The Daily Star

Cops raid villages

FROM PAGE 1

indefinite strike enforced by the villagers' forum, Palli Bidyut Unnayan Sangram Parishad (PBUSP)

The six people killed yesterday were identified as Anwar, a 10-yearold boy of Shibnagar Jaigirpara, Babu, 18, of Sonapara village, Shahin, 20, of Chokkitti village, Sahimuddin, 36, and Monsur, 40, of Bianibazar, and Abdur Rahman, 63. a teacher at Shibnagar High School The furious villagers were holding processions with the bodies.

With yesterday's killings, the death toll of Kansat movement now stands at 20. Earlier, two people were killed on January 4, seven on January 23, four on April 6 and one injured that day died vesterday.

Ironically, while visiting the area yesterday, Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, who is also the minister in charge of Chapainawabganj, admitted that the PBUSP demands were 'just' and the authorities would fulfil those. He also hinted at holding talks in a couple of days.

LATE-NIGHT RAMPAGE

Yesterday's police frenzy began at about 12:30am when a group of demonstrating villagers captured Kansat crossroads, which police had been guarding for several days. About 1,000 villagers with sticks and machetes chased the police sentries away from the spot to Dhobpukur, about one kilometre off

Kansat. A contingent of police then started to advance towards the crossroads to capture it back, firing at the villagers to disperse them, witnesses said. In face of the police action, the demonstrators retreated towards Abbasbazar.

A band of furious police then entered Gopalnagar, Abbasbazar, Hothatpara, Shibnagar, and Banglabari villages, and wrecked and looted many houses, locals alleged.

When villagers started to protest against the police savagery in different villages and on some roads, police vandalised 20 more houses in Poshchim Pukuria village, the home of PBUSP Convenor Golam Rabbani, at 3:30am.

At 11:30am, when the locals gathered at different points in the five agitating unions with sticks and machetes, a number of police teams entered villages on both sides of Abbasbazar Road and beat up people indiscriminately. They ransacked a number of houses during the raids that continued until 12:45pm.

Infuriated at the police brutality, a procession of several hundred villagers started marching towards Kansat crossroads at 4:45pm. As police chased them, the demonstrators retaliated by hurling brickbats at them

Police chased the protestors seven kilometres to Karimbazar. where about 4,000 police and Armed Police Battalion members from Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna ranges locked in a fierce battle with

Police this time entered hhachazar Mohi

standing about 700 yards off Karimbazar said they heard several "Kalema Taiyaba" were displayed at hundred gunshots and at least 10 road islands and intersections in the big bangs. As the newsmen insisted on capital.

knowing the names of the arrested, Additional Superintendent of Police Kamrul Ahsan asked them to keep mum. "If you try to create trouble, we'll shoot you, too," he retorted, pointing a gun at five reporters at Hothatpara.

After the 11:30am-12:45pm police action, the villagers of Hindu najority Baghdurgapur told The Daily Star that police shot Bholanath, 70, a mentally retarded person, on the right arm with a shotaun, though his relatives

pleaded with them not to hurt him. Sanskriti Das, Krishna Das and Konoklata Das said police beat them up at gunpoint and took away Tk 50,000 and five tolas of gold from their houses. Moktara, wife of Kabirul of Baghdurgapur, said police pinned her down to the ground and

assaulted her MINU FOR TALKS

While visiting Hothatpara Bazar at 2:00pm yesterday, Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, who passed the entire day in Chapainawabganj, met some elderly women and assured them that the situation will become normal soon.

"You will not have any problem, we'll release all the arrestees within two hours," he told the elderly locals whose relatives had left the area in

the morning in fear of police action Asking the residents to bring back those who had fled the villages, he said, "All your demands will be fulfilled. We'll sit for talks." A few minutes later. Minu told the

reporters that the protest was not in demand for electricity but against corruption of the local Rural Electrification Board officials and employees

The villagers' demands are just, he said, adding, "I've talked to Rabbani; we'll sit for talks in a couple of days. "In case of those demands that

I'll not be able to fulfil, the state minister for power will come here and hold talks." he said. Responding to the demands

made by Golam Rabbani, Minu urged his protesting followers to refrain from destructive and anarchic activities and to fix a time and venue for the meeting so that it could be held in a congenial atmosphere, reports BSS. Assuring his all-out cooperation

releasing those who were arrested without any specific charges, he urged the protesting Kansat people to refrain from the path of violence and to create an atmosphere of discussion so the problems could be solved.

