They only want to garb public money through corruption, she alleged.

Miseries of people have increased due to increase in prices of essentials, crime, corruption and political persecution of opposition political activists, she

6 JCD men sued for 'looting' shops in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least five people were injured and two shops looted by a gang of miscreants in the city vesterday.

was told that he would be informed According to police and witnesses, the miscreants led by local ICD leader Milton demanded Tk 5000 from a cattle trader, Abdus Sattar.

As he refused to give in to their demand, the miscreants attacked his home in Hatkhola area in the city. The gang also swooped on the locals and looted two shops, leaving five people -- Enayet Hossain, Montu, Delwar, Salcha and Iewel -- injured.

A case was filed with Kotwali police accusing JCD cadres Milton, Shahid, Jahangir, Hanif, Masum and

Corruption

FROM PAGE 12

class officers, mostly belonging to the law enforcing agencies, were directly involved in 412 cases of corruption, out of a total of 2778

"The government has failed to ensure service discipline as it did not respond to the newspaper reports of widespread corruption in different government sectors. Action was taken against only 29.3 per cent of the Mozaffar Ahmed while answering

The TIB report also said the number of news items on corruption was 3293 in 2000 and 2570 in 2001.

Besides, formation of an independent anti-corruption commission, appointment of ombudsman and separation of the judiciary will help combat corruption, the report

Foreign ships FROM PAGE 12

tion filed by HRC Shipping Ltd. against the general waiver notice.

The victim, Aminul Islam Sohel, 22, son of late Morshed Ali of the area was The director general of shipping issued the notice in November 2001 allowing all ships to carry goods without permission.

The HRC first filed a case with the High Court against it and got the verdict in its favour in November

tion) Ordinance 1982 that ensured

preference to local ships in cargo

But the Department of Shipping

filed a petition with the Supreme

Court challenging the High Court

The HRC Shipping Ltd. informed

Director General of Shipping

the Department of Shipping of the

Ghulam Rabbani could not be

 $reached \, immediately \, for \, comments.$

judgement through a letter.

The judgement mirrored the cession in the city at noon. spirit of Bangladesh Flag (Protec-

Victim's mother Anwara filed a case with Boalia police station accusing 15

his rivals over control of the Ekata Club in the area, police said.

Fuel thieves

FROM PAGE 12

sions, he said.

There are 646 dispensing units in 229 petrol pumps in Rajshahi, 448 in 144 pumps in Khulna and 237 in 73 pumps in Svlhet.

During the ongoing drive, they suspended operation of five dispensing

Officials said unless the pump authorities destroy or damage the FAD seal, there will be no scope to deceive

"If any of the dispensing units develop any fault and require repair, pump authorities have to inform us first. They're (pump owners) not authorised to handle the FAD seal. Our men will go there, do the necessary repair work and reinstall the FAD," a BSTI official

Once the drive is completed, inspec tion teams will check different petrol pumps time to time on a random basis to make sure the FAD system operates well and no truant pump owner dam ages the seal, the official added.

First photography exhibition of Monzurul Huq begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first solo exhibition of digital photography by author and amateur photographer Monzurul Huq opened informally at Drik Gallery yesterday.

There are landscapes of Japan, seas and sky, Japanese houses, the face of his daughter, the leaves of autumn trees, cherry flowers, football ground, Pele and Maradona in Japan, footsteps on snow, traditional Japanese dance and many such things in the exhibition. The photographer Monzurul Hug took different snaps on Japanese life but didn't put any title on any of his pictures. He said, "I didn't want the audience to be predisposed by seeing the

The photographer shows the experimental works to reflect the changes in photography brought about by digital technology. He said, " I want to show the scope of digital photography. In the primary stage digital cameras had some problems, but now they have much wider use and scope.'

About 40 photographs are exhibited at the gallery-- all of them taken in Japan in the nine years the photograoher stayed there.

Monzurul Huq changed some of his original digital photographs by transferring them to computer and working with the photo editing programme.

