PM against terrorism

The project, involving Tk 5 crore, was completed nearly one year ahead of the schedule. The prime minister inaugurated the reconstruction work on the motel on January 16, 2002.

two-bed AC rooms and 15 two-bed non-AC ones. It also has a 100-seat restaurant, a 30-seat coffee shop and a 300-seat conference room.

at Khagrachhari, Bandarban, Benapole and Sagardari will be inaugurated within the next 15 days, Nasiruddin told the function held at the conference room of the new motel. Construction work on these motels have also been completed one year ahead of the schedule, costing Tk 12 crore.

The function was told there are

The prime minister said a vested

The tourism sector has been identified as a thrust sector as the government wants to develop it on priority basis, Khaleda said, adding that it would help boost scopes for increased investment like other

declared the first-ever National

market economy in addition to taking steps to create an investment-friendly climate for flourishing

The prime minister called upon both foreign and local investors to to invest in this sector.

"Development of domestic tourism is the basis of international tourism. So, we need to strengthen our efforts to better organise domestic tourism to attract foreign tourists." Khaleda said.

She said there are a good number of impressive historic places in Bangladesh that can attract tourists.

The tourism sector earned Tk 32 crore in the fiscal 2001-2002 and Tk crore from duty-free shops during the period.

It provided Tk 90 crore to the government exchequer in revenue since its inception in 1973 and invested Tk 35 crore for development of tourism from its own funds, while the government provided Tk 35 crore over the last 30 years, Meer

Prime Minister's eldest son and BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, his wife Zobaida Rahman and their daughter Zaima Rahman, PM's political secretary Mohammad Mosaddek Ali, Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, local civil and military high officials and representatives of various private motels attended the inaugural function.

Coalition candidate

forming the 2,73,471-voter constitu-

Only security personnel, magistrates, polling officials, newsmen and observers were allowed to travel in vehicles. The cellphone network also remained cut off during voting hours.

Chief Election Commissioner MA Sved visited two centres in Atpara and expressed satisfaction with the way the polls were conducted.

About 50 lawmakers of the AL were in Netrakona, keeping watch on

different polling centres. The main contenders of the by-

election are Khadiia Amin Talukder widow of Nurul Amin, and former MP Jubed Ali, nominated by the AL. The AL leaders alleged that

supporters of the candidate backed by the ruling alliance intimidated the voters and drove the agents of the AL candidate out of polling centres.

AL leaders Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Abdur Rahman said their agents had been forced out of some centres in Atpara by the BNP

The news agency UNB adds: The AL alleged the ruling party supporters had cast fake votes at centre Nos. 45. 93, 121 and 122 taking over polling booths, and prevented voters of the minority community from voting.

"We met administrative officials including the presiding officer and assistant returning officer concerned to lodge complaints. But they refused

Charge sheet against 32 AL men in explosive case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A charge sheet was submitted yesterday against 32 Awami League (AL) leaders and activists under the explosives act in Barisal.

Sub-inspector Nurul Amin of Barisal Kotwali Police Station submitted the charge sheet at the court of Golam Rahman, Barisal sadar upazila magistrate.

The name of Syed Anis, the publicity secretary of the district AL, was added to the charge sheet while six others of the FIR were excluded. Earlier, Ismail Hussein, secretary

"The standard of education is the main determinant of a nation's of the Barisal Tempo Workers advancement. So, the government Union, filed a case against 37 AL giving importance to quality leaders and activists on August 14. education," Khaleda said, adding The Bangladesh Chhatra League cadres on that day allegedly ransacked several vehicles including

some tempos. The charge sheet was submitted within 7 days after filing of the case, a record in the district. military high officials and represen-

Tipu assault case Charges to be framed against Hazari Sept 15

Additional District Magistrate's court yesterday set September 15 for framing charges against Joynal Hazari and his 12 associates in journalist Tipu Sultan assault case.

Hazari, former Awami League MP, already awarded life term for illegal possession of firearms, and six other accused in the case remained fugitive

Cadres of Hazari picked up Tipu, UNB district correspondent, from the street on January 25, 2001. They beat Tipu with iron rods for reporting the incident of demolishing a newly built school by Hazari men as he was not invited to open it.

