Second Test

down 1-0 in the series after losing by seven wickets in the first Test in Dhaka. But the Bangladesh captain was banking on a positive vibe in the squad that has developed over the last two away series in Australia and Pakistan and the first Test against the Englishmen.

A 20-minute rain just after the teams had finished practice, reminded everyone of the threat from the weather in hand. There is a depression in the Bay of Bengal and dark clouds were hovering scattered all day. However, it was largely sunny and bright raising hope for an on-time start.

The match is scheduled to begin at 9:30am with Star Sports and Bangladesh Television providing live coverage

"In the past, we've done comparatively better in Chittagong than in Dhaka and as I have said at the beginning of the series, we'll try to continue improving our performance. We have continuously played good, positive cricket. The players are more aggressive and we will fight all the way. So, if everything comes together for us. there's no reason why cannot beat them." said Mahmud.

"Besides, we have had a good look at the England players. So we can now plan our strategy according to their strengths and weaknesses, he said after the team's final practice.

Mahmud was tight-lipped about any thoughts on the possible composition of the team but insisted that he wasn't over-dependent on his two left-arm spinners to force a result.

"It's true that (Mohammad) Rafique is our main spinner and Enamul Haque bowled very well on debut. But I still believe that pace bowlers can make a more decisive impact on the outcome of a match.

"Rafique might take five wickets but Mashrafee or any other fast bowler can change the course of the game with a three-wicket burst," said the all-rounder

Mahmud's line of thinking might have got something to do with the state of the pitch. "It's still very early to predict how it will act but my gut feeling is it won't turn that much," said the Bangladesh captain adding fuel to the probability that one spinner could be dropped to accommodate an extra seamer in Tapas Baisya or the doors could open for 27-year-old batsman Moniruzzaman to make his Test debut.

Mahmud pointed out that during the first Test against the tourists, it was one or two of their key batsmen who made the difference by making big contributions.

"We have talked about the importance of building on from good

DU students

FROM PAGE 12 Jahanara Begum, resident of

Shamsunnahar Hall. was injured in the accident. She was given first aid at the DU medical centre. Police said Delwar Hossain.

member of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal DU unit, led the attack on the car Rashlan's parents filed a case

with Ramna Police Station.

Envoy

FROM PAGE 12 received as fee for issuance and

renewal of passports. A committee led by Munshi

Foyez, high commissioner to Singapore, probed the allegations. The committee submitted its report to the foreign ministry on October 20. The high-ups of the ministry at a meeting made the recall.

The contract with Humayun is likely to be cancelled in his failure to curb corruption in the office, sources

starts. We don't want to lose successive wickets in the top order. So if someone is set, he should stay there and try to make a big score. In the England first innings in Dhaka (Marcus) Trescothick made a hundred and Graham Thorpe added 60odd. The rest of the batsmen just rallied around them. My expectation is something similar to that from our batters. We are having two or three fifties but no one is playing a long

In a late night development the England management confirmed that Harmison, who took nine wickets in Dhaka, was ruled out of the second Test for injury. The tourists now consider playing either seamer Richard Johnson or giving fastmedium Martin Saggers a debut. Left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, who had a disappointing outing in Dhaka, is competing for a lone spinner's role it seems with offie Gareth Batty as Vaughan is expecting the wicket to aid the quick bowl-

"It will all depend on the sunshine but I think there's something in this wicket for the seamers," said

About his expectations after the fright in Dhaka, Vaughan was pretty straightforward. "Bangladesh played excellent

cricket on the third and fourth day but we blew them over on day five We hope to start from where we left off on the last day in Dhaka and win the series 2-0.

TEAMS

BANGLADESH (from): Khaled Mahmud (captain), Hannan Sarker, Javed Omar, Rajin Saleh, Habibul Bashar, Alok Kapali, Khaled Mashud (wicketkeeper), Mushfiqur Rahman Mohammad Rafique Masrafee bin-Mortuza, Tapas Baisya, Enamul Haque, and Moniruzzaman.