" Some of these photographs are so artistically printed that they look like paintings. If photography is elevated to that level, what will happen to fine arts and paintings?" asked Motiur Rahman, Editor of the Bangla daily Prothom

The Editor of UNB, Enayetullah Khan, said, " This digital photography exhibition is an exceptional one.

One to die for killing 7-yr-old boy in Dhamrai

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One person has been sentenced to death for killing a seven-year-old boy n Dhamrai on October 2, 1998.

Mohammad Shamsul Haq, Judge of the 7th Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday found Nitai Chandra Das guilty of killing the victim, Ram Krishna Das, and gave the verdict.

In the case filed with Dhamrai police station on October 11, 1998, it was alleged that the accused abducted Ram Krishna on October 2, 1998 from a house of village Jagat Nagar under Dhamrai thana, Dhaka where he (victim) was celebrating the Durga

Later, the accused strangled the and ring. The accused dumped the body in a nearby sugarcane field.

After nine days, victim's decomposed body was recovered from the sugarcane field and a murder case was

Thirteen out of 18 prosecution witnesses were cross-examined during the trial.

Assistant public prosecutor Abul Abzal appeared for the state while advocate Belayet Hossain defended

13 accused in N'ganj double murder case: One arrested

Sangsad form a human chain to protest the US-led invasion of Iraq in Dhaka yesterday.

Police yesterday arrested listed criminal Mohammad Kabil, 38, from village Chandpur under Bandar Police station in connection with the murder of Babul Akter, 40 and

were gunned down in Madanpur area in Bandar than a Sunday morning. According to police, Rehana

including Kabil. Police produced court here yesterday noon seeking

Monday afternoon after autopsy at Narayangani General Hospital.

the Dhaka-Doudkandi Highway demanding punishment of the killers of Babul and Nuru. They also blocked the road for half an hour.

Protests against Iraq war on Memo to US embassy

demanding troops withdrawal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemnation of US-led invasion on Iraq continued as various organisations brought out rallies and processions and submitted memorandum to the US embassy demanding immediate withdrawal of troops

(Top, from left) A panel of two 'judges' sentences to death US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair at a mock trial, organised by the Anti-war Movement Dhaka University at

the foot of the Aparajeo Bangla; college teachers stage an anti-war demonstration on the Manik Mia Avenue; and children shout anti-US slogans as they carry placards during a demonstration.

(Bottom, from left) Physically challenged men and women bring out an anti-war procession; a law student impersonates Bush on trial as a war criminal; and members of the Shaheed Noor Hossain

Olama Party (BNOP), a front organisation of ruling BNP, strongly protested US bombing on the innocent people in

Demanding an immediate end to the aggression, Najibul Bashar

Following the rally the BNOP brought out a procession, which ended at the BNP's Central office at Naya

ruling BNP, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Shramik Dal, also brought procession yesterday with anti-invasion slogans.

At a press conference yesterday Bangladesh Mahila Parishad expressed its concern over the killing of innocent

ted a memorandum to the US embassy in Dhaka condemning the war.

The protesters criticised the US administration and asked them to seek apology to the whole world for the invasion. In a statement yesterday Bangladesh Arthonity Samiti con-

children and civilians in Iraq.

Condemning repression on Iraqi

Shahid Noor Hossain Sangsad

formed a human chain and held a rally in

the city's Bangabandhu Avenue. The

protesters set fire to the effigy of US

Anti War Movement (AWM) also

held a protest rally yesterday and

brought out a procession. It also submit-

president George W Bush.

demned the invasion and said they would hold a rally on April 3. Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) yesterday decided to observe country-

wide Iraq Solidarity Day on April 8. condemned the invasion Iraq invasion.

Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon also

students 'try' Bush, Blair

DU teachers,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of students and teachers of Dhaka University vesterday staged at a mock trial of US President George Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair and 'sentenced' them to death as war criminals'.

