NEWS

Seven BNP leaders seeking

nominations for Dhaka-10 and 17

for Munshiganj-1 seats appeared

before the interview board. Falu and

Monin will be considered as nomi-

nees of the ruling four-party alli-

ance, according to a decision of the

component parties of the alliance,

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner's

office at Segunbagicha at 10:00am

today and Momin at Munshiganj.

US, UK seek

Falu will submit his nomination at

A February 4 Red Cross report that

appeared on the Wall Street Journal

Web site on Monday said delegates of

troops keeping Iraqi prisoners naked

jail in October, and were told by the

intelligence officer in charge it was

troops forcing Iraqi detainees to kneel

and stomping on their necks in an

port and other bad infrastructure.

the cost of doing business in

way traffic and the donor countries

minister and it is expected that the

government will say what they might

where a lot can be done to do away

public, it reduces the possibility that

there would be fiddling with the

To ensure transparency Patel

stressed the importance of an

independent appeal procedure for

bidders and publication of both rules

of procurement and award of con-

He said public procurement is

He said the investment required

Bangladesh is too high.

ity for the problem.

do about it." Patel said.

with corruption.

account.

tracts

incident in which one prisoner died.

The report also described British

"part of the process."

the release added.

has been working for 12 years with

Proshika and now is the central coordi

coordinator associate for Pallabi

accused Qazi Farugue of persuading

his employees into taking part in

'antigovernment activities" ahead of

stration to lay siege to the Sangsad

Bhaban from April 26-30," Afroza said,

adding Shahdat led yesterday's march

of the Proshika office as police ringed

it. A woman employee, Shahin, who

was allowed to leave office shortly

before 5:00pm told The Daily Star that

police let her go on special consider-

ation as one of her relatives had a

of Mirpur Zone Qamrul Ahsan said

police believed the arrestees were

involved in the attack. He said nothing

JCD and Jubo Dal another front

organisation of the BNP, attacked its

head office with the help of some

sacked employees and police did not

working at different branches of

Proshika and were misled by some-

body. Nobody at the main office

attacked them. It is a just political

game," Gias Uddin Ahmed, director

(administration) of Proshika, told The

HCALLOWS GOVT TO RUN

PROSHIKA'S 2 SISTER UNITS

UNB adds: The High Court has

allowed an ad hoc committee formed

by the government to run the activities

of Ava and Pathakoli, sister units of

Justice Md Joynul Abedin and Justice

Sharifuddin Chaklader on Monday

disposed of a government petition

allowing the committee to operate their

Directorate dissolved the committees

of Ava and Pathakoli following allega-

tions of irregularities and formed a five-

member ad hoc committee headed by

the additional deputy commissioner,

Faridpur, to run the two units of

challenging the government action.

Ava and Pathakoli had filed a writ

Assistant Attorney General Zaman

Akter Bulbul submitted that Ava and

Pathakoli had been involved in politics

and engaged in conspiracy against the

Advocate Subrata Chowdhury sub-

mitted that the government was out to

destroy Ava and Pathakoli, which had

been rendering useful services to the

poorer section of the people. He

submitted that the allegations of

indulging in politics and conspiracy

against the government were base-

Counsel for the petitioners

On January 26, the Social Welfare

A division bench comprising

"Some protesters have been

take action against the attackers.

Proshika in a statement alleged the

was seized from the office.

Assistant Commissioner of Police

Nobody was allowed to go in or out

"I was instructed to stage a demon-

the April 30 opposition deadline.

to the Proshika headquarters.

cardiac arrest.

Daily Star

Proshika.

bank accounts.

Proshika

government

Farzona Afroza, an assistant

nator of the organisation.

Hasina WI tour opener today

mention in the calendar of events for

the month of May in the official tourism brochure. Bangladesh team management

yesterday named the playing eleven for the match with Shahriar Hossain and Manjarul Islam likely to open the batting.

With just one warm-up game before the demanding one-dayers, Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar hinted yesterday that the side that plays in the tour opener could be retained for the first ODI.