Tipu had to undergo treatment

Robbers raid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

lakh in cash, 100 tola gold ornaments and other valuables from two flats of an apartment building at Shantinagar in Motijheel yesterday.

Agang of eight went to the apartment block at around 12:15am, held the security quard hostage and entered the first floor flat.

The robbers held the inmates at gunpoint and looted Tk 40,000 and 50 tola gold ornaments. Landlord Sabu Rahman was not present at the

second-floor flat and looted Tk 2 lakh and 50 tola gold ornaments in a similar manner. The booty also included the cash and ornaments taken from a family guest who had arrived from Saudi Arabia the previ-

hue and cry, the dacoits fired blank twice and left.

However, when the robbers were leaving, locals chased them. They opened fire on them and sped away n three motorbikes, one of which was parked on the porch.

A case was filed with the Motiiheel

murdered

UNB, Pabna

An Awami League leader was murdered by a gang of assailants at Haludghar in Sathia Upazila Wednesday night

president of AL upazila unit, was recovered yesterday morning.

Hazrat Ali, also a member of Dhopada Union Parishad in the upazila, while he was returning home at about 10:30pm and knifed him to death The motive behind the killing

could not be known. A case was filed with Santhia Police Station.

Mother and her 2 children fall off launch, drown

UNB, Khulna

A mother and her two children drowned in the Shibsa river in Koira upazila on Wednesday as they reportedly fell off a launch into the

Police said Swanna Rani Mondal 24, and her daughter Paromita, 4, and son Rokhindra Nath Mondal, 2 of Hadda village fell into the river from a Nanian-bound launch, Water Kingin the morning.

Their bodies could not be etrieved till yesterday evening.

Another source, however, said Swapna committed suicide along with her children by jumping into the river. But a GD filed by Sudhangsu band, stated that they "slipped into

Wasa sewerage

FROM PAGE 12 was taken up by Wasa almost three years ago, but has made little progress. This project was supposed to be financed by the Chinese government, official sources said. But no funds have been available to date.

Another five-vear project 'Dhaka City's Sewerage Management Improvement Project' of Tk 189.95 crore, supposed to be financed by the Japanese government, for the improvement of the sewer lines, has suffered a more or less similar fate. A project director was appointed for the two projects about three years ago and he is going on retirement this year, sources said. Again, the funds are yet to be released by the Japanese government.

Currently, people in the areas not covered by the sewerage system use the septic tank that is not unscientific as an alternative, an engineer said. But thousands of city dwellers especially of the lower income group are polluting the city's environment through haphazard sewerage management, he added.

Due to lack of sewerage lines at Uttara model town and many parts of Gulshan and Baridhara, wastes from hundreds of houses flow into Uttara and Gulshan lakes.

The Tk 78 crore 'Sewerage Lines Rehabilitation and Expansion Project' introduced in 1997 is scheduled to be complete in 2004. A total of 52 kilometres of lines have been rehabilitated and expanded under this project. Of them, 32km lines have been rehabilitated in old town Zigatola and Mohammadpur, Wasa officials said.

Under the project, some old sewerage lines of Narinda, Laxmibazar, Krishikesh Das Road, Becharam Deuri, Ram Krishna Mission Road and Malitola areas have been repaired. These lines date back to the British rule, the officials added.

The lines have been expanded by 20km in parts of Shantibagh, Shahjahanpur, Bashabo, Tejgaon, Rampura and Meradia Bhuiyanpara. These areas have come under the sewerage network

partially, the official sources said. Under the sewerage manage ment system, Wasa has a central sewerage treatment plant at Pagla in Narayangani linked with the river

Jama'atul thrived

network deep into five upazilas of the district since 2000 and local investigators think the operatives would have failed to build their stronghold had the law enforcers dealt with the previous incidents seriously

In November 2000, Jama'atul Jihad, believed to be a splinter of Jama'atul Muiahidin, sent six letters and pieces of white cloth to the then upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), officer-in-charge (OC), an Awami League leader and two journalists of Kalai upazila threatening them with death.

reaction to a report by the Bogra Daily that focused on alleged overnight combat training at Chandai and Shikta madrassahs for the operatives and quoted the UNO, OC and the AL leader.