Asked whether the police action can be termed as barbaric, Inspector General of Police Abdu Quayyum said. "It can't be termed barbaric. What the police have done, they have done to uphold the law and order

Probe body FROM PAGE 16 immediately after the incident was given extended time earlier as it failed to submit the report within 24 hours of the incident. "The committee needs to question more officials to complete its report," Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar told reporters at his office about the extension of time limit. On the morning of April 8, the fire

BNP writes AL

NEWS

government and private buildings FROM PAGE 1 while banners inscribed with

Miladunnabi

organised programmes, including

waz mahfil, qirat mahfil, and a

month-long Islamic book fair on the

premises of Baitul Mokarram

mahfil at its central office after Asr

newspapers published special

Finance and Planning Minister M

Cooperatives Minister Abdul

Mannan Bhuiyan, Health and

Family Welfare Minister Dr

Khandkher Mosharraf Hossain,

Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque

Khaleda Zia is expected to return

President of Dhanmondi Club.

Iliyasur Rahman Babul said they are

forced to hold four commercial

events on the playground every

year to meet the huge expenses of

the club. He said therefore they

being held for decades." Babul said.

an additional Tk 25,000 as repara-

Co-convener of Dhanmondi

Paribesh Andolon, Salma Shafi,

rooftops taking serious risks.

Baishakhi Mela?" Shafi said

Muktangon on the occasion.

Awami League held a milad

Jaker Party brought out a colour-

FROM PAGE 16

National Mosque.

articles on the day.

FROM PAGE 16

airport to see her off.

Dhanmondi

possessions of the stalls.

field," he added

home on April 15.

FROM PAGE 16

prayers.

PM

members to constitute the proposed committee to discuss the electoral reforms The 14-party opposition combine Islamic Foundation Bangladesh

last night held an emergency meeting at the AL Dhanmondi office to decide the next course of action regarding the BNP letter

Referring to the April 6 letter of AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil that labelled Jamaat as "communal" and patron of militancy, Bhuiyan in his letter said those remarks are "irrelevant" to the discussion.

ful procession from the city's The 14-party in its letter had suggested constituting the pro-Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh posed committee with the BNP and Television and private TV channels AL leaders and leaving Jamaat. aired special programmes while

On Jamaat's representation in the proposed committee, AL Acting General Secretary Obaidul Quader vesterday said. "Our stance is clear...We are always against the forces of communalism and militancv."

The ruling BNP and Jamaat high-Saifur Rahman, LGRD and ups at a meeting on Monday with the prime minister decided that the BNP will not sit in a dialogue with the opposition over the reform proposals without Jamaat, a major partner of the ruling alliance.

Hossain Khoka, Political Secretary to the PM Harris Chowdhury, State The rigidity of both the parties on Minister for Home Lutfozzaman the planned dialogue on reforms in Babar, State Minister for Civil and the caretaker government system Tourism Mirza Fakhrul Islam and Election Commission has now Alamgir, chiefs of the three services, rendered the dialogue itself uncerdiplomats and senior civil and military officials were present at the

Before sending the letter yesterday, Bhuiyan called Obaidul Quader over telephone and inquired about the health of Abdul Jalil, who is now in Singapore for treatment.

BNP's Office Secretary Mofique Hasan Tripti and Assistant Publicity Secretary Ahmed Musa handed

Govt killing time

rented out the playground for TK 2 FROM PAGE 16 lakh to a private firm, which is selling

cannot manipulate the next polls and change the results, she said.

The ruling alliance is conspiring "Everybody does it, look at to rig the polls as they know very Kalabagan Club they also do the well that people will not vote them to same every year and these fairs are power again due to their widespread corruption and misrule, the AL chief said, adding that a free and fair "The private firm has agreed to pay election is not possible in an environment where the alliance governtion for the damage done to the ment has politicised all the sectors.

She said a suitable environment for an impartial election has to be created through mass movement. The opposition leader

said a fair on the playground is demanded international probe, 'absolutely unacceptable'. She said preferably by the Interpol, into the unable to find space for playing, militant activities in the country. Hasina said the alliance govern-

many children in the area play on ment would have to answer to the nation about the militant outfits' "Why should they use a designated patrons, financiers, trainers, and playground for holding a fair, why don't suppliers of arms and ammunition.

they go to designated places for She held the coalition government responsible for the countrywide bomb blasts including the Other residents alleged that the grenade attacks on an AL rally on fair will also create a public nuisance August 21, 2004

over the letter to Quader at AL President Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office at 3:00pm.