ENGLAND (from): Michael Vaughan (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Rikki Clarke, Chris Read (wicketkeeper), Ashley Giles, Matthew Hoggard, Stephen Harmison, Richard Johnson, Martin Saggers, Gareth Umpires: Ashoka de Silva (Sri

Lanka) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan) Third Umpire: Mahbubullah Match Referee: Wasim Raja (Paki-

Kadianis

FROM PAGE 12

The Kadiani families filed a general diary with Daulatpur Police Station on October 27, requesting security The police visited the area but this has not improved the situation of the Kadiani families as the fundamentalists keep watch over their movements, sources said.

The sources said a group of moulanas led by one Moulana Abdur Razzak issued a fatwa ostracising the Kadianis in a meeting at Bharampur Bazar on Friday after Jumma prayers. The fatwa took effect instantly due to the influence of Moulana Abdur Razzak in the area This correspondent vesterday

visited the area. 25 kilometres from the district headquarters, and talked to some Kadiani families. According to them, they were told to "convert" to Islam At least nine men with Kadiani

names have agreed to "convert" to Some Kadianis, feeling insecure,

alleged the fundamentalists were plotting an attack on them.

Daulatour Police Station OC claims the situation is under con-

Three senior Kadiani leaders from Dhaka went to the area, seeking an audience with Moulana Razzak, but he declined to meet with them, sources said.

EC prepares to hold municipal polls in April

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has started preparations for elections to 144 municipalities and directed its district offices to update the voters list by January 15 next year.

The elections are likely to be held n April, EC sources said.

The last elections to 136 municipalities were held on February 23-25, 1999 amid boycott by the then opposition and present ruling party BNP that enforced a hartal on the day of nomination paper submis-

But this time the main opposition Awami League (AL) will participate in the elections

"We will nominate our local leaders to contest the municipal elections for the posts of chairmen and commissioners. The party will fully back our nominated candidates," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told The Daily Star yesterday.

As per election rules, elections to the local bodies are not held along party lines and political parties have no scope to participate officially. But they unofficially nominate their candidates for the polls race. The tenure of the present munici-

palities will expire by March.

According to relevant laws, elections to municipalities are held within six months of expiry of their five-year tenure.

Sources said the EC plans to hold the elections in April next year as the SSC and HSC examinations are likely to be held in March and May. It may also hold the elections after both the public examinations are over as it will have time still

FTA

FROM PAGE 12

because of hostility between the two big players, India and Pakistan.

The Saarc, region with just 3 percent of the world's area, houses 21 percent of the global population with 43 percent living below poverty

But the collective share of the region in the world trade is less than one percent while intra-Saarc trade is dismally a low four percent as the region failed to tap the potential for social-cultural exchange and economic cooperation

20,000 marooned

urgent relief to be sent to the affected areas to prevent further sufferings.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Enamul Hug said two embankments, one near Madinabad launch terminal and the other near Gobra Orhatala sluice gate collapsed due to cracks on October 11, flooding at least 10 villages. The cracks were then repaired by volunteers including the Upazila Parishad chairman and political leaders before the dams collapsed again on October

The contractor given the work order by Water Development Board (WDB) for repair of the cracks is to plame for the disaster, said the UNO whose office is in five feet deep

According to the UNO, a large number of livestock have died and shrimp enclosures washed away by the flood. Standing crops on over 30,000 acres of land have also been destroyed. There is an acute crisis of food and water, and diarrhoea has broken out. The UNO demanded exemplary

punishment to the contractor.

Vajpayee

FROM PAGE 12

fighting a bitter turf war for territorial supremacy, with both factions equally influential in their respective areas of dominance in Nagaland. Hundreds of tribal Nagas

prime minister's rally.

for creation of a greater Nagaland by carving slices off the neighbouring states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Manipur -- all of which have sizeable Naga populations.