The death threat came as a

A general diary was filed on December 5 but the incident was not thoroughly investigated after a discussion on it at a district law and order meeting, said sources OC of Kalai Police Station Abdul

Jalil Sheikh said the investigators

of the militant training then failed to

come up with any substantial

After the coalition government came to power in late 2001, unknown gunmen shot Nurul Islam Dudu, an NGO worker, at work and set fire to his office. Police arrested four persons and seized anti-NGO leaflets and booklets on jihad from

Abu Amr, who had been liaising

with militant groups about the

truce, said: "The official position is

that the truce is over and Israel is

reposnsible for that, not only

because of this assassination in

Gaza but also because of many

actions which had been continuing

There was no word from the

Israeli army on the lunchtime

attack in Gaza which came hours

after Israeli forces launched a

before.

Department pressed charge against Raju Mia, Masudur Rahman and Sujaul Islam of a seven-strong gang for their part in the January 20 sensational murder at Begungram shrine in Joypurhat. But the court freed them on bail.

An investigator alleged a set of local influential politicians lobbied for their release. But Joypurhat Superintendent of Police Abdul Jalil Mondol denied the allegation and said the investigation is still going on and police have nothing to do if the court frees the accused.

Joypurhat Deputy Commissioner Abdul Monaf Patwari said police might not have put appropriate words in their prayers, which led to the bail of the On April 4 this year, unidentified

youths distributed leaflets among people at a mosque in Joypurhat town after Juma prayers. On the night of April 15, police arrested the seven youths in the act of scrawling jihad calls on a government building and seized pro-militant leaflets of the Jama'atul Mujahidin.

The seven arrested on charge of suspicious movements were taken into remand two times and grilled in the joint interrogation cell but freed on bail on May 29 after they served out a month in deten-

The Kalai OC says police could do nothing other than arrest them under the Section 54 as only leaf-

lets were found with them. "I am not sure whether the Jama'atul Mujahidin is banned," the OC said.

Golam Mokarram Chowdhury, a lawyer, said the seven could have been charged with sedition as they were writing jihad messages on the wall and their leaflets inspire Muslims to store firearms.

The accused told police in interrogation that a ringleader. Khalilur Rahman, was in the forefront of their organisational activities, based in Kalai Ahle Hadith Mosque. After the arrest of Anwar Sadat in the August 14 firefight, it was found that he is Khalilur Rahman of Joypurhat.

The seven youths after their release from detention pushed ahead with their activities with calls for iihad, said sources. A recently circulated leaflet

obtained by the correspondent of The Daily Star, urges countrymen including the president, prime minister and members of the police, BDR and army to work towards establishing Allah's rule. The leaflet terms combat train-

ing faraz (a must) for Muslims and said the aim of Jama'atul Mujahidin is to establish Islamic rule to protect the religion and sovereignty of Bangladesh from aggression. Masudur Rahman, one of the

seven youths, was arrested again on the night of August 14 before the Joypurhat firefight began in Moheshpur village, which was guarded by the operatives.

Hundi trader held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A hundi trader and his three associates were held with a huge amount of money in different currencies and pay-orders in the city on Wednesday. Md Yunus Sattar, an illegal

money transferer, was held in a raid at Khatunganj Amin Market along with three of his associates. A task force team comprising a magistrate, the Coast Guard men

and customs officials led the raid and recovered from them Tk 19.99 lakh. US\$700, 505 notes of Saudi Rials and pay-orders of Tk 5 lakh. The confiscated currencies were later handed over to the customs

authorities while the arrestees to the Kotwali Police Station

20 yrs each in arms case

BSS, Satkhira

vears imprisonment each by a court here on Wednesday in an arms case Acting judge of Additional District

and Sessions Judge's Court-3 Taposh Kumar Dev delivered the verdict after examining the witnesses and evidences.

son of Abu Taleb Sardar of village Kakrabunia under Ashashuni upazila and Nurul Islam, 35, son of Mansur Dhali of village Shahapur under Kaligani upazila. According to the prosecution,

Kaliganj police, acting on a tip-off, raided an area of Krishnagar union under Kaliganj upazila on April 24, 2001 and nabbed two members of a gang, Harun and Nurul Islam, who were taking preparation for robbery at Janata Bank, Bashtola bazar branch. Police also recovered two

pipeguns along with 40 bullets from their possession. A case was filed with Kaliganj

Police Station the same day. Later, police submitted chargesheet accusing Harun and Nurul Islam.