The trial was organised by the Anti-war Movement--Dhaka University' on the Aparajeyo Bangla premises on the campus, protesting the US-led invasion of Iraq and

demanding an immediate end to it. Abdul Matin, a veteran of the Language Movement, gave the verdict as head of a two-member panel of

'iudges'. Prof Aftab Ahmed was its The panel said Bush and Blair are enemies of the humanity as they are

responsible for the killing of many innocent Iraqi people including children and women. It also said people all over the world want trial of Bush and Blair for this. The protesters urged the people of

Bangladesh to boycott all US-UK products. They said the Western media

including BBC, CNN and VOA are dishing out falls news in favour of the 'imperialist' Anglo-American alliance. The demonstrators demanded

immediate resignation of the UN secretary general for his 'failure' to resolve the Iraq crisis peacefully.

Baghdad faces fiercest bombardment War architects

also killed in ambush near Basra. The US has so far lost 46 troops and

104 wounded with 17 listed as missing since the start of the war on March 20. Britain has lost 24 dead. Iraq has said nearly 600 Iraqi civilians have been killed and more than 4,500 wounded. Iraqis also lost their soldiers in huge

numbers. A US official claimed hundreds of Iraqi troops died in two southern cities without specifying.

Defying deaths, Iraq yesterday ruled out any negotiated end to the invasion. Iraqi Foreign Minister Nazi Sabri at a press briefing said the end will come in the way of defeat of the invaders. The US has added 5,000 more troops

to its forces fighting for control of Nassiriyah where fierce fighting is still going on. They launched a separate raid on the

town of Shatra 50km north of Nassirivah to try to kill Iraqi officials they believe are directing guerrilla attacks on supply They believe Saddam's cousin Ali

Hassan al-Majid, or "Chemical Ali" is holding up there and want to get at him. Ali earned his nickname by overseeing the use of poison gas against Kurdish HINDIYA FIREFIGHT

A fierce firefight broke out between US and Iraqi forces around a bridge over the Euphrates River at Hindiya, 80km south of Baghdad, US officers told

Among Iraqi prisoners taken was an officer who said he was from the Nebuchadnezzar Division of the Republican Guard -- a claim that

surprised US commanders who said they had believed this division to be

pased much further to the north Colonel John Peabody of the US Third Infantry Division told a Reuters correspondent near Karbala, 10km from Hindiya, that one American soldier had been lightly wounded and that the Iraqis had taken dozens of casualties.

Further south, US marines scoured the outskirts of the city of Nassiriyah street by street to eliminate Iraqi fighters. HILLAPUSH

The number of US troops involved in fighting around Imam Aiyub did not seem enough for a major push to Hilla and beyond, said a Reuters reporter. Hilla, population about 300,000, is the main city remaining between Imam Aiyub and Baghdad.

Further east, a separate advance by US marines appears to have been halted while troops try to consolidate supply lines and tackle Iraqi forces mounting guerrilla attacks on their columns. MOSULTARGET

Coalition warplanes bombed Iraq's main northern city of Mosul at dawn vesterday, said the Arabic news channel Some 450km north of Baghdad

Mosul has been the target of coalition air strikes every day since March 21 as the US and Britain attempt soften up defences ahead of the long-awaited opening of a second front in the north. BASRA BATTLE

The battle for Basra has begun in earnest with hundreds of British Royal marines launching a major assault to secure a suburb southeast of Iraq's uthern capital Basra, officers said. Some 600 men from 40 Commando

attacked Abu Al Khasib on Sunday in the first all-out British assault by a full commando since the Falklands War in 1982 and the operation was to continue

It was intended to encourage Saddam Hussein's opponents to rise up against his regime and to show that coalition forces were serious about taking the city, which has resisted since the war began, and toppling his govern-

British troops suffered an unknown number of injuries, some serious, although at least 300 enemy prisoners of war were taken and a number of Iraqi tanks, armoured troop carriers and bunkers destroyed.