At a press briefing at his residence Bhuiyan said he expects that the 14-party will respond to his letter and send names of their members soon. "Then we will start the discussion. We want to start the dialogue

with an open mind," Bhuiyan told iournalists On the AL's not willing to sit with any "war criminals" and "fundamen-

talist elements", Bhuiyan said, "I am hopeful that the dialogue will be held as the core subject for discussion is the electoral system...for a free and fair election. So, putting any condition about any political party will not be fair." Meanwhile, the 14-party meeting

last night decided not to sit in a dialogue with the anti-Liberation War forces and war criminals. The meeting held after consult-

ing with Hasina and chaired by AL Presidium member Tofail Ahmed decided to hold another meeting on 15 April and send a letter to the BNP giving the names of five AL leaders for the dialogue.

The AL leaders hoped that the BNP will also nominate its five leaders--trusted by its alliance partners--for the dialogue.

Saifur

FROM PAGE 16 Australia, Indonesia, Cambodia and ESCAP executive secretary on matters of bilateral and regional interests

The Finance Minister's delegation included Permanent Representative to ESCAP Ambassador Shahed Akhtar and Ambassador Nasim Ferdous

personal and political interest.

Blasting the four-party alliance government for large-scale corruption in every sector, Hasina urged the people to unite against the government's corruption, militancy, criminal activities, price hike of essentials, crisis of power, gas, fuel, fertiliser and other necessary com-

modities The AL president said 14 journalists were killed and around 2,500 tortured during the present government's tenure as the newsmer unveiled the large-scale corruption and misrule of the coalition government

Hasina said a friendly environment would be created for the journalists if her party is voted to Addressing the council, journal-

ists from different parts of the country demanded freedom of the press and security of the journalists. Presided over by BFUJ

BSF kills 1

FROM PAGE 16 As they reached Tarail while returning home, the BSF men opened fire on them, leaving Zakir Hossain dead on the spot.

Confirming the incident, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) official Major Asad said they were preparing to take measures in this regard.

BSS adds: Two groups of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) men illegally entered into Bangladesh territories in Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat and Tetulia upazila of Panchagarh districts on Monday and Tuesday

They tortured a Bangladeshi youth and damaged several houses, official sources said vesterday.

Five BSF men intruded into frontier Bangladesh village Boraipara near Singhimari border in Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat on Monday noon.

They created panic there and mercilessly beat up Bangladeshi hundreds in South Africa last month, citizen Ataur Rahman, 18, son of then joined Hayden to frustrate the Mohammad Ali of the village before home side with a 109-run second they left the spot. wicket stand.

BDR Commander of Singhimari Company immediately lodged strong protest with his counterpart Fulbari Company commander of BSF who sought apology from the BDR for the incident, sources said.

Eight to ten BSF men intruded into Narayonjyote near Tetulia border at 10:00am on Tuesday, BDR sources said.

The BSF men damaged four houses of the village and returned to India.

Two persons received bullet injuries yesterday morning as the BDR jawans opened fire on them when they tried to enter into Bangladesh territory with smuggled

Indian goods. BDR said they arrested one of them. Anwar Hossain, a Bangladeshi citizen, and seized a huge amount of smuggled phensidvl and alcohol from his possession while the other managed to escape.

Ershad faces FROM PAGE 16

filed the writ petition in the High Court to realise the rest of the total amount of money fined by the Supreme Court against Ershad in the much-talked-about Janata

Tower corruption case. The same bench of the High Court appointed three senior lawyers -- former attorney generals Mahmud-ul Islam and AF Hasan Ariff, and advocate MA Malek - as amicus-curies for more interpretation of the concerned laws regarding this case and also fixed April 4 for

next hearing on the petition. The hearing on the case was deferred, on April 4, for one week following filing of a time prayer by Ershad.

party spokesman Iftikhar Bhatti On June 7, 1993, the Additional were also killed. District and Session Judge of Dhaka The funerals of two other moderpunished Ershad with seven years ate Sunni faction leaders, Hafiz of imprisonment in the Janata Tower Mohammed Tagi and Hanif Billo. and of some of the other victims corruption case.

