



(From left) Members of a women's organisation stage a candlelight rally in front of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; leaders and activists of the Bangl activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal carry a banner in a procession yesterday to protest the US-led invasion of Iraq.



### Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'M\*A\*S\*H'. Venue: 21/C. Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

### **Silver Jubilee** celebration

The silver jubilee celebration and international scientific conference of Bangladesh Cancer Society will be held with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 12.00 noon.

### Gender workshop

The inaugural session of a day-long workshop on 'Gender Equality and Women Empowerment', organised by News Network in cooperation with the World Bank, will be held with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Time: 9.30am.

### Sex workers workshop

Sex Workers Network of Bangladesh organises a workshop on the rights of sex workers. Venue: Conference room of LGED Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9.00am.

### NCBP workshop

FROM PAGE 1

NGO Coalition on Beijing Plus Five, Bangladesh (NCBP) organises a 11.00am

**Islamist parties** 

# workshop on ' Women empowerment

Role of NGOs in implementing MAP and PFA' with Science, Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Planning and Development

## Training programme

A five-day long training programme organised by the Engineering Staff College, Bangladesh, will begin. Venue: Seminar room of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Ramna. Time: 9.00am

Academy, Nilkhet. Time: 10.30am.

### Discussion

Media Network for Sustainable Development (MNSD) organises a follow-up discussion on the third World Water Forum with State Minister for Water Resources Advocate Goutam Chakraborty as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

### **Prize distribution** ceremony

The prize distribution ceremony of Suncrest Cola Magic Card 2002 Programme will be held with Information Minister Tariqul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Rajmoni Isha Kha. Time:

term for killing **BCL** activist in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

7 awarded life

Seven youths have been awarded life term for killing a BCL activist at Shahjadpur in 1999. Md Mozzamel Haque, District and

Sessions Judge, Sirajganj, gave the verdict vesterday. The convicts are Sohel, Rafigul, Pankoj, Pallob, Narayon, Selim, and Sahidul

> According to the prosecution, the accused called the victim, Nazimuddin out of his house at around 3:00 pm on January 29, 1999. They took him to the rooftop of Sohel's house and shot him.

Nazimuddin was rushed to Sirajganj General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. Victim's father Saifuddin Tara lodged a murder case against the

accused with Shahjadpur police station. After investigation, police chargesheeted them.

railway track at Naldanga of Natore district in the early hours of yesterday.

Rahman Maju, 42, died on the spot. He was the Madangarh union BNP president and a cousin of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Deputy Minister Ruhul Kuddus Dulu.

A group of 12 armed outlaws attacked Maju at Joanpur Purbapara at around 2.30am as he was returning, with four of his neighbours, from

## **Final push in fog**

vehicles had moved into the city

were launched southward from a truck

in the central district of al-Salhiya.

their distinctive black uniforms.

residents

### FROM PAGE 1

But what could be confirmed is that three US soldiers died in a vehicle 'accident" at the airport. And two US marine pilots were killed when their AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopter crashed in central Iraq.

At least four US soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously, in fighting in and around Baghdad vesterday, US military sources said.

"An Apache helicopter had to fly out one of those injured. He was reportedly shot in the head," Reuters reporter Luke Baker said.

The US military also said it had intelligence that Iraq had ordered the eighth and 15th brigades of the elite Republican Guards to move from their current positions south of the capital toward the centre to meet the invad-

One US tank was damaged by rocket-propelled grenades. A second tank had to be abandoned in Baghdad because of mechanical failure. Baker said.

American troops encountered fierce but sporadic resistance, from Republican Guard and Special Republican Guard forces in the south and west of the capital, according to military spokesmen. Journalists who toured the city

found burnt-out tanks and armoured vehicles in the suburbs and saw bloodcovered civilians being taken into a hospital

## Back from the dead

### FROM PAGE 12

be the furthest they have vet ventured into the city.

Looking ahead to possible events over the next few days, an article in Slate magazine describes seven US battle options for Baghdad, apparently based on a secret study by the Pentagon. In typical military jargon, these options are

when US marines fired at two lorries that refused to stop at a checkpoint south of Baghdad.