"We are basically going into the first fixture with the one-day international in mind. So, it could be the same team that takes the field on May 15. We are trving to play 12 cricketers in the warm-

AL asks govt FROM PAGE 12

The meeting alleged that without anv investigation the home ministry tried to describe the killing of Ahsanullah Master as an outcome of intra-party feud of the AL in a bid to protect the real killers and mislead people

The press note issued by the home ministry showed an evil move by government high-ups to hamper proper investigation and trial of the murder case, the AL presidium. "It will not be possible for any official

under the home ministry to conduct proper inquiry into the murder and identify the real offenders after the issuance of such a press note", it said, adding the real killers will escape trial.

The presidium meeting alleged that without arranging proper treatment for Jubo League central leader Mahfuzur Rahman Mahal, who was wounded in the firing that left the legislator killed on Friday, the government made an ill attempt to obtain a statement from him according to its liking and propagated that through the media

"It proves the government has become desperate to protect the real killers," the meeting said.

The AI presidium alleged that instead of arresting any accused even four days after the murder, the govern ment resorted to mass arrest of AL leaders and workers and other people to put them on speedy trial. Police were searching the houses of AL leaders and harassing their family members without any reasons, it said.

4 killed in Ctg incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four people including a woman were killed in different incidents in the city and district yesterday and on Monday.

Police said, muggers stabbed Muminul Haq alias Šhiplu, 22, and snatched money and mobile set from him in Shubhapur bus terminas under Double Mooring Police Station in the city at around 1.30am vesterday.

Shiplu was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to injuries at around 3:30am. In another incident a housewife

identified as Yeasmin Akter. 30. was stabbed allegedly by her brother-inlaw Idris Mia following a family feud at Mohona under Patiya upazila in the district at around 11.30pm on Monday night, sources said.

up game so that more people get some form of match-practice," said Bashar. Even before the first ball has been

bowled, the Bangladesh captain is already feeling a new vibe in the side. "All the players are very strong mentally even newcomers like Raj (Abdur Razzak) and Deecans (Faisal Hossain). We are not going to ge

overawed by anybody," he added. The team is mentally stronge since the tour of Australia and most importantly the boys are not scared or the reputation of their opponents. Our only focus is our own game and how can perform to the best of our we abilities. We still plan for certain individuals but it's not the case of thinking 'Oh It's Lara, he's going to destroy me'

anymore," added the 32-year-old. Tour operations manager Faruque Ahmed was also echoed the same sentiment. "Maybe the surroundings have got

something to do with it because ever since we got here. I have noticed a greater bonding in the team. They are acting like a unit," said the former national skipper who is also the chief lector The West Indies Board Eleven

ayers flew in on Monday from different parts of the Caribbean. The biggest name in the side is out of favour lefthander Wavell Hinds. Other internationals include a remodelled Jermaine Lawson, who will be desperate to show that he is as quick as ever after his struggles with injury and a suspect action, Sylvester Joseph and Ryan

Hinds. The match will start at 9:30am local time (7:30 BST). Local radio will carry live commentary throughout the Caribbean region. The weather is bright and sunny with occasional sprinkles of rain **BANGLADESH TEAM**

Habibul Bashar (captain), Rajin Saleh Shahriar Hossain, Mohammad Ashraful, Alok Kapali, Mushfiqur Rahman, Khaled Mahmud, Khaled

Mashud, Mohammad Rafique, Manjarul Islam, Tapash Baisya

> **Proceedings of** theft case against six AL leaders stayed by HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for four months the proceedings of a case of theft against six Awami League (AL) leaders including Saber Hossain Chowdhury and the recently slain AL lawmaker nsanullah Master.

An HC divisional bench comprising Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Farid Ahmed also issued a rule nisi upon Manikganj district commissioner, asking him to show cause within four weeks as to why the case should not be dismissed.

The case filed with Shibganj police station on August 16, 2002, by Kazi Abdul Haq accused eight AL leaders of stealing 12 plates from a ferry on way to Tungipara in Gopalganj and abusing ferry employees. Charges against two of

the accused were later dropped. Third class magistrate of Md Zakir sition if the BJP-led coalition fell below case proceedings against the 250 seats. accused. Former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru and his associates India for 45 years but has been out of

returns tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina will return home tomorrow morning curtailing her USA trip because of Friday's killing of party lawmaker Ahsanullah . Master

A British Airways flight from London carrying Hasina, also leader of the opposition, will arrive in Dhaka at 5:30am, said a party press elease. Hasina, who left Dhaka on May 6, was earlier scheduled to return on May 15.