Nagaland is, however, not acceptable to the other states in the north-"The aspirations of all the Nagas to stay under one platform should be

respected," Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio told the rally Meanwhile, several pressure groups in Assam and Manipur have

demand for a Greater Nagaland. "There would be a bloodbath if the government of India tries to threaten the territorial integrity of Assam," said Apurba Bhattacharyya, president of the

n Assam. video and still cameras and the strike forces will have mobile phones. Members of secret services will oversee the whole pro-

Police tortured Saiful to death, says HR report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) and some constables of Gulshan Police Station tortured Saiful Islam of north Badda to death, a human rights watchdog said yesterday after investigation.

"Police claim of mob beating of Saiful is totally false as no such incident took place during the time of his arrest." said a three-member team of Bangladesh Society for the **Enforcement of Human Rights** (BSFHR) in its probe BSFHR Director Advocate Alena Khan led the team that also included Ziaul Hasan and Main Uddin Molla. The watchdog said Saiful left his

house at Ja-33, north Badda with top criminal of Mirpur area Babu alias 'Mirpur Babu' at around 4:00pm Saturday. He was going on a motorbike to drop Babu, who he met recently, at Mirpur. They sped on to the Niketan

residential area when a police team led by ASI Shahinur Rahman of Gulshan Police Station signalled them to stop at the Rifle Shooting Club in Gulshan Section-1. Babu shot thrice at the chasing

Road No. 12. Saiful did not know before that Babu had a firearm with "Saiful hid in a room of the mess leaving the bike outside, but Babu

policemen and entered a mess at

threw his revolver and fled. ASI Shahinur, two constables and one Grim cleanup

at ICRC's bombed **Baghdad HQ**

REUTERS, Baghdad

US troops and Iragis were still collecting body parts around the blasted Red Cross headquarters in Baghdad yesterday, 24 hours after suicide bombers killed 43 people there and at three police stations.

Nada Doumani, spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, told Reuters the ICRC had yet to decide whether to pull out more international staff, but was determined to maintain its operations in Iraq. President Bush, seeking re-

election next year amid growing criticism over his Iraq policy, vowed not to retreat after the apparently coordinated attacks and said the success of the US-led forces had triggered a violent response. US troops and armored vehicles guarded the devastated ICRC building

in a street flooded with water from a pipe broken in the blast. A soldier gingerly accepted bloodied remains from a local resident and removed them in a plastic carton. AUS general said there were signs foreign fighters were behind the

bombings that also wounded 230 in Saddam Hussein was toppled in April.

BNP MPs FROM PAGE 1

other democratic countries.

Meeting sources said some MPs observed that there should be a limited restriction on the media because the newspapers are not playing a responsible role and are grossly' abusing the press freedom.

The MPs favoured making the media accountable and viewed that the development works of the present government are being obstructed due to the negative role of the media, as it is not highlighting any positive achievements of the

Mirpur

The BSEHR interviewed witnesses, shopkeepers and locals of the Niketan residential area to confirm the police beating, the report said.

quoting sources seeking anonymity. "There was no marks of bullet

wound on Saiful's body when police

dragged him on to their van, but a

bullet wound was found after they took him to the station." The BSEHR said Saiful told one of his friends that police took him to a private clinic later and brought him

"When Saiful fell unconscious at Gulshan Police Station from further torture the same night, one constable said it would be good to shoot him once again," said the report,

ASI Shahinur beat him up again on Sunday morning and four constables took him to the court at around noon. Observing his condition, the court ordered to send him to

"But police did not move from there until he fell unconscious at 4:00pm. When police took him to Mitford Hospital in a yellow cab, doctors declared him dead," the report said.

Officer-in-Charge of the Gulshan Police Station Iftekharul Islam whether there was any case or general diary against Saiful, they answered in the negative. Meanwhile, Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

Ashraful Huda told The Daily Star last night that an inquiry by DMP Additional Commissioner Mizanur Rahman found the allegation of police torture on Saiful untrue. "The inquiry team submitted its

tion." Huda said. "I have asked the police headguarters to investigate further." the DMP commissioner said.