It was announced vesterday that President George Bush and the British prime minister, Tony Blair, are to hold another of their "war summits" on Monday and Tuesday - this time in northern Ireland.

The Iraqis were fighting mostly The tension was palpable in with small weapons -- Kalashnikov Baghdad. At midday, several rockets rifles and rocket-propelled grenades -suggesting they were mostly Saddam's Fedayeen fighters, rather than regular Members of Saddam's Fedaveen, a army or Republican Guards.

### militia led by Saddam Hussein's son Other frontlines Odai, appeared in the city centre for

US troops fought street by street the first time since the war began. The battles with Iraqi paramilitaries in the secret police were easily identified by central city of Karbala yesterday in an attack aimed at protecting the backs of A convoy of police cars, sirens US forces moving into Baghdad. blaring and flying Iraqi flags, drove

Iraqi fighters took positions on around the city centre trying to rally rooftops in the narrow streets and opened fire with rocket-propelled Throughout the morning, armed grenades and assault rifles. US planes men in pickup trucks dashed across hit back with laser-guided bombs artillery and heavy arms fire.

The US army is reported to have captured the Suwayra headquarters of the Republican Guard's Medina Division, but a military official in Doha

American B-52 bombers attack Iraqi positions about 10 km north of  $the northern\,city of Mosul.$ 

US rangers and special forces are reported to have taken control of the road leading to Tikrit -- the birthplace of President Saddam Hussein -- to the

In Basra, British forces say they are moving further into the city and have destroyed a building where one of Iraq's most important military commanders. Ali Hassan al-Majid also known as Chemical Ali, was thought to be staying.

that it was another suicide attack (the

know which version is true.

FROM PAGE 1

inside the bags.

Human remains

## **FFs threaten**

FROM PAGE 1

the war.

invasion.

ers from Iraq.

tion'

failed to stop the US-led aggression'.

staged a peace rally on the Dhaka

University campus in protest against

Hundreds of JCD activists from

different units took part in the rally

demanding an immediate halt to the

coalition forces from Iraq.

embassy and UK high commission in resignation of United Nations Bangladesh and cancellation of all the Secretary General Kofi Annan as 'he inequal treaties with the US

Bangladesh Human Rights They also demanded immediate Monitoring and Development withdraw of the Anglo-American Organisation (BHRMDO) formed a numan chain and demanded immedi-Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)

ate halt to the illogical war. BHRMDO also demanded immediate withdrawal of the Anglo-American coalition forces from Iraq.

Bangladesh Christian Association (BCA) expressed deep concern about the killing of innocent people, including women and children in Iraq.

The JCD leaders demanded with-BCA will organise a peace march drawal of the Anglo-American occupiprotesting the Anglo-American invaon of Iraq tomorrow.

show to protest the US-led war.

Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB)

requested the President Dr Iajuddin

Ahmed to summon a parliament

session to pass a proposal demanding

an end to Anglo-American invasion of

Bangladesh Mahila Awami League

will demonstrate in front its party office

to protest the killings of innocent

civilians, including women and chil-

At a protest rally, Sylhet Division

Development Young Action Council

sentenced Bush and Blair to death by

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds,

JCD leaders Shafiul Bari Babu Bangladesh Charushilpi Sangsad Farhad Hossain Aiad, Abdul Kader (BCS) will display anti-war drawings Jewel, Amirul Islam Khan Alim and tomorrow in protest against the war Hasan Mamun addressed the rally. BCS will also organise a rally.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Ganosanghati Andalon will hold a Journalist (BFUJ) demanded an immetwo-day anti-war cartoon, poster and diate halt to the Anglo-American painting show bringing works by invasion of Iraq, branding the war as Bangladeshi artists together. 'an attack on humanity and civilisa-GA will also organise a demonstration, a cultural programme and movie

BFUJ leaders said the Western nedia were dishing out dirt, exposing their 'information terrorism' to people across the world.