The opposition leader will visit the Tongi residence of Ahsanullah Master in afternoon the same day to offer condolences to the bereaved family members. She will also visit the village Hydrabad of Joydebour, home village of the slain lawmaker.

Little growth FROM PAGE 1

year's Tk 8,484 crore. This reduction was made as the government has been unable to utilise foreign aid due to various reasons, including donors' conditions, inefficiency in project implementation, a new procurement policy and bureaucratic bottlenecks.

According to the latest data of the Economic Relations Division (FRD), \$6.2 billion in foreign aid is now piled up in the pipeline.

Meantime, this year's ADP was revised down to Tk 18,934 crore from Tk 20,300 crore in April. But now the planning ministry has estimated the figure at Tk 19,000 crore with Tk 12,000 crore in local component and the rest in foreign

currency About the last minute enhancement, a planning ministry source said, "The local component utilisation has increased recently. This is why we believe the final ADP implementation figure will be better than

what we thought in April." Only 36 percent of this year's ADP has been utilised in the first eight months of the current fiscal year. Utilisation of local currency

component is 42 percent compared with only 30 percent of project aid utilisation. The World Bank in its

Bangladeshi Quarterly Update of April, 2004, wrote, "The slow pace of development spending is primarily due to weak implementation capacity and poor disbursement of the foreign aid component."

"Every year the government chalks out an ambitious ADP and then revises it due to poor implementation," said a source

Blow to Vajpayee

FROM PAGE 12 could fall adrift by 24 to 42 seats. As the BJP and the main opposi-

ment.

tion Congress party looked to woo small parties to support the next government, media reports said the ruling party was divided on how to deal with a worst-case scenario. The Times of India reported that

payee favoured sitting in the oppo-

However, Congress, which ruled

power since 1996, won a boost vester-

Harkishen Singh Surjeet said after a

meeting with Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-

In a bid to lure smaller parties,

Congress late Monday announced it would select a prime ministerial candi-

date by consensus with its partners if

Falu, Momin

FROM PAGE 12 with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in

the chair. The two seats felt vacant as Maior (Retd) Abdul Mannan, elected from Dhaka-10 (Ramna-Tejgaon), and Mahi B Chowdhury, elected from Munshiganj-1 (Sreenagar), resigned from their respective constituencies on March 10 to join the former president Prof AQM Badrudozza Chowdhury's newly floated political platform. They also resigned from the BNP the same day accusing the ruling alliance of its failure to govern the country properly.

FROM PAGE 12 Both Mannan and Mahi submitwhile his government said some ted nominations yesterday to consoldiers implicated in the mistreatment test in the by-elections from their could soon face prosecution. -- Bikalpa Dhara new party Bangladesh. Mannan Submitted nomination at Dhaka Divisional Commissioner's office while Mahi at the international relief agency saw US the office of the Returning Officer in Munshiganj. for days in darkness at the Abu Ghraib

The BNPPB, comprising members of the BNP Standing Committee, the highest decision making body of the party, approved the nominations of Falu and Momin after interviewing 24 nominationseekers, said a press release.

Electoral reform

FROM PAGE 1

encourage the government here to hold public officials accountable by making them declare their assets transparently," Patel told The Daily for improvement in the areas is huge Star in an interview yesterday. and needs to come from the private

Citing Pakistan as a success sector, not from the donors or the case, he said there every elected aovernment. member is made to declare their assets to increase transparency.

Patel said Bangladesh needs an extra 2-3 percentage points in GDF growth to make a perceptible impact on the life of people. A streamlined law and order is a precondition for that, he added.

"Law and order in Bangladesh is not conducive to development foreign investment, and not really what the citizens deserve," he added. "When you cannot assure the public of basic safety, when you do not feel secure, that is not good."

"It all leads to one thing: the environment is not conducive to development and is costing the country hugely in terms of underdevelopment

Patel warned that Bangladesh might not reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) if it continue to lose 2-3 percent of its GDP due to poor law and order.

"If we fail to track where the resources are going and find no secure environment for projects to be carried out, aid will be reviewed and maybe pulled out." "Bangladesh had the same GDF

as South Korea and Malaysia. Both have GDP around twice Bangladesh's size now. Since these countries could achieve with less resources overcoming the same problems as in Bangladesh, that is definitely doable here.