But the Iraqis in the Basra region counter-attacked later in the day when three patrol vessels attacked a Royal Marine landing craft on the Basra canal, 20 miles (30 kilometres) to the south. The British vessel was hit and set

alight by a rocket-propelled grenade and four of its crew were slightly injured. One of the Iraqi vessels was then hit by British forces with two Milan anti-tank missiles and sunk. Whereas British forces have staged

raids into Basra in Warrior armoured vehicles over the last few days, the infantry assault on Abu Al Khasib was quite different -- a direct attempt to secure a significant suburb which houses 30,000 people.

To the east and the west blocking

Under the name Operation James three rifle companies, each consisting of re than 120 men, advanced at first light aiming to trap Iraqi forces up Washington. against the Shatt Al-Arab waterway

was not advocating immediate withdrawal and that he wanted President

But he stood by his criticisms, saying

Allied drones had spotted the buildup of armour and after the AS90 barrage

As the soldiers from 40 Commando advanced they were engaged time after time by enemy snipers and from bunker positions. At least one Dushka 12.7mm heavy machine gun was reported to have opened up before it was silenced.

Bin Ladens

war will have horrible consequences," Mubarak told Egyptian soldiers in the city of Suez.

Laden, we will have 100 bin Ladens," he added.

Osama bin Laden is the Saudi-born fugitive Islamic militant leader blamed by the United States for the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and

Egypt, like most Arab countries

former cabinet colleagues, Cook said he Saddam defeated.

the government's hopes for a "quick, easy war" had failed to materialise and that the campaign had been "badly planned". He said there was no sign of President Saddam being overthrown by his associates or the Iraqi people welcoming coalition troops as libera-

His comments reflected concern among Labour MPs that the war strategy has been blown off course. Doug Henderson, a former armed forces minister, called for a ceasefire. He said: "Unless there is a withdrawal very soon, then we will probably get bogged down in the way that the Americans got bogged down in Vietnam. Half a million soldiers [were] committed in Vietnam; 55,000 American deaths, probably about two million deaths of Vietnamese. Now, do we want to get into the kind of

situation that could lead to that?" The Government, which has been repeatedly assured by the Bush administration that the war is going according to plan, was thrown on to the defensive by Cook's attack.

But the fractures in London are being mirrored in the US, where The New Yorker says in today's edition of the magazine that Rumsfeld turned down requests from top uniformed commanders for more troops, and resisted pleas that the campaign be delayed until more troops were ready.

The US commander, General Γommy Franks, said there had been no new deployment orders since the start of the war, and he maintained that troop

numbers were sufficient. Geoff Hoon, the Secretary of State for Defence, conceded that more British troops might be needed. But he insisted it was "not possible" that the coalition would lose the war. "I am absolutely confident in the military strategy," he

Human bombs

FROM PAGE 1

His comments come a day after a group of US soldiers in the central city of Najaf were killed in a suicide car bombing

Meanwhile, about 150,000

Moroccans, "shouting suicide attacks lead to freedom," poured through the streets of Rabat yesterday as protests against the war in Iraq flared again. Earlier, Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan said such attacks

policy". "We will use any means to kill our enemy in our land and we will follow

would become "routine military

the enemy into its land," he said. The BBC's Gavin Hewitt, who is with US forces in Iraq, says it is a

worrying development for the troops, who are already having to contend with sniping and other attacks. The US army's Major-General

Stanley McChrystal said the attack would not affect the overall operation or rules of engagement though some changes might be made.

He said DU authorities had prevented him from taking classes and terminated his position as house tutor of Shahidullah Hall.

DU teacher

tional three months that went against university ordinance. Terming the decisions to be illegal, Shafigur Rahman demanded immedi ate cancellation of those.

He also said the DU VC had

extended his forced leave for an addi-

A group of students allegedly backed by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has called strike at the law department today protesting the authorities' decision of excluding Shafigur Rahman from taking classes. Shafique yesterday alleged that

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists had allegedly threatened him to death again.