Industrialist turns to PM to free mill of goons

UNB, Dhaka

An entrepreneur vesterday appealed to the prime minister and the home minister to free his textile mill from what he said was occupa-

Shafiqul Islam, managing director of Equator J.V. Ltd., alleged at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity that armed goons attacked his factory at Hemavetpur in Savar on October 15 and took control of it, damaging equipment

the same gang tried to enter his mill and threatened its workers on September 26.

tion of the mill, which he built in 1986 with financial support from a stateowned bank, suspended its production and forced him to incur a huge

Goods worth Tk 2 lakh looted at

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted cash and gold ornaments said to be worth about Tk 2 lakh from a house at Ahmed Nagai in Mirpur early yesterday.

A gang of three burgled the one-storey house of Badiul Alam Chowdhury through the window at about 3:00am. They confined the family members at gunpoint and took away the cash and ornaments. Badiul filed a case with Mirpur Police Station.

Police could not arrest anybody nor could they recover the looted goods until last night.

Schoolgirl abducted in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolgirl was abducted at gunpoint on Monday in Bagerhat Sadar upazila when she was returning home from school.

Ujjal Sheikh, an activist of local Jubo Dal, and Maruf Sheikh kidnapped the class seven student of Sundarghona High School and fled in a microbus in the afternoon, said the first information report.

The girl, daughter of a shrimp trader, could not be rescued till writing of this report at 6:00pm last

Police say Ujjal recently proposed to the 13-year-old girl and

Naraji petition of Ittefaq's **Farazi** rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A court in Khulna on Monday rejected a naraji petition against an extended charge sheet that accused Dainik Ittefaq Correspondent Farazi Ajmal Hossain of journalist Shamsur Rahman murder. Selina Akhtar Lucky, wife of

Shamsur Rahman, filed the petition after the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police submitted the extended charge sheet to the Court of First Class Magistrate Ashoke Kumar Devnath. The court also ordered the Ittefaq iournalist to appear before it during

the next hearing on December 1. Shamsur Rahman was gunned down on July 16, 2000 in the Jessore Bureau Office of Danik Janakantha. Police earlier submitted a charge sheet, which was termed controversial by the journalists of Jessore. They demanded a

A fresh charge sheet was submitted on September 14 after reinvestigation at the instruction of the gov-

But Lucky submitted the petition

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1 Chief Justice KM Hasan on October 20 sent a file to the president for his approval for formation of the Supreme Judicial Council following the allegation that Judge Syed Shahidur Rahman had taken money from an accused in a woman's repression case to help him get bail.

The president sent the file to the Prime Minister's Office on October 23 for approval. Supreme Court Bar Association

President Rokanuddin Mahmud at a meeting of the Bar on October 1 alleged that Judge Shahidur received Tk 50.000 from a client for fixing a bail.

Price spiral

Vegetables prices showed no sign of fall in the city markets; rather, prices of some rose further. Tomato was selling at Tk 48-50 a kg yesterday against Tk 40 to Tk 44 Monday Carrot prices ranged between Tk

Potato prices also remained high and ranged between Tk 14 and Tk 15 a kg yesterday, potol was selling at Tk 16, long beans at Tk 32, carrot at Tk 58, green chilli at Tk 40 to 48. beans at Tk 60 and medium-sized lemons at Tk 16 to 20 per four Okra sold between Tk 30-32 a

kg. Brinjal prices shot up to Tk 38 to Tk 40 a kg in the city markets vesterday against Tk 28 and Tk 30 a few

Bean prices still remained high -selling between Tk 58 and Tk 60 a kg. Green papaya prices ranged between Tk 7-8 a kg.

The prices of pulses also were

high today. Moshur pulses rose to Tk 46 to Tk 48 a kg against Tk 42 to Tk 44 on Saturday. Moog ranged between Tk 43 and Tk 45 a kg, khesari between Tk 24 and Tk 25 and chhola between Tk 30 and 34 a

Rice prices also remained unchanged, with Najirshail variety ranging from Tk 19 to Tk 21 a kg and Paijam from Tk 18 to20 a kg. Flour prices remained at Tk 18 per kg while wheat was selling at Tk 14 a

Beef prices ranged between Tk 90 and Tk 100 a kg. Chicken weighing 700-750 grams was selling at Tk 80 each, while the prices for the ones weighing 800-1000 grams were between Tk 90 and Tk 95 each. Mutton was sold at Tk 140 a Prices of puffed and beaten rice -

two popular 'iftar' items -- further

Puffed and beaten rices were selling at Tk 32 and Tk 26 a kg yesterday against Tk 28 and Tk 24

on the previous day.