As the attackers opened fire, four of the victims fell on the ground "The potential Bangladesh has is while others ran for cover. Later, the greater than what it is achieving

FROM PAGE 12

PBCP kills

Laxmipur Beel area.

Ahmadiyya

FROM PAGE 12 The statement also asked the government to take appropriate steps to ensure safety for

Ahmadiyyas in Patuakhali Earlier, the local branch of the AMJB sent a letter to the district administration and superintendent of police, Patuakhali and sought their assistance in maintaining law and order, it added.

HSC exams FROM PAGE 1

at different centres under Dhaka board, 91 under Rajshahi board, 16 under Chittagong board, 11 under Comilla board, 12 under Barisal board and some 15 under Jessore board. Report of expulsion of only one examinee under Sylhet board was received till the writing of this report

Under Dhaka board, 15 examinees were expelled in Jamalpur, five in Gopalganj, three each in Netrokona and Shariatpur, two in Madaripur and one each in Manikgonj, Narsingdi, Mymensingh Tangail. Sherpur and Raibari

Under Rajshahi board, 13 examinees were expelled in Gaibandha, 35 in Kurigram, one in Thakurgaon, 10 in Naogaon, six in Sirajganj, one in Joypurhut, 12 in Rajshahi, 11 in Rangpur, 13 in Nilphamari, one in Panchagarh, one in Thakurgaon and one in Lalmonirhat.

Eighy-eight examinees were expelled under Madrassah board.

Meanwhile, the education ministry has taken several steps to curb cheating in the examinations that began with English first paper. The steps include summary trial of offender, imposition of fine, restriction on movement of people at the examination centres and secret video recordina.

State Minster for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon visited some Talking on corruption in Bangladesh, he said it is not a one examination centres yesterday.

also have to bear some responsibil-ADB Corruption as defined by interfer-FROM PAGE 12 ence in government contracts and

having to pay bribes to get things Hasan Mahmud at the secretariat yesterday, said an official release. done is counterproductive, he said. "I raised this with the prime

During the meeting, they discussed releasing shares of Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) in the share market, reconstitution of its board and necessary steps to

make it more dynamic. The delegation expressed "If you do not make the bidding satisfaction with the progress of public, then the corrupt will get away ongoing reform programme in the with it. If you make the bidding power sector.

Power Secretary SM Shamsul Alam, Chairman of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) and Desco Brigadier General AAMA Rob. Desco Managing Director Saleh Ahmed and Senior Finance Specialists of ADB Mats Elerud and Chief of Energy Division Shamsuddin Ahmed were present in the meeting

SSC examinee

FROM PAGE 12 examinations from Hashimpur High School

A case was filed with Kumarkhali Police Station. but police failed to nab any of the kidnappers till 6:00 vesterday evening.

Proshika HQ raided Faruque) has meddled in politics FROM PAGE 1 employees, alleging Jahangir these days and we protest it," said Kamal, another rebel employee who

launched the attack on them, beat him up in the presence of police minutes before he was arrested.

Police on May 2 sealed the people's culture wing of Proshika and seized documents in a raid on its headquarters to find proof of the NGO's alleged antigovernment activities.

Law enforcers picked up 39 Proshika staffers in an eight-day dragnet last month, linking them to the much-hyped April-30 deadline of the main opposition Awami League for unseating the government

MARCH TO PROSHIKA

The runaway employees yesterday carried banners and placards that read "Save Proshika from Qazi Farugue" and "We Want Politics-Free Proshika".

Proshika employees at the head office pelted the rebel employees with brickbats on arrival there, injuring four of them, and obstructed their way in.

The injured are Shahdat Hossain Sachchu, Saidur Rahman, Khandaker Anwar Kamal and Harun Ur Rashid -all part of the rebel group that was preparing allegedly under police protection for the march from Mirpur stadium, about 500 metres off the Proshika office, since early morning.

More police forces from Mirpur and Pallabi police stations raced to the scene and busted into the Proshika head office to arrest employees in the wake of a clash between the two rival groups. Police took some injured employees to nearby clinics and hospitals in their vehicles.

Local leaders of ruling BNP's student chapter, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), threw their weight behind the demonstrating employees. "We support your demonstration as Proshika is involved in antigovernment activities," Shamim Ahsan, convenor of the Mirpur ward No.7 JCD, told the agitators.