The case was later transferred to the

Detective Branch (DB) of Police and Rouf was taken to the DB office for interrogation. Police said Rouf was a garment worker who lost his job about a month

"Now we have to launch a move ment to protect the nation from ar

Presided over by Mokbul Hossain,

the meeting was also addressed by,

among others, AL Secretary General

One held while

trying to enter

knife recovered

One person was arrested while trying to

enter the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

Board Bazar in Tongi went to the main

gate of the PMO at about 11:30 am and

wanted to go inside to meet the prime

recovered a 13-inch knife from his

possession. They handed him over to

Security personnel held him and

Mohammad Abdur Rouf. 30. of

PM's house,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

with a sharp knife yesterday.

autocratic regime.

ago. His wife left him as he became unemployed. Sources said he had come to the PMO gate after losing his job and gave a petition to the security personnel. He

about it later. He wanted to know about his petition yesterday. Failing to get a satisfactory' reply, he became angry and tried to enter the PMO, the sources

Rehana's house Dhanmondi police said their action

of the housing ministry, Mesbah "In his complaint, he (Mesbah Uddin) alleged that some 15 to16 persons stormed the residence at about 11pm on Sunday to occupy it," said

stemmed from a complaint lodged

yesterday by the sub-assistant engineer

duty officer of Dhanmondi thana. 'After that, police registered a case, went to the house and arrested the accused persons," the duty officer said, adding his force was guarding the The house was handed over to

housing ministry, sent a letter to her on the same day to this effect. Rehana was also provided with the

Rehana on July 12, 2001 and Fatema

Rezia, senior assistant secretary of the

Jubo Dal activist murdered in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An activist of the Jativatabadi Jubo Dal was murdered by his rivals in the party in the city's Ferozabad area yesterday.

stabbed by his rivals led by Ansar on Sunday night at a club. Aminul was rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injures vesterday

morning. Supporters of Aminul ransacked Ansar's house and brought out a pro

Aminul might have been killed by

pumps in Chittagong division and in all the 47 units in 19 pumps in Barisal division, he said. The drive is in progress in Khulna, Rajshahi, and Sylhet divi-

units in Dhaka for faults.

Under such disguise, Prince managed to realise a mobile phone set from former Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kohinoor Miah. Prince had asked the ADC to

reaping various benefits.

Fake PS

had been stolen. Failing to recover it the ADC bought a set and gave it to "Some top DB officials had also talked to Prince several times taking him to be the PS," a DB official said. The nexus among the arrestee and

minister's PS for a long time and

recover his mobile which he claimed

DB officials went on for quite three months. Throwing his weight around as a PS, Prince had also managed to get a land telephone connected at his residence within a very short time. The telephone official who had

helped Prince get the phone asked nim for a favour. Prince demanded Tk 1 lakh from the official against his request and

asked him to be at Hotel Bagdadia with the money. Tipped off, a team of detectives stationed there caught Prince in the

act of receiving the money.

admitted that he had been involved in such criminals activities. Price was produced under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code

During interrogation Prince

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The two brothers, listed with police as criminals and toll collectors,

Begum, 50, eldest sister of the victims, filed a case with Bandar police station on Sunday night accusing 13 people

remand. The court placed him a fourday remand. The bodies of the Babul and Nuru were handed over to their relatives

Meanwhile, transport workers on staged a demonstration yesterday

people by the coalition forces, the leaders of the parishad said it was an unjust military action and a clear violation of international laws and public

At a rally, Bangladesh Nationalist

Another frontline organisation of

positions stopped the Iraqis from The marines were supported by Challenger II main battle tanks and Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicles while overhead attack helicopters flew combat patrols and artillery

fired barrage after barrage of support British AS90 self-propelled howitzers were called in to deal with 21 Iraqi vehicles -- some believed to be T55 tanks -- to the north of the Shatt Al-Arab which could have posed a threat by providing

Iragi reinforcements.

all 21 vehicles were either destroyed or damaged beyond repair.

"Instead of having one (Osama) bin

publicly opposes the war on Iraq.