Life stops

tion in Agrabad commercial area. It was addressed by, among others, leaders of the CCCI, Bangladesh Steamer Agents Association, Bangladesh Masters Stevedores Association.

Moreover, brief rallies were held at different business centres including the New Market, Reazuddin Bazar, Ispahani Crossing, GEC Chaktai and Khatungani.

sionals were held at Jamal Khan Road and Noor Ahmad Sarak

Chittagong Press Club and Chittagong Union of Journalists

discussion meetings demanded urgent steps to improve law and order, rescue of the abducted business magnate and arrest of the killers of Zakir.

Traffic congestion at various points in the city continued for about half an hour after the token strike.

ISPs threaten

which was vetted in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) taskforce meeting headed by the prime minister at its last meeting couple of months back.

Post and Telecommunication Minister M Aminul Hugue also told The Daily Star last month that a proposal to legalise Internet telephony will be sent to the cabinet for approval soon. But Manju alleged some influen-

tial people are delaying the legalisation process, as they would miss out on earnings from illegal call termination through Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)

illegal VoIP network and do not want telephony to be legalised, he alleged. He urged the government to

provide all existing ISPs access to internet telephony so that the country can earn huge revenues in Legalisation of the VoIP will not

The country could earn billions of

terrors in the country, police said.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Secret visit

FROM PAGE 12

'He did not tell me anything about going to Netrokona. I only came to know about it when I woke up at 7:00pm and read the message he left for me," his wife told The Daily Star yesterday.

the dark about the visit until when the worried staff at the office phoned Sved's residence at Gulshan in the afternoon and inquired about his whereabouts.

Syed observed several byelections during the Awami League parliamentary elections in 2001.

the polls along with reporters from some national dailies.

All jostle

FROM PAGE 12 chaos as the number of voters rose

by the hour, prompting the on-duty magistrate to control the situation. In the room of Presiding Officer Saidur Rahman sat Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzak, Awami League (AL) lawmaker from Modhupur, who alleged the AL was deprived of

time watching all polling centres in Atpara," Razzak said. A count by the presiding officer put the number of votes cast by 10:10am at 1,139 out of 3,744. Outside the centre, policemen were

because of 'rigging'. "Forty-four

Awami League lawmakers are this

busy controlling a huge crowd. In the outlying Nazirganj centre by the Moghra river, security personnel outnumbered voters. According to a count at 11:00am.

1.045 voters out of 2.336 cast votes. AL lawmaker Ekabbar Hossain, leading a group of party leaders, was keeping watch on the voting. The voting continues peacefully but there are some complaints of false votes," said the lawmaker without specifying.

Atpara, Presiding Officer Moazzem Hossain said only 829 of 1,878 votes were cast by 1:00pm. Returning Officer Hossain Jamil told newsmen at his office in

In another remote centre in

Netrakona that no untoward incident took place during the voting from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

dollars through legalising VoIP, as there is huge potential for cheaper Internet telephony in the Asiaacific region, Manju added.

Quoting a report of the Sixth International Asia Pacific VoIP Seminar held at Singapore recently he said the VoIP service minutes and revenue in the Asia-Pacific are expected to leap from 0.325 billion minutes and \$78 million in revenue in 1999 to 600 billion minutes generating revenues of \$48 billion by

He said the region constituted 29.4 per cent of the world market in terms of revenue in 1999 and is expected to constitute nearly 37 per cent by 2006.

"We could earn more than \$2 billion by 2006, if we could grab even a fraction of the market through VoIP," Manju said.

The ISPA leaders asked the government to identify the vested quarter that has been using VAST ithout licence.