Shahdat Hossain, who was suspended from Proshika as its deputy director (field operation) on Monday on an allegation of conspiring against the organisation, filed a case with Pallabi Police Station

"We want Proshika free from

politics. But our president (Qazi

6 Israeli troops

Likud party against his plan to pull

out of Gaza, where 7,500 Jews live

n settlements amid 1.2 million

Palestinians on land captured in the

The armoured troop carrier

loaded with explosives for demol-

ishing weapons workshops, a key

target in the raid -- ran over a power-

ful, improvised mine and was "blown

to pieces", a senior military official

fireball that mushroomed above

buildings in the Zeitoun district, a

Hamas stronghold that lies north of

the heavily guarded Jewish settle-

It erupted in a massive orange

FROM PAGE 12

said

1967 Middle East war.

ment of Netzarim

FROM PAGE 1

his cheeks.

GOVT LINK

ALLEGED

Sanctions FROM PAGE 12

Richard Armitage told the USsponsored Arabic television channel al-Hurra in an interview last week that new sanctions on Svria were "inevitable" and would come "probably this month."

In late April, the White House said that implementation of sanctions was imminent, based on Svria's ties to terrorists; tacit support for insurgents in Irag: and efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction.

Lammy offers FROM PAGE 12

group of poor countries should benefit from measures "that everyone provides: the EU, the United States, Japan and also the G20 countries, because if Brazil, India or China open up trade more, it is important for Africans, for Bangladesh

AL on course to join JS

of

FROM PAGE 1

"We are very much positive," a presidium member told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity, about the possibiltomorrow (Wednesday)," an AL ity of joining parliament today.

The AL has been boycotting parliamentary proceedings since June 25 last year and since then has been unbent on its decision not to return to the House. But after its April 30 deadline for pulling down the BNP-led coalition government fell flat on its face, the party decided to return to parliament, but no date was set. The assassination of its lawmaker in Tongi on May 7 however prompted the party to ponder about joining the session today.

The latest political development was discussed at vesterday's AL presidium meeting following a directive from party chief Sheikh Hasina who is scheduled to fly back home on May 13, cutting short her 10-day tour to the US.

"A decision on joining the session will be taken after discussing the issue at the parliamentary party meeting, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the House Abdul Hamid Advocate told The Daily Star yesterday.

AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta said yesterday's presidium meeting left it up to the parliamentary party to decide whether to join the session

Election tribunals formed BSS, Dhaka

concluded pourasabha polls. of the respective districts have been

press release said vesterday.

The Election Commission (EC) has constituted election tribunals to settle disputes relating to the just The district magistrates of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban and joint district judges

treasury in favour of the respective

returning officer to meet the

"If the lawmakers want to join the

session, the party will join. There are

enough chances of joining the session

policymaker said on condition that he

parliament as I consider the move a

part of our movement against the

government," Suranjit said, adding

that the anti-government struggle

should be waged both in and out of the

sonally,) I am against boycott culture."

propose an obituary reference on the

late lawmaker, followed by a brief

discussion on the proposal before the

reference is adopted. The AL deputies

can also speak on the reference if the

After Ahsanullah's assassination

Hamid proposed to some party presid-

ium members to join parliament on

May 12 and the discussion on the

amendment to constitution is likely to

be passed in the current session that

runs through May 17. The AL has

rejected the proposed bill and

demanded its withdrawal.

The much-talked-about bill for 14th

main opposition joins the session.

obituary reference.

The veteran lawmaker said, "(Per-

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar will

"I always fayour going back to

expenses of the cases.

not be named.

House

O. A-levels appointed tribunal chiefs. an EC FROM PAGE 12 According to the election regula-

start across the globe on May 17. tions, within 30 days of the gazette Candidates for both forms of examinotification, the candidates or their representatives will file the dispute nations in the country currently cases with the tribunals after deposnumber 4.813. iting Tk 500 with any of the branches Nafisa Haq, whose daughter is Sonali Bank or government

born Congress chief.

they mustered a maiority

sitting the O-level examinations, told The Daily Star, "We urge the politicians not to call hartal during the exams and help avert waste of valuable time from the academic

lives of our kids.' General Certificate of Education

(GCE) Ordinary Level and Advanced Level exams of EDEXCEL (formerly University of London Examinations and Assessment Council) and University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES) are held twice a year.

