Ahsanullah murder

police custody

MOURNING RALLY

death of the slain lawmaker.

Gazipur yesterday to attend a rally

organised by Gazipur Awami

League at its office to mourn the

rally, addressed by Ahsanullah's

younger son Zabid Ahsan Sohel,

frontline AL leaders including Motia

Chowdhury, Obaidul Kader, Amir

Hossain Amu. Giasuddin Manna

and Mukul Bose with AL Gazipur

unit president Mozammel Hag in the

AL's Tongi unit will also hold a

Jatiya Shramik League organ-

Ahsanullah's younger brother

29 submit papers

similar rally there on May 17 and

another at Gazipur district head-

ised a milad mahfil at its office in the

capital yesterday, praying for the

Candidates for Dhaka-10 constitu-

ency are Mosaddak Ali Falu (four-

party alliance), Abdul Mannan (BDB).

Azam Khan (Jatiya Party-JP),

Habibur Rahman, Ahmad Anwar ul

Amin, Saiful Islam Chowdhury,

Khandakar Shahadat Hossain, Abu

Hamidur Reza Khan Bhashani,

Jahangir Alam, SI Islam Milon,

Mohammad Sadek, Sohel

Chowdhury, Baharan-e-Sultan

Bahar, Mir Sadek Jumman, Mahbub

Hossain Bhuiyan, Nur Alam,

Mamunur Rahman, Delwar Hossain

Mintu, Mazharul Islam, Abu Sohel

Mohammad Kibria, Zakir Hossain

Habibur Rahman Shawkat, Mostafa

peace of the soul of Ahsanullah.

quarters on May 20.

Over 2,000 police guarded the

gathered as a four-member CID team attached the property in Gopalpur and Morgon villages in the presence of a magistrate as paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles and Tongi police guarded the areas in

The CID arrested Nasiruddin, Suman, Oli and Qaiyum from Tongi to extract information on the whereabouts of the accused on the run.

were close associates of some of the killing suspects. They're also involved in drug-pushing in the area for a long time," Khalequzzaman

whereabouts of the killers. I would ask them to arrest Nurul Islam "They may give accurate infor-Sarker," he said, accusing him of mation on the killers and their masterminding the killing. whereabouts.'

Local residents alleged police The First Class Magistrate's picked up over 200 innocent people Court in Gazipur yesterday including AL adherents, but Nur remanded the arrestees in six-day Ahammad, officer-in-charge of Tongi Police Station, said the number was not more than 60 Hundreds of people gathered at

"We've arrested about 20 people different cases of vandalising BNP offices, vehicles and trains and

40 others on suspicion," he said. GRAVE UNDER GUARD Ahsanullah's relatives and AL workers are guarding the lawmaker's grave at Hyderabad village in Tongi round the clock after threats

The killers have been threatening the slain lawmaker's relatives over phone since the killing to dig out his body unless they withdrew

by the killers to snatch his body from

Meanwhile, the condition of Jubo League activist Mahfuzur Rahman Mahal, who is being treated for bullet wounds at the Combined Military Hospital, remained

first information report (FIR) told The Daily Star yesterday that police were arresting innocent people while the killers went scot-free.

his best to save my brother in the

the killers five days into the killing.

They are busy with harassing peo-

ple who tried to save my brother and

now demanding trial of the perpetra-

"Police say they don't know the

tors," he alleged.

"Police have arrested no-one of

wake of the shootout," Moti said.

"Today they arrested Palash, a poor scrap metal trader, who tried

Two underground operatives were killed in retaliation for Tuesday's killing of five people in Ataikula upazila.

bers belonging to an extremist group locally known as Bahini shot dead Habibur Rahman Bulu, 50, of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (ML-Lal Pataka) when he was sitting at a tea stall at

ber of the outlawed party, from his house and shot him dead.

Following the incident police raided the area and nabbed 15

CTG arms haul

the Court of Chief Metropolitan

clues to the sophisticated arms smuggling incident, CID police said.

consignment beforehand and locals saw him near the dock area on that night though the CUFL jetty was not

Sergeant Helal was posted at Kailertila police camp under Potenga Police Station, opposite to the CUFL etty on the Karnaphuli river bank, from Karnaphuli Police Station four days before the arms haul, the source added

he helped the criminals involved in the arms smuggling go into hiding and hid the private car used by

CUFL jetty on April 1 night, was brought to Dampara Police Lines two days later and was excluded from the seizure list prepared to count the weapons during the haul, sources

Proshika

Candidates for Munshiganj-1 seat

The nomination papers are being

The ruling four-party alliance nominees submitted their nominations with a large number of leaders

Allama Dada Bhai and Khawaza They submitted their nomination papers at the office of Dhaka divi-

sional commissioner while candidates for Munshiganj-1 seat submitted their nominations at the office of Munshigani district commissioner The divisional commissioner and district commissioner will act as returning officers for their respective constituencies.

are Mohammad Momin Ali (fourparty alliance), Mahi B Chowdhury (BDB), Jahangir Alam, KM Hafizur Rahman and Shahiahan Khan.

scrutinised today, the press released

and workers, who brought out mam-

Planners want ADP

would come to four to five times the size of an ADP. "If all their pledges are summed up, it would cost between Tk 80,000 crore to Tk 100,000 crore," it noted.