Another iftar item in high demand imported date -- was selling at Tk 120 a kg yesterday while the price was Tk 110 two days ago. Prices of local date also increased by Tk 2 a

kg on the eve of Ramadan. Redwan Ahmed, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the commerce ministry, said the committee will meet today to take stock of the rising essentials prices.

Godfather issue Legal notice 14 AL leaders

BSS, Natore

State Minister for Finance Anwarul Kabir Talukdar yesterday served a legal notice on top 14 leaders of the Awami League (AL), including its General Secretary Abdul Jalil, claiming Tk 7 crore for "defaming" him through inclusion of his name in the "list of godfathers."

Talukdar's counsel Anwaruzzaman sent the notice asking the AL leaders to pay the amount or face legal actions. In the notice Talukdar said Awami

League had dubbed him a godfather tarnish his political image. Other AL leaders served with

legal notice are Abdus Samad Azad, Abdur Razzak, Amir Hossain Amu. Tofail Ahmed, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Matia Chowdhury, Shah AMS Kibria, Obaidul Kader, AHSK Sadeque, Abdur Rahman and Ishak Ali Khan.

6 killed in Iraq

forces and two civilians yesterday, the British military told Reuters. Yesterday's car bomb exploded

near a police station in Fallujah, a flashpoint town 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, an AFP correspondent at the scene reported. At least six severely charred and

mutilated bodies lay on the ground after a pick-up truck blew up about 150 meters from the police station. Another eight people were wounded, according to hospital sources. The attack came as police cleared the rubble after Monday's

offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and four police stations. The killings rang in the traditionally peaceful and solemn Muslim

synchronised suicide car bombings

Baghdad, which devastated the

holy month of Ramadan. They delivered a defiant message as the killers targeted a humanitarian agency, dedicated to Irag's reconstruction, and the police. considered the very backbone of US plans to restore law and order.

"The terrorists are trying t maximum fear and panic among people," a coalition official said on condition of anonymity. "The message to international

groups is don't come here and rebuild the country. The message to Iragi police is if you think you can work with the Americans, you're wrong. ICRC officials Tuesday were

discussing whether to pull out of The Red Cross compound was

ghostly as people searched the wreckage for bodies. A few guards stood around in shock in front of the building's smashed-out windows and collapsed walls. The explosion was a carbon

copy of the August 19 bombing of

the UN headquarters in Baghdad.

which killed 22 people and led to the

scaling back of UN staff and ambitions in the war-torn country. On Sunday, rockets were fired at the Rashid Hotel in the coalition's staying. After that attack, the top US brass in Baghdad accused the

insurgents of striking just as the coalition was starting to show real The wave of violence came as the nighttime curfew over Baghdad was lifted for Ramadan and the

promise of 33 billion dollars in reconstruction funds. US Brigadier General Mark Hertling told reporters the five

loyalist elements that we are still

that Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda group and an Iragi spin-off. Ansar al-Islam, were active in post-war Irag. Hertling said a man claiming to be Syrian was captured after police shot at his car as it was careening

driving an ambulance in the attack But another top US commander

"a very, very small percentage" of

had killed 11 British soldiers in southern Iraq since major combat was declared over on May 1.

killed and seven injured when an army vehicle in a convoy ran over a landmine in the village of Khilani in the southern Doda district, a police spokesman said.

gunfire from suspected rebels. Police and army reinforcements then arrived and began searching for the rebels.

ered to be a stronghold of Kashmir's largest rebel group, Hizbul Mujahedin. civilians were injured in a grenade

capital Srinagar. The grenade missed its target and exploded near a billing counter, a police spokesman said.

have been injured," the spokesman

telegraph office, which is adjacent to Kashmir valley's main telephone exchange, smashing window panes and sending people running for cover

Kashmir Freedom Forum, claimed responsibility for the attack, according to local news agency Current News Service. Indian troops shot dead two

overnight, the spokesman said. "Both the militants were killed during two search operations," the spokesman said, adding arms and ammunition were recovered from

militants in two separate encounters

in the northern Kupwara district

the sites of the encounters. Suspected rebels shot dead two Muslims in the southern Pulwama and northern Baramulla districts overnight and Tuesday, police said.