The BTTB had locked all outgoing facilities of the ISPs in fear of the illegal Internet telephony. The ISPA also demanded nationwide licence immediately for the

ISPs for the development of the ICT. They also demanded more autonomy for the BTRC so that it could act independently for this

Ansars member, husband get 14yrs in arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

convicted a female ansars platoon member and her husband to 14 vears of rigorous imprisonment under the Arms Acts for possessing illegal arms. Judge Abdul Quddus Mia sen-

tenced Farida Yasmin and Abdul

The Barisal Speedy Trial Tribunal

Khalek Talukder after examining 13 witnesses. Talukder was absconding since his bail but Farida was According to the prosecution Sub-inspector Hannan Sheikh of Patuakhali Kotwali Police Station

recovered one pipe gun and one live ammunition from the couple's house at the Patuakhali Government Staff Quarters on August 4, 2002.

Khalek said he had purchased the gun from Chittagong for Tk 3,500 but failed to show any legal

BNP men

He said he had first filed complaints with the EC at 2:00pm about forcible occupation of four polling centres and called upon Chief Election Commissioner M A Syed to take necessary action in this regard.

"The ruling party's hooligans forcibly occupied polling centres 45, 93, 121 and 122 and cast false votes. They also threatened minority voters and asked them not to come to polling centres. The local administration, the presiding officer and other polls officials were reluctant to take any action." the AL said in its complaint faxed to the EC at

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, alleged that the BNP activists prechandrapur Primary School centre

in Maskara Union. The activists also attacked the residence of a local AL leader when he was motivating voters to cast vote at Dharmaroy centre, Saber

Hosts ride on ton

FROM PAGE 1 with Pakistan having lost opener Mohammad Hafeez with the score on five. Hameed batted for more than five hours on the placid Karachi wicket, showing all the qualities of a compact international batsman in

two sides. The young prospect from Peshawar scored his first 50 off 80

balls and then went on to reach the magical 100 taking just 66 more His entertaining innings came to

an end when he pulled fast bowler Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza straight to Mohammad Rafique at mid-wicket. The impressive voungster batted for 275 minutes and faced 237 balls. Hameed is the ninth Pakistani to score a century on debut. His 170 is

Khalid Ibadullah's 166 against Australia at the same venue in Together with middle-order the foundation for a big total Youhana was the next highest run-getter for Pakistan with 46, followed by opener Taufeeg Umar. who chipped in with 38.

pointing return to Test cricket for

veteran batsman Inzamam-ul Haq The big man from Multan, playing his first match after a disastrous World Cup, scored a five-ball duck. Inzamam flicked a Tapas Baishya delivery off his pads straight to Rajin Saleh at mid-

The day also marked a disap-

captured two wickets for 61. But the pace spearhead lacked the usual bite associated with his bowling. Tapas, Mohammad Rafique and

part time off-spinner Saleh shared the other three wickets, with Rafique being the most economical Bangladesh bowler, conceding 61 runs in 25 overs. Earlier, resuming the day on 278-

Mashrafee added another 10 runs to the overnight total before Rafique failed to negotiate a steep delivery of Shabbir Ahmed and was caught down the leg side by Latif.

mark the opening of the motel

the tourism industry.

The motel has two VIP suites, 11

Four more such tourism motels minister Meer Mohammad

26 motels in the country.

quarter is engaged in a deep-rooted conspiracy to tarnish the country's image and urged all to uphold its positive aspects by showing local and foreign tourists the attractive tourism prospects apart from upholding the country's heritage.

She said her government has

to accept our complaints," said an AL release in Dhaka. The AL leaders also alleged the BNP workers had attacked the residence of a local AL leader while he was motivating voters to cast

votes at Dharmaroy centre at Sukhari

The ruling party supporters had

union in Atpara.

also prevented the voters from casting votes at Ramchandrapur Primary School centre in Maskara the AL leaders alleged. The AL said violence, allegedly let

loose by "ruling party" supporters, resulted in a low turnout in the polls. An unconfirmed report said three omen were arrested for casting fake votes at Balur Char centre of

Shantidhona union in Kendua.