Australia come back

runs.

DHAKA THURSDAY APRIL 13, 2006

FROM PAGE 1

score on 64-1.

for 4 with captain Ricky Ponting batting on 72 and his deputy Adam Gilchrist, who restored Australia's pride avoiding follow-on with a facesaving 144 not out, on 6.

Australia will need 95 more runs wickets while fast bowler Jason on the fifth day with six wickets Gillespie, who gave the breakremaining to win the match on a through in the second over removpitch which has hardly cracked on ing Khaled Mashud for a duck, took the fourth day except offering sudthe other wickets to fall on the day. den turn in the last hour.

Earlier on the third day, dashing After their first innings debacle batsman Gilchrist took his overnight Australia acclimatised quickly, 51 runs to a well-placed 144, his batting their second essay with 16th hundred, to defy Bangladesh a renewed confidence on the slow chance of enforcing a follow-on on surface. Matthew Hayden and Mike the world's number one team. Hussey (37) made a sensible start

The left-hander's 212-ball knock before the latter played on trying to that produced 14 fours and six huge sweep Enamul Haque with the sixes helped Australia to score 269 all out in the first innings after The in form Ponting, who hit four resuming the day on 145.

be all out for 148 in 50 overs which

gave them an overall lead of 306

effort, champion leg-spinner Shane

Warne clawed back securing three

After a forgettable first innings

But Bangladesh still enjoyed a handsome lead thanks to Rafique who claimed five wickets for 62 runs in 32.2 overs, his seventh five-for in

The partnership was broken 25 appearances. when Hayden pushed Shahadat Despite leaving the field for close Hossain for a single but failed to of the third day play with an overall complete his run following Enamul's lead of 282 runs. the home team's direct hit from mid-on shattered his initiative was marred following a stumps. The mighty left-hander poor showing in the second innings smashed a 152-ball 72 with eight

fours and a six. 3 die Rafique, however, brought Habibul Bashar's boys back in FROM PAGE 16 contention sending Damien Martyn Bheramara upazila of Kushtia. (7) and Michael Clarke (9) back in Caught in a storm the boat capsized quick succession as Australia midstream of the river at about 9slipped to 205 for 4 from 173 for 2.

30pm. But the day could have been Fifteen passengers managed to much better for Bangladesh had swim ashore. they not showed their age-old second innings syndrome.

The bodies of Zahidul Islam of Chhatiani in Pabna town Pinto and Resuming the day on 124-5, they an unidentified young man, all in lost their remaining half for 24 runs their early 20s, were found yesterwithin 45 minutes of the day's play to day.

Karachi suicide

one has come to claim his body," security measures for the funeral Mughal said. and no one will be allowed to take "There was another head but his the law into their own hands. It's a body has now been found and there great tragedy and we appeal to the was only one explosion." people to remain calm and peace-

Fighting between Pakistan's Rioters torched three gas sta-Sunnis and Shias, much of it in tions and more than a dozen vehivolatile Karachi, has claimed thoucles overnight. sands of lives in the past 10 years. A

The Karachi Stock Exchange number of sectarian militant groups and all schools were closed on are known to have links to al-Qaeda. Wednesday as the city was plunged into three days of official mourning. Roads were deserted and gas tense relations with some secular stations and many western busi-nesses were also shut. political parties as well as with some

hardline, pro-Taliban Sunni groups, Officials said they expected Around 25 Sunni Tehreek leadaround 20,000 people to turn out for ers have been killed since January the funeral of Abbas Qadri, the influential chief of Pakistan's relalast vear. tively moderate Sunni Tehreek The Sunni leader's predecessor religious party, who died in the blast. His deputy Akram Qadri and

Salim Qadri, was shot dead along with four other people in Karachi in 2001. Around 20,000 people also people attended his funeral, officials said Military ruler President Pervez

Musharraf and Prime Minister

The United States termed the

Tuesday's attack was the deadli-

est in Pakistan since a double

bombing in Karachi in 1987 killed

more than 70 people. Islamabad

But Sunni Tehreek also has

Karimbazar, Kurtabazar, Shibnagar, Gopalpur, Baghdurgapur, Kolabari, Poshchim Pukuria, Bohlabari, Dhobpukur and Dhobrabazar villages and beat up whomever they found on their way.