Muslim militants overnight attacked an army camp with rifle fire and grenades in Mamar village near Kangan township, 40 kilometres (25) miles) northeast of Srinagar, police

"The attack was repulsed by soldiers," the spokesman said. Kashmir traditionally sees a rise violence during Ramadan.

come a day after police killed the commander of Hizbul Mujahedin in The 13-year insurgency has

claimed more than 39,500 lives, according to Indian security forces. Separatists and Pakistan put the death toll between 80,000 and

CBA men

finance and land ministers, declined to see them, as they had made no appointment. The refusal prompted the agitating staff to hurl invective at the governor. They said they can meet

the finance minister whenever they

wish and it was improper of the

governor to turn them down. The

unruly staff also called the governor

a collaborator of the Awami League' At one stage, dozens of employees pushed open the door of the governor's room and made him hear

Sources quoted the governor as saying to the agitators that the employees had no right to raise demands for the officers and that no such demands would be entertained. Besides, there is a norm to raise demands, which was ignored in this case, he added. They then stormed out of his

Nazrul Huda and Executive Director Nazmul Hasan Siddiqui to convey their demands Explaining the reasons for the demands, an official told The Daily Star that the central bank is set to recruit 100 assistant directors on

November 1.

office and met Deputy Governor

"The promotee officers believe the new recruitment will kill the chances of their promotion. So they want their promotions before November 1." the official said. "The agitating staff also believe that their own promotion depends on that of the agitating officials.

A BB high official however argued that since there were no vacancies to accommodate promotions, they cannot meet their

demands.

hindrance at the central bank premises, using political backing of the ruling BNP. Earlier, these employees damaged the car of a director, but no

action was taken against them.

Extra law

from time to time the CBA-led offi-

cials and employees have created

The central bank officials felt that

During the Awami League rule, the CBA-led employees also confined the then governor and damaged the bank property. But no action was taken against them as the CBA enjoyed the support of the Awami League.

FROM PAGE 1 Commissioner Asraful Huda said. Forty special police tams will operate in the capital along with 20 mobile courts. The strike forces will rush to any

The courts will also be empowered to take action against transport workers for claiming extra fare and other law-breakers including ners of illegal roadside shops. The courts will be equipped with

spot to nab criminals and the mobile

courts will act immediately.

The two rival NSCN groups are

Tuesday demanded unification of all Naga inhabited areas in the northeast, displaying placards and banners making this call during the The NSCN is stressing the need

The demand for a Greater

threatened to launch a massive protest if New Delhi agrees to the

Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chattra Parishad, a radical students' group More than 50,000 people have lost their lives to insurgency in the phone. The commissioner asked northeast since India's independthem to meet him the following

ansar arrested Saiful and beat him up there. Police recovered a US made revolver with three bullets in front of the room." the report said.

Police continued thrashing him on their way to a van parked at the end of Road No. 12. They shot in his leg while taking to the Gulshan Police Station, the BSEHR said

back to the station after primary

adding Saiful groaned all night. Mitford Hospital immediately.