They said the so-called 'free media' were backing the imperialist Anglo-American alliance and demanded an immediate end to the propaganda

campaign. Demanding immediate halt to the Iraq war, People's Health Movement (PHM), Bangladesh Circle, launched a 15-day programme, 'Health Movement Platform for Anti-War People'. PHM will organise an anti-war rally at the Ganoshastha Kendra today.

hanging as war criminals in a mock Bangladesh Human Rights trial. Commission (BHRC) will form a human chain against the war on Iraq in hundreds of school and college stufront of the National Eidgah premises dents organised a rally in the town in today. protest against Anglo-American

Ganotantrik Biplobi Jote (JBJ) invasion of Iraq. demanded trial of the Bush-Blair pair The burnt the effigies of the Bushas war criminals and closure of the US Blair pair.

Iraa.

dren, in Iraq.

62 drown in Surma

**BNP** leader killed in Natore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi Unidentified miscreants slaughtered a BNP leader near East Madhnagar

The victim identified as Majedur

News agencies reported that a force of about 30 tanks and armoured

the city at high speed. Others with Kalashnikovs ran toward an area where a coalition pilot was rumoured to have parachuted. US forces were moving in a pincer from two sides toward the city. With

artillery thundering overhead, marines pushed through Iraqi fire to within a few miles of Baghdad's southeastern outskirts early yesterday. Black smoke poured into the sky

over parts of Baghdad from fires set to obscure targets, and loud explosions were heard throughout the morning, punctuated by bursts of machine gun fire. Baghdad has taken on the look of a city under siege, with soldiers digging

Marines said they had come across many non-Iraqi fighters -- mostly

trenches and foxholes along the highway leading south.

Jordanians and Egyptians.

cvanide compounds are often found in industrial waste water. There is also cyanide in various foods, such as

almonds, and in cigarette smoke. Five people, including three American special forces troops, died vesterday when a car blew up at a checkpoint in central Iraq. The assumption is

could not confirm.

immediate north of Baghdad.

Bastahavan Committee Ittehadul Olama, Al- Hikma, Jagroto Tauhidi Janata, Bangladesh Ummah Parishad, Oaomi Foundation, Sanee Resalat, Islamic Party, Muslim Jubo Sangha, Jamiah Islamia, Islami Ummah Corporation Ltd., Islami Chhatra Shibir, Chhatra Shakti and Sammilito Islami Sangram Parishad

active at the moment include Jamaat-e

Islami Bangladesh, Ahle Hadith Andolon,

Khelafat Andolon, Hizb-ut-Tahrir

Bangladesh, Islami Biplobi Manch,

Hezbul Mujahideen, Islami Shasantantra

Andolon, Khelafat Majlish, Jamiat-e-

Bangladesh, Koran Majid Bangladesh,

Bangladesh Islamic Party, Jatiya Imam

Samaj, Islami Buddhijibi Front, Islami

It is learnt through Internet that most of these organisations are linked with their international chapters located mostly in the Middle East, Europe, Pakistan, Indonesia, India and Central Asia, and work worldwide in the same direction to establish Islam.

Of these organisations, some believe in steady social change through intellectual persuasion while many others, patronised by international groups, believe in Islamic revolution through political conflict. Some of them even believe in armed conflict to achieve their aims. Some others want to promote their cause through sharing sate power and using it to consolidate their position.

Meanwhile, these Islamist groups have announced programmes like stoppage of export-import trade with the western countries like the US and Britain, branding them as enemies of Islam.

Some parties have announced boycott of 'Iewish commodities' in Bangladesh and threatened to launch search parties comprising activists of their student and youth fronts to seize western goods from shops and markets.

Analysts say taking advantage of the war, many religious groups, including some extremist ones with strong international connections, are organising themselves to establish Islamic laws and to fight against the West and their local cronies.

People in general in Bangladesh have been expressing their rising opposition to the US and the UK-led unjust war against Iraq. They have hung effigies of George W. Bush and Tony Blair, the two masterminds of the war, at various city points to show their anger against them.