The British Council administers

the examinations. A recent announcement of the British Council has caused yet more worries for the guardians; it nformed the examinees of its inability to hold the examinations in

case of a 48-hour shutdown. In that case, the examinees will have to wait for at least six months for the next available slot to sit the examinations, the guardians said.

The British Council, however, has worked out an alternative schedule to take the examinations.

"We will shift the examinations of morning session to 7:30pm and afternoon session to 10:30pm should there be a 12-hour hartal." a

British Council official said. The council has also requested the opposition parties not to call hartal at least during the examinations, the official added.

now. Your best resource is your people, whose resilience is the reason why Bangladesh has sur-

vived the difficult times. "If you look at the country's selfday with an offer of support from the sufficiency it is a big achievement Communist Party of India-Marxist, the for Bangladesh that no country in third largest party in the last parlia-Africa has matched. In fact, Bangladesh is the envy of nearly "We will all work together. It will be a every African country in terms of coalition government and not that of any party," communist leader those things.'

He said Bangladesh needs to make itself globally competitive. This involves a trade regime that fosters competition and for it to become more liberal. There are a lot of problems here. There is a strong anti-export bias that needs to be removed. If you don't move on these things, the market share you will lose in global trade would be lost forever. You cannot reclaim it again."

He said lowering tariffs, removing all sorts of quantitative restrictions, freeing up the restrictions on foreign investment in the most promising sectors like the readymade garments are now critical, he observed.

"We have done an analysis and found that even if the political situation is stabilised you would still not be ready to grow at 7-8 percent because of another binding constraint -- poor infrastructure," Pate noted.

Because of poor telecom, power,

EPZ workers

FROM PAGE 1

The revision follows a series of discussions on the subject over the last six months.

"We have unanimously endorsed the revised draft proposal and the draft law might be presented in the next budget session of the parliament," said Executive Chairman of Bepza Brig Gen (retd) Zakir Hossain while talking to reporters after the meeting

Hossain said in the event that workers vote against trade unionism. the workers' welfare association currently in place will continue to function as it is.

The investor representative. however, declined to make any comment when journalists repeatedly asked him about the meeting. US Ambassador Harry

PBCP men slit the throats of the four men to ensure their death.

men from a marshy land of the

The dead were identified as Mahmud Ali, 21, Hobi Molla, 20, Hamid Molla, 50, and his son Rokon Ali. 20. Critically injured Kamrul Molla, 25, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Police said the dead too were members of another extremist group locally known as Bahini. The bodies were sent to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Pabna Superintendent of Police (in-charge) KM Fazlur Karim visited the spot. Police could not arrest anyone till the time when this report was filed last night Locals said there is a longstand-

ing rivalry between the two outlawed groups over control of Laxmipur Beel, adding that outlaws roam freely in the remote locality in the absence of any police camp there.

In an earlier incident, Azim Hossain, 25, identified by police as a regional leader of the PBCP, was hacked to death by his rivals near Laxmipur Beel.

His body was found in the early hours of yesterday, roughly at the same spot where PBCP men attacked the four Bahini men later in the day, possibly in revenge for Azim's murder, police said.

Thomas expressed his satisfaction at the finance ministry's decision to go along with the proposal and hoped higher authorities in Washington would also be satisfied with the out-

come Since 1991, the US has been pushing for a decision on the contentious issue of trade unionism at the EPZs.

Thomas said for the last four months he held discussions on the matter with all parties concerned and is happy that a consensus could finally been reached.

or not to have a collective bar-

Ershad Shikder FROM PAGE 12

won't let us pay tribute to him without police intervened to convince people worry," he said at their Noagaon that it was Frshad's last wish to be house in Tongi. He added that the killers are also threatening the buried at Tootpara graveyard. Armed policemen are guarding the graveyard relatives with arrest whenever they to prevent any untoward incident. would try to visit the family.

Ershad's relatives have split into two groups over the possession of his property, with Khodeja spearheading one group and Selina and Ashraf Al leading the other. Selina and her supporters also tried to prevent Ershad's first wife Khodeja from receiving the body from jail gate, but security guards foiled her attempt.

Selina allegedly threatened Ershad's daughter with his first wife, Shaad Yasmin, to leave Swarnokomol with her mother and brothers or face dire consequences

FOLLOWINGIN FOOTSTEPS

Our Barisal correspondent reports from Nalchhity: Ershad, who hailed from Madarghona village of Nalchhity upazila of Jhalakathi district, followed in his father and grandfather's footsteps, who also died in iail.

