The Paily Star

Ershad Shikder buried STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Dreaded homicidal killer Ershad

Shikder was buried at Tootpara graveyard at 9:53 yesterday morning after Khulna District Jail authori ties handed over the body to his first wife Khodeja Begum at 7:20am.

His sons Jamal Shikder, Kamal Shikder and Helal Shikder and step brother Mahmud Azad Shikder were present at the time of burial.

Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was held at 8:50am at his palatial house, Swarnokomol, at Sonadanga under heavy police escort and 33 relatives including his three sons and the only daughter attended it.

Hundreds of people gathered in front of Swarnokomol to have a final glimpse of Ershad who was hanged at 12:01 Monday night. Police clubbed people who tried to enter Swarnokomol crushing the main date.

His sons and daughter later drove out Ershad's only sister Selina and elder brother Ashraf Ali Shikder of Swarnokomol and did not allow them to see the body.

Extensive damage was caused to boundary wall and main gate of Tootpara graveyard when a crowd tried to prevent the burial there. But SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

EPZ workers to vote on TU

Saifur, US envoy agree on draft proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers at the country's six export processing zones (EPZs) will vote to decide whether or not to have trade unions, according to a revised draft proposal agreed to by the finance ministry, US government representatives and EPZ investors yester-

Each factory within the EPZs will have a single trade union free from any outside political influence and union leaders will be elected by workers themselves.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza), US Ambassador Harry K Thomas, World Bank Country Director Christine Wallich and a representative of the investors agreed on the corrected draft pro-

posal during a meeting at the Thomas expressed his satisfaction inance ministry yesterday. at the finance ministry's decision to The revision follows a series of go along with the proposal and discussions on the subject over the hoped higher authorities in Washington would also be satisfied last six months. "We have unanimously endorsed with the outcome.

Since 1991, the US has been the revised draft proposal and the draft law might be presented in the next pushing for a decision on the conbudget session of the parliament." said tentious issue of trade unionism at Executive Chairman of Bepza Brig Gen the EPZs. (retd) Zakir Hossain while talking to Thomas said for the last four months he held discussions on the reporters after the meeting.

matter with all parties concerned Hossain said in the event that workers vote against trade unionand is happy that a consensus could ism, the workers' welfare associainally been reached. tion currently in place will continue to function as it is.

He said the draft proposal is a very long and complicated legal The investor representative, document. "It will allow for workers to vote on the trade union issue and however, declined to make any comment when journalists repeatalso to decide whether or not to have a collective bargaining agent edly asked him about the meeting. US Ambassador Harry K within the EPZs."

Z e a l o t s besiege Ahmadiyya mosque today STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Bangladesh (AMJB) yesterday expressed concern for the security of its followers in Patuakhali town as religious bigots have threatened to lay siege to their mosque there.

Kawsar Ali Mollah, general secretary of the AMJB, in a statement said Ahmadiyyas in the southern district town are passing days under security threats after local zealots announced to lay a siege to an Ahmadiyya mosque at 10:00am this morning

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Lender throws acid on 3 of a family failing to grab land STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lender threw acid on three members of a family including a sevenyear-old boy at Singair in Manikganj yesterday after allegedly failing to grab the land on which their house

stands. The child, Sumon, and his grandmother Achhia Begum, 50, are undergoing treatment at ward No. 33 of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). But hospital authorities refused to admit his aunt Jharna Begum, 20 on the grounds that her injuries were not serious. SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

O.Alevels examinees fear hartal fallout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Guardians of O-level and A-level examinees are wary of hartals interrupting the examinations in the wake of the latest political uncertainty over the assassination of an opposition lawmaker.

The guardians have urged the political parties not to call hartal until the O-level and A-level examinations are over by July 1.

ADB to fund

UNB, Dhaka

2 power units

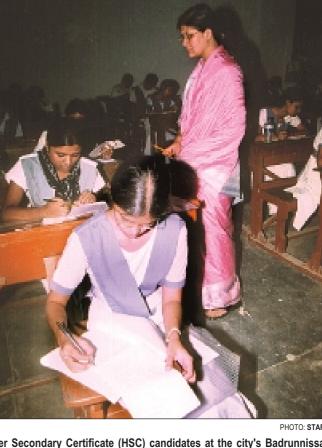
Asian Development Bank (ADB) will

provide fund to set up two power

generation plants each with 450

Meghnaghat in Siddhirganj.

The O-level examinations began on



Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) candidates at the city's Badrunnissa College centre answer questions on the first day of the nationwide HSC examinations yesterday.

Proshika HQ raided again

Police arrest 12 staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT led by a deputy director who was suspended from the NGO a day Law enforcers arrested 12 Proshika before, marched to the head office and came under attack with brickemployees in a raid on the nongovernmental organisation's headbats at about 11:00am. quarters in Mirpur yesterday for Later in the day, police arrested a attacking some of their disgruntled colleagues, who demonstrated retired army man, Jahangir, believed to be the bodyguard of Proshika President Qazi Faruque allegedly under police protection.