The long running consequences of the war in Iraq would be the rise in public support for Islamic organisations. Analysts predict that Islamic militancy will rise and demands for greater islamisation will become widespread.

Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury of Dhaka University sees the anti-war protest as protest worldwide against capitalism and imperialism, mostly in two forms -- democratic and religious.

In Bangladesh, he said, the democratic

Progoti Sangha observed that the programmes the Islamic organisations have taken up are mostly in the name of Muslim Ummah, without exposing the actual reason, which is garbbing of Iraqi oil by the US.

groups, particularly the ruling and the

main opposition parties, have failed to

mobilise the protest, ceding the field for

whatever reason to the religious groups

And these elements are visible now

Chowdhury, however, does not believe a

fundamentalist upsurge might take place

in the country since the people are funda-

Rokeya Kabir of Bangladesh Nari

mentally secular.

"Islamist fundamentalists are taking benefit of the Iraq war and trying to unite to implement their party agenda," she

10 hurt as rival groups clash in N'ganj

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

vesterday.

of

the accused in double murder case, ne to his house at the village on Friday. On information, about 10 people including the brothers of slain Babul and

Nuruzzaman, went to Safaruddin's house and caught him. But they faced resistance from the followers of Safaruddin. After an hour, about 20 people went

hour.

the clashing groups.

### Suicide bomber

Farhad, who chased him with a FROM PAGE 1 surrounded in Saddam airport to come

a gathering at Islambag mosque, police said.

the village.

The masked miscreants threatened the victim's neighbours off and slaughtered Maju to death, brutally hitting him with an iron rod.

The assailants allegedly left the spot chanting slogans in favour of Purbo Banglar Sorbohara Party.

Police could not as yet ascertain the motive behind the murder. However, they arrested one Samad Ali in this connection.

A case was filed with the

Naldanga Police Station. Police

arrested one Samad Ali from the

A security guard died Friday night as

floor of an under-construction

building to escape from a mentally

Mohammad Oli, 35, guard of the

building at Road No. 16, Sector-3,

Uttara, went to bring the boy,

others went upstairs, Farhad chased

Oli and another employee,

Shamsuddin, jumped from the

them with the knife.

receiving treatment there.

An unnatural death case

filed with the Uttara Police Station.

iniured.

disturbed boy at Uttara in the city.

Security guard

own in this connection

jumps to

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT** 

death

Deputy Minister Ruhul Kuddus Dulu and senior police officials visited the spot yesterday morning.

At least ten people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at village Fulhar under Bandar police station

According to locals, Safaruddin, one

to Fulhar and attacked six houses at the village. Both sides clashed for half an

The injured were admitted to different hospitals in Narayanganj and Dhaka. Police rushed to the spot and dispersed

sharp knife at 10:30pm. out alive," he said.

Sahaf said yesterday Iraqi forces had recaptured Baghdad's international airport, seized by US troops Friday. The US military dismissed his claim as "groundless."

An apparent suicide car bomb killed three US soldiers, a pregnant woman and the driver of the car at a checkpoint northwest of Baghdad in the night from Thursday to Friday. Four US soldiers also died in a bomb at a checkpoint last Saturday

That suicide attack put invasion forces across Iraq on edge. Iraq pledged to step up such attacks and said thou sands of Arabs have flocked from abroad to offer themselves as "martyrs"

named as "Isolation Siege", "Remote Strike (Rubbising)", "Ground Assault, Frontal", "Nodal Isolation", "Nodal Capture", "Segment and Capture" and

> "Softpoint Capture and Expansion" The article explains what each of them means, although it does not indicate which of them the Pentagon prefers.

Also this morning, the US says it has captured the headquarters of the Republican Guard's important Medina division in Suwayrah, about 35 miles south east of Baghdad. First reports suggest that American forces were unopposed because the Iraqis had A heavy contingent of police has abandoned their posts. been deployed as tension prevails at

In other developments overnight, the US says two marine pilots died when their Super Cobra attack helicopter crashed in central Iraq; and an American soldier, Sergeant Hasan Akbar, has been charged with the murder of two officers and 17 attempted murders in connection with the grenade attack at a US army camp in Kuwait on March 25.