Alleged thief

escapes from police custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg An alleged thief undergoing treatment under police custody at Banshkhali in the district fled on

Shafi of Shilkup Maizpara under Banshkhali thana, fled from Upazila Health Complex of Banshkhali Wednesday night. Zahir was held by the mob on

Police said Md Zahir, son of Md

August 17. They beat him up and handed over to police, sources said. Post-grad edn

free **FROM PAGE 1** pend to meritorious girl students Some 50 lakh students are now

availing themselves of this privi-

Education Secretary M Shahidul

lege," she told the function

Alam briefed the prime minister about the two projects. The prime minister said the government has taken initiatives to set up five model high schools in the capital while six in Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong, Barisal and Bogra to improve the standard of education.

that the year 2003 has been declared "Good Education Year." The PM's eldest son and Senior Joint Secretary General of BNP Tarique Rahman, his wife Dr Zobaida Rahman and their daugh ter Zaima Rahman, PM's Political Secretary Mohammad Mosaddek Ali, Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, BNP leader Begum Sarwari Rahman, local civil and

tatives of various private motels

Shahabuddin

FROM PAGE 12 of the politicians during their crisis.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, said Ishtiaq Ahmed was a strong voice to establish rights of the people. He was not a politician but was highly politically conscious. Milad Mehfil and special prayers were offered for the peace of the

Former president Dr AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, former chief

justice AT M Afzal, Chief Justice KM Hasan, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, former advisers to caretaker government Prof Mohammad Yunus. Prof Wahiduddin Mahmood Hafizuddin Ahmed and National Professor Nurul Islam, among others, attended the function.

Shantinagar flats, loot valuables

Robbers looted allegedly Tk 2.5

The robbers then went onto a

When the inmates tried to raise a

Pabna AL Leader

The body of Hazrat Ali, 43, vice-

Police said a gang of 10 waylaid

series of operations in the West Bank in which at least one Palestinian was also killed. Palestinian officials had earlier said they would begin their own crackdown on Hamas and Islamic Jihad which both claimed responsibility for Tuesday's suicide attack in

and injured around 100.

Palestinian sources have said the bomber was a Hamas member who formerly belonged to Islamic Israel's security cabinet approved military action against the two groups early Thursday. Public radio said the moves would

nclude raids, arrests and "targeted

Witnesses in Gaza said a white

sedan belonging to Abu Shanab

killings" of militant leaders.

Jerusalem that killed 20 people

burst into flames after the F-16 fired three rockets. When Palestinians rushed up to aid the passengers, the Israeli plane fired two more rockets. Medical sources said at least

other Palestinians were wounded. It was the first assassination by Israeli forces since they tried to kill Hamas political leader Abdulaziz Rantissi on June 10 Israeli tanks and troops had

two of the charred bodies were

taken to Shafaa hospital. Three

entered the northern West Bank towns of Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem overnight, sparking firefights with Palestinian gunmen.

vear-old boy died after being shot in Tulkarem where some 12 tanks

Palestinian sources said a 15-

New Iraq dratt FROM PAGE 12 their forces serving under US com-Powell also contacted other foreign ministers this week about a new resolution including Jack Straw of Britain, Dominique de Villepin of France, Joschka Fischer of Germany and Franco Frattini of Italy, a US official

quarters later Thursday. Unless Washington agrees to cede some control of Iraq to the United Nations, however, diplomats said the possibility of a robust multinational force appeared unlikely to pick up any new proponents. "Everybody speaks about the need

to improve security but, how can we

achieve it?," asked Russia's deputy

UN ambassador Gennady Gatilov. "I

don't think that we have an immediate

said in Washington. Straw was also

expected to meet Annan at UN head-

answer to this issue now." "The first thing that comes to my mind" is that the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority should take "additional steps" to provide security, he said. Privately, several council diplomats

expressed concern that the United

States would try to take advantage of

the emotional mood after Tuesday's

bombing to push for troop contribu-

Despite unanimous condemnation of the bombing and support for a continued UN presence in the country. Iraq remains a sensitive and difficult issue five months after the bitterly divided Security Council refused to back the US-led war. Annan said the United Nations has

started assessing security arrange-

ments, and he will make recommen-

dations to the Security Council at a

future date

Israeli tanks were also seen moving towards Ramallah, triggering speculation of a tighter reoccu-

and jeeps thrust into the city and its

neighbouring refugee camp.