The raid -- a second in 10 days -came after up to 25 Proshika rebel employees from its different units

Six Israeli troops blown up in Gaza

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SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

AHSANULLAH KILLING AL asks govt to withdraw press note

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday asked the government to withdraw what it said is the false, baseless and motivated press note on the killing of AL lawmaker Ahsanullah Master and demanded immediate arrest and proper trial of the accused named in the first information report of the case.

"The government will have to bear the responsibility for its dirty game on the killing," the AL presidium said at a meeting chaired by acting president of the party Abdus Samad Azad at its Dhanmondi office.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

PBCP kills four rival outlaws

Another extremist leader hacked to death **OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Pabna

Suspected underground operatives of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) yesterday killed four members of a rival extremist group and seriously injured another at Ataikula of Sadar upazila.

Police quoting eyewitnesses said some 30 armed members of the PBCP attacked the five men with sharp weapons and firearms while they were harvesting paddy in the morning along with scores of other SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Alliance picks Falu, Momin for by-polls STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday nominated Prime Minister's Political Secretary Mosaddak Ali Falu and Momin Ali as candidates of the ruling four-party alliance for the June 6 parliamentary by-polls of Dhaka-10 and Nunshiganj-1 constituencies.

The nomination was finalised at a BNP Parliamentary Board (BNPPB) meeting at the Prime linister's Office in the afternoor

May 12

Azan

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Jamaat



Agriculturist Mohammad Jasim Uddin inspects a sweet variety of black grapes (Black Ruby) he has grown in a tub on the rooftop of his residence at Nayapaltan in Dhaka after a yearlong research and experiments with a special kind of fertiliser.

US to slap sanctions on Syria this week

AFP, Washington

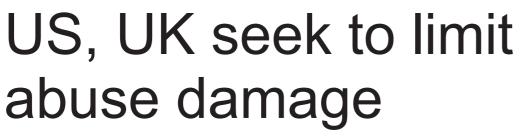
President George W. Bush will this week impose sanctions on Syria for allegedly supporting terrorism and failing to close its border with Iraq to forces targeting US troops there, a US official said Monday.

The official, who requested anonymity, said that Bush could levy the punitive measures on Damascus "as early as Tuesday" but that the precise date of the announcement could change

Deputy Secretary of State SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

AGENCIES, Washington/London The United States and its main Iraq war ally, Britain, sought Monday to limit fallout from the Iraq prisoner abuse scandal as a leaked report

said the Red Cross alerted them months ago to such mistreatment. Defence Secretary Donald



Red Cross asked to drop confidentiality policy on dealing with Iraqi prisoners

Rumsfeld, facing calls he resign

over the scandal that has outraged the Arab world and shaken US prestige, got a resounding vote of support from President Bush, after a one-hour meeting at the Pentagon.

Bush also viewed more graphic photographs of prisoner abuse, which the Pentagon was consider-

ing making public

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, already under pressure at home for backing the Iraq war, followed Bush in apologising for the mistreatment. "We express our total condemnation and disgust at any abuses that have been carried out," he said, SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

for installing power transmission line of Power Grid Company,

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh (PGCB) from Ashugan to Sylhet. The assurance came from a three-member delegation of ADB, led by Director of Private Sector Department S Chandar, when they met State Minister for Power Igbal SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Sunday and the A-level examinations are scheduled for a simultaneous

REUTERS, Gaza SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Palestinian militants vesterday blew up six Israeli soldiers riding in an explosives-packed troop carrier during a raid in the Gaza Strip in the deadliest ambush against Israeli forces in 18 months.

The militants struck while troops and tanks backed by helicopters stormed a neighbourhood of Gaza City yesterday, killing six Palestinians, including at least three

gunmen, and wounding more than

100. Israel responded to the bloody

Prayer Timings ambush within hours with a missile strike on a car in another part of the densely populated city. Medics said an 18-year-old was killed and five Fajr people were wounded. Their identi-Zohr ties were not immediately known. Asr The fresh cycle of violence

4-10 4-45 12-45 1-15 5-00 5-15 6-40 followed a May 2 vote by Prime Maghrib 6-36 Esha 8-00 8-30 Minister Ariel Sharon's rightist Source: Islamic Foundation SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



3 artillery units, 3 infantry battalions soon: PM

UNB, Parbatipur

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia vesterday said three more artillery units, three infantry battalions, three field workshop companies and three field ambulance units would be commissioned soon to strengthen the armed forces

This will also open up the scopes for employment and promotion and enhance the opportunity to work in the peacekeeping missions abroad she said.

Khaleda, who is also in charge of the defence ministry, made the announcement at a 'darbar' of officers and soldiers of the newly formed 16 Infantry Brigade of 66

Infantry Division

Earlier, she raised the flag of the new brigade and laid the foundation of its headquarters at Bir Uttam Shaheed Mahbub Cantonment at Kholahati in Parbatipur. Army Chief Lt. General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury and 66

Infantry Division GOC and Rangpur area commander Maior General Rezagul Hayder received the prime minister at the venue. The prime minister mentioned

that her government had raised more army units, including two new brigade headquarters, six infantry battalions and three brigade signa companies SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Retired major Abdul Mannan of Bikalpa Dhara (2nd from left) files nomination for the upcoming by-election to Dhaka 10 parliamentary seat at the commissioner's office at Dhaka's Segunbagicha yesterday.

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