A reporter for ABC News says seven civilians, including three children, died

## **Export prices dip**

### he allegedly jumped from second

Similarly, price of frozen food was \$5.02 per pound during July-December in fiscal 1998-99, \$4.7 in the corresponding period in 1999-2000, \$5.17 in 2000-01 and \$4.06 in 2001-02. But the unit price came down to \$3.73 during the same period in fiscal 2002-03.

Prices of jute goods were \$633 per ton during July-December in fiscal Father of the boy who resides in 1998-99, \$619 in the corresponding an adjacent building asked Oli to period in 1999-2000, \$618 in 2000-01 bring down his son who had a quarand \$603 in 2001-02. It dipped to \$597 rel with his elder brother on the during the same period in the current second floor. When Oli and three financial year.

Readymade garment, knitwear, frozen food and jute goods accounted for 85 per cent of the total US\$3158 million export earnings during July-December this fiscal.

second floor. Oli died on the spot "In the face of global recession, while Shamsuddin received severely prices of Bangladeshi products are falling continuously. Export earnings Oli's body was sent to the Dhaka are being covered up by increasing the Medical College Hospital for an volume in the past couple of years. It autopsy while Shamsuddin was means manufacturers are exporting more to earn every single dollar," said was Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Research Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue.

During the last 24 hours there has second since the invasion began), but been some excited media coverage doubts were raised when Centcom said relating to Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, although there is no those killed - stepped out of the car confirmation so far that any have been "screaming in fear" just before the found by the invading forces. explosion.

At a press conference yesterday, the Iraq information minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, speaking in Arabic, threatened "non-traditional action" at Baghdad airport and said it would take place overnight (though it appears not to have happened). First reports translated the phrase as control, they say.

'non-conventional" - implying an intention to use weapons of mass destruction. The minister made clear this was not what he had in mind. Later reports amended the translation to 'unconventional". Yesterday, US forces reportedly discovered quantities of "white powder" and "clear liquid". The subliminal message here was that the powder might be anthrax, although preliminary tests suggest it was some

kind of explosive, according to the US. it could be from the one before. We have Another report mentioned the placed it out of bounds to all personnel discovery of cyanide in river water, but a simple internet search shows that

Widow defaced in Rajshahi Local products are losing their

acid attack STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

> A widow suffered serious burns when her brother-in-law threw acid on her at Banshpukuria village under Puthia upazila in Rajshahi on Friday for turning down his proposition. Locals said Momena Bewa, 38, wife

of late Abul Hossain, was rushed to Puthia Health Complex in a critical condition.

They said Nakib threw a bottle of corrosive acid on her through the window of her house while she was asleep.

Nakib had proposed to marry her since her husband's death 10 years ago. Returning from abroad a few weeks ago, he began pestering her again.

Momena lodged a case with Puthia Police Station accusing Nakib, who is on the run since the incident, of defacing her.

### FROM PAGE 1 a pregnant woman - who was among over those.

The dead have been identified as Jarina Khatun, 30, Parishakar Bibi, 60,

Sakhina Khatun, 45, Hamida Khatun, There are also doubts about the 35, Zobeda Khatun, 12, Nagendra Dass, earlier "suicide" bombing on March 29. 60, Suchitra Dass, 12, Julhash Miah, 8, Western intelligence sources now say Rana, 7, Nasima, 36, Anwara, 35, Kasirun the driver of the taxi involved may have Mia, 10, Delwar, 10, Kamrunnahar, 2, had no idea he was carrying a bomb. Sabigunnahar, 5, Sijafa Khatun, 12, Forensic evidence indicates the blast Nazma, 7, Shabnur, 3, Salma, 6, Fatem, could have been triggered by remote 12, Mizanur, 5, Julekha, 45, Hena, 3, Rahima, 15, Zosthsna, 10, Shirina, 5, As with so many events in this war, it China, 2, Majeda, 45, Amena, 25, Sohel, is becoming increasingly difficult to 10, Rahima, 2, Kabil, 8, Bedana, 40, Julhash Miah, 8, Ayesha, 22, Nargis, 8, Amatya (4 months), Fatema, 1, Sohel, 11, Bedana Begum, 40, Kanchanmala, 25, Delwar, 14 months, Quashem, 1, labelled, and there's human remains Alpana Begum, 5, Majida, 12, Hamida Begum, 8, Nasir Uddin, 10, Alema, 5, "I wouldn't like to speculate, but the Majida Khatun, 11, Minara, 40, Fulema, bones inside are obviously years old. It is 35, Ishaque Miah, 7, Nima Begum, 2, certainly not from the recent conflict but Alfa Begum, 35, Yasin, 13, Hasina, 18,