His grand father Hafiz Sikder was convicted in a dacoity case and died in jail during the Pakistan period. His father Bande Ali Shikder was sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for murdering a man in his village and also died in jail

Ershad's first wife Khodeja came to the Madarghona village two months ago and repaired the family gravevard there. A milad mahfil was also held then for his early release from jail.

3 artillery units

FROM PAGE 12 Two infantry battalions under 66 Infantry Division and one brigade signal company have been set up, she said.

Khaleda hoped that the members of the armed forces would further consolidate and uphold the unique dignity they had attained both at national and international level by performing all assigned duties sincerely, honestly and firmly,

She said apart from the army, the government was implementing various plans of action to make the navy and air force time- befitting procure military hardware and expand and increase the capability of the forces.

She said efforts of her government to expand and enhance the capability of armed forces in line with the demand of time would continue along with the welfare of the armed forces' members.

Drop case

"What wrong he has done to

them? There is no man in the area

who will say that our father ever hurt

or harmed any of them. Why then he

had to meet such a tradic end?"

asked Sohel. tears streaming down

Tongi Awami League, meanwhile,

vesterday alleged that some top

government officials are involved in

the assassination. It also alleged

that these officials have helped the

assassins leave Tongi, where

Ahsanullah was shot and killed near

Awami League, said at a press

conference at the party's Notun

incident and identified the killers,

who were later named in the first

information report. But without any

divert the incident to different

The AL leaders asked the gov-

ernment to stop spreading 'false

information' and bring to book the

killers whom, they said, a leader of

BNP's youth wing Jatiyatabadi Jubo

Assistant Superintendent of CID

Police Khaleguzzaman, currently

investigating the case, talked with

complainant Motiur Rahman Moti.

Ahsanullah's younger brother, and

"All the killers have fled their

"Many people witnessed the

Bazaar office yesterday.

streams," he said.

Dal patronises.

CID STARTS

other relatives.

PROBE

his house in a burst of gunfire

about his death." he sighed.

"My father's popularity brought

Police Station Saturday and Khaleguzzaman received the docket of case Monday night after it was transferred to the CID the same

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VISIT FAMILY

AL President and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina will visit Ahsanullah's family at 4:00pm tomorrow. She will fly back home cutting short her 11-day visit to the US. The AL chief will also go to the slain lawmaker's village home in Hyderabad, Tongi.

PROTEST OVER **MASSARRESTS**

Legal aid organisation Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK), meanwhile, has strongly protested the mindless arrests in Tongi since Ahsanullah's killing. "Not only AL leaders and activists, but innocent people as well are being indiscriminately arrested by police to quell public protest against the killing," the ASK

"Although the assassination took said in a press release yesterday. place at 12:30pm on Friday, the nvestigation officer was appointed Police are violating human rights the following day and they took and not following legal procedures more time to start investigation," in their operation, it observed. Rajab Ali, general secretary of Tongi

"The killing of such a popular leader by criminals not only projects extreme deterioration of the country's politics, but also its law and order situation. It (the killing) has created a sense of insecurity among people and such arrests have aggravated the feeling of insecu-

investigation, the ministry of home rity," the ASK release added and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan It demanded punishment of the Bhuiyan insisted that the killing was real killers and a stop to 'uncalled for an outcome of intra-party conflict to arrests'

DEMAND TO FREE ALADHERENTS

AL's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League and its labour front Jatiya Sramik League yesterday demanded release of activists of AL and its front organisations. They also reiterated the demand for immediate arrest of the killers.

'ACT AGAINST AL **INSTIGATORS'**

Gazipur chapter of the ruling BNP at a press conference at G azipur Press Club yesterday alleged that some AL leaders instigated vandalism across the district, including in the BNP offices, following the May 7 assassination, which led to damage to property worth 'crores of taka'.

It demanded that the instigators be brought to book immediately.

He said the draft proposal is a very long and complicated legal document. "It will allow for workers to vote on the trade union issue and also to decide whether

houses," Khalequzzaman told The Daily Star by telephone from Gazipur vesterday, adding that adequate forces were engaged to nab the killers. Motiur filed the case with Tongi