Demonstrators took their injured fellows away while fresh groups of villagers with sticks and machetes stepped forward to fight the law enforcers.

Although the Section 144 was imposed on a 17-kilometre stretch of road, police went into action outside the area and fired at villagers with AK-47s, 303 rifles and shotguns. They also fired rubber bullets and lobbed tear gas canisters. The police action continued until 6:00pm.

Injured villagers said police even assaulted the women and looted money and valuables from their houses. Police this time held 20 people and beat them up severely.

A witness said he saw three bodies including one shot in the eye lving on Abbasbazar Road. Solice did not let journalists go

near Karimbazar, the centre of the clashes. Journalists who were

SC hearing of CEC's

incident

today.

FROM PAGE 16

Commission (EC) to prepare a new voter list on the basis of the current one. The directive was issued follow-

ing two writ petitions filed by three Awami league lawmakers. Counsels for the plaintiffs yester-

day argued before the full bench of the SC in favour of the HC directive.

Barrister Amir-UI Islam, a counsel for the plaintiffs, said according to the constitution there should be a permanent electoral roll and it should be updated. He said there is legal provision for creating a fresh voter list. The EC can make a fresh electoral roll in a constituency only if it finds gross irregularities.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud another counsel for the plaintiffs said the EC cannot drop any name from the voter list except of a deceased person or of an insane person or of a person who left the country.

He raised the question that if an enumerator visits a house of an existing voter and doesn't find him or her in the house at the moment. should that person's name be dropped from the voter list? Rokan also said if a person is 18 years old. the person becomes eligible to be a voter and he or she should be included on the voter list.

The five-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by

mysteriously broke out in front of the speaker's office and in two other rooms burning some documents. The closed circuit television

(CCTV) surveillance system of the Sangsad Bhaban was closed at the time of the incident. Due to this, the probe body is finding it hard to identify any suspects or find clues

leading to the culprits, sources said. The speaker earlier said that insiders are involved with the incident aimed at discrediting him and parliament. "Had the CCTVs been functioning, it would have been easy to find out the miscreants," the speaker said the next day of the

playaround, said requesting anonymity that all twenty families living in her apartment complex oppose such

a fair in the residential area. "During these events not only our children are deprived of playing facilities, but we also suffer as the roads become more congested. disrupting our movement." she said

Judge Chunnu FROM PAGE 1

law ministry sent the letter to the Supreme Court for taking necessary steps.

A High Court bench, on February issued an injunction on Chunnu. barring him from judicial activities for two weeks following a writ petition filed as public interest litigation by a Supreme Court lawyer, Khairul Alam, for Chunnu's alleged participation in political activities of ruling BNP

The bench also issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to why it should not be asked to

take action against Chunnu. The High Court on February 26 extended the injunction for four weeks and for another six weeks on completion of it.

Kishoreganj Sadar constituency.

duct) Rules, 1979," the petitioner

Earlier on August 16 last year,

Awami League leader Sharif Ahmed

Sadi of Nagua in Kishoreganj town,

had served a legal notice to the

government asking it to take appro-

Khairul Alam submitted that Chunnu has been participating in Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain heard the submissions and BNP's public meetings at decided to continue the hearing Kishoreganj where he introduced him as a candidate for the next

submitted.

BNP

in partisan politics.

ing out judicial functions.

February 16

Australian

FROM PAGE 1 there will be a full-time AFP office there from next year."

The ABC report says, "Terrorism experts around the globe are increasingly worried about the rise of Islamic extremism in Bangladesh and the potential of the nation to turn into a haven for terrorists."

"Bangladesh's central location makes it a good transit point for radicals who want to move from Pakistan and Afghanistan into South East Asia," the report adds.

The AFP move shows that Australia's national security depends heavily on how well other countries in the region can tackle trans- national crimes, including terrorism, drug trafficking and identity fraud, ABC says.

Asked about this yesterday, a top police official said he has no information that the government has taken anv decision in this regard. "I don't think there has been any decision yet," he said, preferring anonymity

in the area, which is already cor Referri ministers statement in the Time Magazine gested with vehicular traffic. A resiregarding militancy, the AL chief dent of Road no 8, opposite the said, "If our prime minister did not know that there is militancy in the country, why she imposed ban on three Islamist outfits for involving with militancy.'

The former prime minister said the coalition government has appointed lobbyists in the USA spending public money for their council.