Sharif, 9, Shilpa, 6, Mohammad Jalil, and unidentified 1. and we will treat it as a mass grave," he Most of the victims are from villages

in Kalmakanda upazila in Netrokona district.

the cargo vessel had no headlight. Its small sidelights provided poor visibility at night

Soon after the disaster, some crew of the cargo vessel rescued some people but they fled away when villagers from nearby areas rushed for rescuing the

### PM asks DCC FROM PAGE 12

Corporation Act to make it time befitting.

The Prime Minister's directives came when she was presiding over a meeting to review activities and future plans of DCC at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the afternoon.

She directed the officials to complete the work of three projects in due

Two other projects are construction of Sonargaon Hotel-Rampura link road and multistoried car parking lot with a capacity of some 25,000 vehicles at Motiiheel.

The estimated cost of 3 km long and 00ft width Sonargaon Hotel-Rampura road is Tk 176 crore and may be completed in two years.

victims

The Chhatak police led by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer started rescue operation with the help of local people about 9:30pm.

Only a cook of the cargo vessel-Hajart Ali- was later taken to custody.

In the morning, the Sylhet Divisional Commissioner and DIG of Police; Deputy Commissioner and SP of Sunamgani reached the spot and supervised the rescue operation. Later, Jatiya Sangsad Whip Fazlul Haque Aspia and local political leader Kolim Uddin Milon went there.

The Sunamganj district administration gave Tk 1000, a lungi and a saree to relatives of each of victims.

The bodies were handed over to the families and were sent to their village homes yesterday afternoon.

The Chhatak Poursshava also gave Tk 10.000 for the victims.

## One burnt alive in

Banskhali fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Some of the survivors alleged that One person was burnt alive and one madrassah was gutted in two fire incidents in Banskhali thana on Friday

night. In the city, a bitumen factory was gutted vesterday afternoon. Sources said one person named Md

Ismail, 17, was burnt alive as he was trapped in his room at Binjaritala village when a fire broke out from the kitchen oven. He was the son of one Abdul Maiid.

> Ismail was sleeping alone at his 1st floor room of the 2-storey building.

In another incident at West Mankirchar village, Al Humaira Mahila Madrassah was gutted in a fire. There were about 150 female students at the madrassah hostel, but none was injured. Enmity between two local groups may be the reason behind the fire, sources alleged.

In the city, Rupali Chemical Industry, a bitumen factory in Strand Road area, was gutted in a fire that broke at around 3pm vesterday as a drum filled with chemicals burst, sources claimed.

Flames and smoke were billowing till filing of this report yesterday evening.

### competitiveness as their costs are rising due to problems at ports, bureaucratic tangles in customs, increase in lead time and other domestic rent seeking factors, he said. Rahman said exporters are basically dependent on middlemen and very few

of them have direct access to buyers. Most of the exporters are unable to produce value added fashionable items and not aware of the present market trend. It is working as a barrier to market development and expansion.

According to an EPB analysis, the country could not reap the benefit under preferential market access provided by Canada, Thailand. New Zealand, Pakistan, Japan, and India because of its narrow export basket and

Agro-based and leather industries,

two potential export sectors, have been

facing serious supply constraint

Besides, the number of quality products

for export is very few and low quality

packaging is another problem, the

low quality products.

analysis added.