The BSEHR asked Golam Rasul (deputy commissioner, north) and

report on Monday night saying it did not find any proof to back the allega-

and beating up workers. Earlier, he had filed a general diary with Savar Police Station after

Islam lamented that the occupa-

Ex-Khilgaon OC

The case was filed by Nurjahan Begum, the victim's mother, against

OC Enteiar Rahman and second

Nurjahan Begum alleged that

her son Sumon, 20, a mobile

officer SI Mahbub.

phone trader, went out for a walk to join a milad at her brother's residence at Bhuiyanpara in the city at 10:00pm on October 23. But he did not return home that night. At about 12:30am, a man came to her home and informed them that Sumon was detained at Khilgaon Police Station. Upon

receiving the information, her

husband Shahid Hossain

Chowdhury and son Shafi Ahmed

Chowdhury Hira went to Khilgaon

Police Station at 1:00am and

found Sumon at the second offi-

cer's room with four others, the

complainant said. Her husband asked the second officer why Sumon was arrested. The second officer took her husband out of the room and told him (husband) to give Tk 30,000 by 4:00am for his son's release. The police officer told him that Sumon would be framed in a robbery case if the money was not paid, the complaint alleged. Then the complainant's hus-

band and son informed Nesar

Uddin Kajol, Dhaka City

Corporation commissioner of

ward No.8, of the matter by tele-

The following day, the complainant went to the police station and met Sumon who told her, "If vou do not give Tk 25.000/30.000 to them, they will kill me." The OC and the second officer tortured Sumon on the night of October 23 and he could not move. The complainant then came back home and informed her

family of the matter. They again

went to the commissioner but did

Later, her husband and son

not find him at home.

met Sumon in police custody at about 11:00am Friday. At the time, Sumon, barely able to speak after the torture, asked his father and brother to pay the money to the OC and the second officer for his release, the complainant alleged. The victim's father then went to the second officer, who asked him to meet the OC about release of

his son. The OC told him that the

time was over, but if he gave Tk 1

lakh, his son would be released.

The victim's father told the OC

The OC agreed and asked him to bring the money, the complainant added. Sumon's father then went back

that he could give Tk 50,000.

home and collected Tk 10,000. He could not draw money from the bank, as it was the weekly holiday. He and his son went to the police torture that led to the death of station and offered the OC Tk 10,000 and Tk 40,000 by cheque. Sumon at Khilgaon Police Station. Opposition Chief Whip Abdus The OC got furious and started torturing Sumon. The OC also Shahid termed custodial deaths a gave a pistol to Sumon and told serious human rights violation.

robbery with the pistol. Nuriahan Sumon fell sick and was rushed to Dhaka Medical College

Hospital where he died from

wounds Saturday evening. The

victim's family members were not

him that he had committed the

permitted to see him at the hospital, the complaintant said. Police claimed that Sumon jumped to the ground from the roof of a six-storey building to escape arrest and a mob beat him up. But the autopsy report prepared by a medical board did not find evidence to corroborate the police version that the young man died from wounds caused by a fall

Meanwhile, DMP

Commissioner Ashraful Huda said

the allegations brought against

the officer-in-charge (OC) and some other policemen by Sumon's family were not proved. "The investigation carried out at my directive into Sumon's death did not find proof of any such allegation," Huda said.

from a building.

AL demands inquiry Main opposition Awami League yesterday demanded proper inquiry into the allegation of police

where US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was

coalition's fortunes were boosted by the Madrid donors' conference

suicide bombings bore all the hallmarks of foreign fighters. Britain's special representative

"That is a sign of foreign terrorist tactics rather than the Saddam

toward them. Hertling and others pointed to the cunning of the attack-

against the ICRC building.

fortress-like Baghdad compound,

Two of the injured were in a critical condition. The explosion was followed by

attack by suspected Islamic rebels on police manning Indian Kashmir's

main telegraph office in the summer

to Iraq, Sir Jeremy Greenstock made similar statements to BBC radio in an interview from the Iraqi capital.

trying to chase down," he said referring to deposed Iraqi president Saddam Hussein. The assertions came after months of warnings by US officials

ers, with one suicide bomber dressing in police uniform, and another

discounted foreign fighters as a significant factor. Major General Raymond Odierno, commander of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division, said foreign fighters accounted for only

the forces resisting the US occupa-Until yesterday, guerrilla attacks

Kashmiri militants

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Doda is consid-Earlier Tuesday, at least 38

"Some 38 civilians who had come to pay their telephone bills

The grenade exploded inside the

The fresh violence has also

A little-known rebel group, the