Israel missiles Gaza

earlier told their security forces to begin a long-awaited crackdown the hardliners, with orders

"Measures will be taken against Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the coming hours," one senior Palestinian security official told AFP here, without giving details.

Six criminals held with firearms

Keranigani UNB, Keraniganj Six criminals were arrested along with a gun and ammunition in

Hasnabad Mokampara area in

Keraniganj upazila in the early

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area at about 3am and nabbed Shaju, 32, Mohsin, 36, Sobhan, 20, Shaheed, 22, Lokman, 21, and

Bimal, 22 A foreign-made gun, a loaded magazine of AK-47 rifle and 53 bullets were recovered from their

A case was filed with Keranigani

possession.

incidents.

his body.

FROM PAGE 1 pronounced dead at 11:50 pm," it said, adding that the incident was under investigation. The latest death brought to 63 the number of US soldiers killed in guerrilla-

style attacks in Iraq since Washington

declared major combat over on May 1.

Another 62 have died in non-combat

'Chemical Ali'

However Maiid's detention comes after the arrest this week of former Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan in Mosul, the northern Iraqi city where Saddam's two sons were killed last month by US troops.

Central Command. US and British officials targeted Majid in early April in a bomb attack in Basra. British military officials said at the time they believed they had recovered

But a nurse in Baghdad days later

said he was in a hospital there joking

"Coalition forces will continue to

work at apprehending former members

of Saddam Hussein's regime," said US

with staff before making his escape. Fitzgerald said Majid's house was attacked in Basra in early April on the belief he was there. "Obviously he was not there and if he was, he survived the attack," said Fitzgerald. Maiid was a ruthless member of

Saddam's clan who played a leading

role in the violent suppression of Iraq's

Kurdish and Shi'ite Muslim rebels and

the seven-month occupation of Kuwait

He was best known for leading the "Anfal" (spoils of war) campaign against Kurdish rebels who took advantage of Irag's 1980-88 war with Iran to step up their long campaign for autonomy in their northern heartlands. Human rights groups say Majid's scorched earth policy led to the murder

that began in 1990.

In a single attack, some 5.000 men women and children were killed in Halabia in March 1988, when government forces bombed and shelled the town with gas

or disappearance of some 100,000

Kurds and the forced removal of many

more. Hundreds of Kurdish villages and

communities were destroyed.

pation of the town housing the besieged headquarters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat as well as other Palestinian govern-Palestinian authorities had

issued to confiscate the militants'

Two jailed for

Two persons were sentenced to 20

The convicts are Harun Sardar, 32,

Organisers of the strike held a big gathering at Badamtoli intersec-Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Bangladesh Association and Federation of Chittagong Shop Owners

Crossing, Sholoshahar, Muradpur, Bahodderhut, Chawk Bazar, The main gatherings of profes-

jointly organised a gathering at Jamal Khan Road and Chittagong Metropolitan Union of Journalists at Noor Ahmad Sarak. Besides, they held discussion meetings at their All the rallies, gatherings and

Some businessmen in collusion with a vested quarter run several

only open up various business

opportunities but also lower telephone call charges significantly, the SPA president said

Kala Jahangir FROM PAGE 12

Jahangir, at about 9:30am," said Halima, sister of Merai, Shahar Ali is one of the most-wanted 23 top

The duty officer of Mirpur Police Station said they are yet to know the motive behind the killing. No case has been filed in this regard, he

Syed's office also remained in

rule. But the CEC refrained from visiting any by-polls since national In the past, he went to observe

documents.

FROM PAGE 12 told The Daily Star. 'minority votes" in the 2001 election

> Then he informed the EC officials about the occupation of 13 centres.

organising secretary of the AL, vented many voters from casting votes at Dharmaroy centre in Shukhari Union and Ram-

the making. The right-hander hammered 25 boundaries in his solid knock that made the difference between the

playing in his first Test, surpassing batsman Yousuf Youhana, Hameed

wicket. For Bangladesh Mashrafee

also the highest by a Pakistani the last pair of Rafique and

put on 131 for the fourth wicket to lay

Terming the BTTB averse to technology, the ISPs demanded the BTTB be turned into a corporation to ensure a level playing ground for all. Maniu also urged the government to open 'outgoing' facilities of all telephones used by the ISPs.