ADP implementation

FROM PAGE 1

energy divisions is less this year than in FY05.

In July 2005 to February 2006, the Energy and Mineral Resources Division spent only 29 percent of its ADP allocation, compared to 48 percent spending in the corresponding period of FY05.

In the same period this fiscal year, the Power Division spent 47 percent of its ADP allocation as against 56 percent in the corresponding period of FY05.

In the meeting the secretaries were asked to explain how their ADP implementations were higher in FY05 despite massive flooding than the current fiscal year, sources said. The secretaries, they said. came up with the usual excuses of legal complications, procurement difficulties, monsoon, and donors' conditions for the slow implementation pace.

However, though the ADP impleparliamentary election from mentation pace this year appears slower in terms of percentage, it "He has been taking part in really has risen in terms of volume, a meetings of local BNP workers of high official of the Planning Ministry Kishoreganj which is in clear violatold The Daily Star. tion of Government Servants (Con-

He pointed at some problems including shortage of engineers and other skilled manpower that are standing in the way of a better performance in ADP implementation. Considering this, he claimed, the implementation rate this year actually is better than last year's.

priate action against Chunnu for his Another official said, though the participation in political activities of implementation rate is still slow, it will pick up in the remaining four The Supreme Court Bar months. But, in that case the scope Association on August 3 demanded of wastage will also rise. "Though of the chief justice and the law the finance and planning ministry ministry that they sack Chunnu from has taken a number of steps over his post for his alleged participation the last few years, the capacity of the line ministries has hardly On February 14, Chunnu filed an improved, which is why the situation is not improving," he explained.

appeal with the Supreme Court seeking a stay on February 13 High The ADP implementation rates in the first eight months by 10 of the 20 Court order that imposed the injuncministries represented in yestertion on him barring him from carryday's meeting were below the average 37 percent implementation After hearing, a four-member rate. The ministries are shipping (14 bench of the Appellate Division percent), science and ICT (19 disregarded Chunnu's appeal on percent), home (23 percent), water

esident Sobnar Chowdhury, BFUJ Secretary General Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Dhaka Union of Journalists President Altaf Mahmud, Mostak Ahmed, Syed Abdul Latif, Sharat Kumar Bakshi, AHM Akhteruzzaman, Ataul Kabir Khokon, Mainul Haque and Akbarul Hasan Millat also spoke at the

education (50 percent).

sources reckoned.

lata still

investment proposal

FROM PAGE 16

crore

ment revised the High Court order reducing the imprisonment period to three years and six months.

Ershad suffered imprisonment of three years and three months, and paid Tk 27,435,400.

The Special Divisional Judge of Dhaka, on February 28, 2001, exempted Ershad from suffering the rest of three months of imprisonment and paying the remaining

The writ petition, filed by advocate MA Mannan on behalf of the Blast, also challenged the jurisdiction of the Special Division Judge of exempting Ershad from paying the total amount of the fine in the case.

Outlaw

According to a Rab press release, the outlaw was arrested at midnight on Tuesday at Eastern Jute Mill area under Khanjahan Ali Police Station of the city.

Following his confessional statement, Rab members took him to Senhati Putibari Jarha Battala area at around 3:25am the same night to recover illegal arms. As soon as they reached the spot. the accomplices of Shahidul opened fire on them. The law enforcers retaliated triggering a 15-minute long gunfight.

At one point, Shahidul got caught in the shootout while his accomplices fled. He died on the spot, says the press release.

Two guns, three cartridges, two bullets and a dagger were recovered from the spot.

Shahidul was an accused in 13 cases filed with the Digholia, Khalishpur and Khanjahan Ali police stations in Khulna and Ishwardi Police Station in Pabna, says the Rab press release.

He was the ringleader of a gang of robbers of the Sunderbans. Besides, he was involved in looting arms and ammunition from Shiromoni Cable factory in Khulna city in 1998 and from the storeroom of Daulatpur Jute Mills at Khalishpur in 2000.

Body of the slain outlaw was handed over to his family members vesterday afternoon.

were held earlier and passed off Shaukat Aziz condemned the peacefully, officials said 'heinous act" and ordered security

Police said they still did not know to be stepped up at mosques. which of Pakistan's many extremist groups were behind the attack blast an "atrocity" and Britain also which they described as wellcondemned the attack planned and coordinated

Chief police investigator Mansoor Mughal said there was only one suicide bomber. Provincia spokesman Haider said last night that two may have been involved

trying to identify. He has a beard. No

Rampage in Ctg

FROM PAGE 16 Chittagong on way to the city to join the massive procession --Julus-got stuck on the other side of the bridae.

Witnesses said the 'large-body' buses could not enter the bridge through the iron bars placed on its ends. The measure is intended to restrict movement of heavy vehicles on the bridge

Varying estimates of losses caused in the rampage were given by different sources. Some put the losses at around Tk 20 lakh while others claimed that to be over Tk 30 lakh

More than 2,000 people from the stranded buses set afire about 230 imported wooden slippers for repair of the bridge, spraying fuel oil on those. They also set ablaze two toll plazas of Bismillah Enterprise, lessee of the bridge, an office of Project Engineering, the firm renovating the bridge, and a site office of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD).

Damage of the slippers caused a loss of about Tk 12 lakh, the firm claimed

that was burned, claimed sources at

The attackers also clashed with

the staff of the firms and the RHD

site office as they tried to resist

case with Bakalia Police Station.

None was arrested

Sources in the RHD and the

affected firms alleged that dishonest

transport owners illegally changed

the size of the buses, and that is why

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Islami

those could not cross the bridge

the toll collecting firm.

them.

The fire at the toll plazas caused damages worth of over Tk 20 lakh, including over Tk 15 lkah in cash

of BSF from Bighabari BOP in Jalpaiguri district opened fire pointing at the positions of BDR at Kushlibari at about 6:30pm. They also fired mortar shells on the BDR positions prompting them to retali-

Abul Kalam Azad, proprietor of Project Engineering, has filed a taken to safe places.

BDR and BSF continued exchanging heavy fire and mortar shells when this report was being filed at 9:30pm.

Meanwhile, government negotiators ruled out signing of an agreement with Tata group on the basis of a low price of gas. "We must not agree to a gas price which is less than the base price. They (Tata) must propose a price higher than \$2.35 per thousand cubic feet for further negotia-

tion." a top negotiator said preferring anonymity. Tata on April 20 last year formally submitted its investment proposal for setting up a 1,000 MW power plant, a steel mill with an annual production capacity of 4,20,000

tonnes and a fertiliser plant capable of producing one million tonnes a vear.

On May 9, the group proposed to start formal negotiations on May 25 and end that by August 31 to clear the way for signing of the investment agreement by November 30 last year. But it had to review the time frame due to complications in the process

resources (26 percent), housing and public works (27 percent), CHT affairs (31 percent), health and family welfare (32 percent), commumoney nications (34 percent), and environ-

ment and forest (35 percent). The ministries performing above average include agriculture (58 percent), local government (56 percent), and primary and mass In FY05 the Tk 22,000 crore

original ADP was downsized to Tk 20,500 crore, of which finally Tk

18,726 crore could be spent. In the FROM PAGE 16 same way, the current Tk 24,000 crore ADP might be trimmed to Tk 22,000 crore and finally about Tk 20,000 crore could be spent, They said, the ADP for the next

fiscal year might be set at Tk 26,500

As Ershad had made an appeal against the verdict in the higher court, the High Court awarded him five years of imprisonment and a

fine of Tk 54,870,800 as fixed by RA.IUK calculated on the basis of the misappropriated money. The Supreme Court in its judg-

FROM PAGE 1

"We suspect there was one suicide bomber, whose head we are

blamed that attack on Afghan intelligence agents, backed by their Soviet occupiers.

> Front at a press conference here yesterday alleged that the entry points of the bridge were narrowed down to prevent people of South Chittagong from participating in the

> > Julus. The untoward incident at Shah Amanat Bridge was guite natural in such a situation, the front leaders said

They blamed Jamaat-Shibir for this.

They demanded action against those involved in 'preventing' people from joining Julus within a week.

They decided to bring out a protest procession tomorrow and warned of greater agitation unless their demand is met.

Front Secretary General MA Matin and other leaders including Syed Masihuddoula and MA Mannan were present at the press conference. City unit General Secretary Moulana Mohammad Quaderi read out the front's statement

One killed

FROM PAGE 1 critical condition

BDR sources said the members

Lt Col Shafat, commander of 34 Battalion of BDR Rangpur Sector, said the inhabitants of north, south and west Kushlibari villages were