According to the ministry's working paper tabled before the prime minister, the ADP tends towards a 'development through construction of roads, bridges culverts, buildings etc' by accommodating the parliamentarians' pressure and demands to realise their public commitments. Instead, the ADP should be oriented to poverty alleviation, development of human resources, agriculture and irrigation, and railways and riverine communications, the paper main-

The meeting also reviewed the progress of ADP implementation in the current fiscal year. Like the previous fiscal year's, it found only 45 percent of the ADP being implemented in the first nine months of this year. It indicates that the strategies adopted by the government last year to accelerate ADP implementation has failed to deliver, meeting sources said.

Of the 44 ministries and divisions which implement the ADP, the post and telecommunication ministry performed the worst during the period with only a 14-percent implementation achieved. Six other ministries carried out less than 20 percent of their allocations, sources remarked

Meeting sources said Khaleda expressed sharp dissatisfaction and reproved a number of ministries for lagging far behind their targets in executing the ADP.

Asking the sluggish ministries to speed up ADP operations, Khaleda even advised the secretaries concerned to take orientation courses to improve their efficiency.

In July-March period, ADP implementation by eight ministries ranged between 21 and 30 percent, nine ministries between 31 and 40 percent and 20 ministries achieved more than 45 percent implementa-

The local government division has topped the list with a 68-percent implementation

Other fairly good performers are: Energy and Mineral Division (54 percent), communications ministry (54 percent), health and family planning ministry (51 percent), agriculture ministry (51 percent), fisheries and livestock ministry (49 percent), Rural Development and

Co-operatives Division (48 percent), primary and mass education ministry (46 percent) and education ministry (45 percent).

The yesterday's meeting generated some new policies including simplifying administrative procedures and chalked out some strategies to accelerate ADP implementation from the next fiscal year.

To simplify administrative procedures, the meeting decided to use a single document christened 'Development Project Pro-forma (DPP) for investment projects instead of the existing duo of Project Concept Paper and Project Proposal. The DPP will have two chapters instead of the existing eight, require information on 30 items instead of 67 and contain four tables and three annexes instead of nine and seven respectively.

Emerging from the meeting, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said, "No project will be revised more than once. If any office seeks repeated revision of a project, that has to be placed before the NEC."

Explaining the sloth of ADP implementation, Saifur said, "Due to conditions of donors [that we could not implement], the project aid flow was lesser than usual.

The size of this year's ADP initially was Tk 20,300 crore, of which Tk 11.816 crore was envisaged to come from local currency and Tk 8,484 crore from project aid In the nine months to March 2004 the government has utilised Tk 9,189 crore or 50 percent of the local currency allocation, of which LCC money was Tk 5.852 crore. Of the project aid by donors 39 percent or Tk 3,337 crore has been used.

Blast kills six

shredded by a roadside bomb in Gaza City, prompting a massive Israeli incursion into a densely populated neighborhood.

Troops backed by tanks came under small arms and rocket fire from militants yesterday as they combed Gaza City's teeming Zeitoun neighborhood house-byhouse for the bodies. Israeli helicopters also fired missiles to support the

ground forces. Palestinian witnesses said one missile had struck near a mosque, killing three Hamas fighters and wounding 13 civilians. The army said its targets had been laying explosives to kill roving soldiers.

2 outlaws

UNB, Pabna

Laxmipur Bazaar at about 9:00am. The attackers then entered Laxmipur village, picked up Ayub Hossain Sheikh, 48, Another mem-

Marium also provided important

Helal also faces allegations that

FROM PAGE 1 headquarters on Tuesday on charge

of attacking some of their disgruntled colleagues, who went to the Proshika office in a procession.

the Deputy Commissioner of Detective Branch Faruq Ahmed visited Proshika headquarters yester-

Attendance in Proshika head office yesterday thin as many opted to skip their office fearing further trouble

An official of the NGO said, citing their attendance register, that 45 percent of the 507 staff in the headquarters came to the office in the morning, but many left office earlier following rumours that their disgruntled colleagues were heading toward around 10:30am.

"We're really panicked," said a Proshika staff seeking anonymity "Policemen at the gate are questioning us when we're coming in and going out." he said adding that no more than 20 percent staff attended the office vesterday.

Pallabi police meanwhile have shown Proshika staff Sheikh Sayeed Hossain and Jahangir Alam arrested and released 11 others picked up during Tuesday's raid after interrogation at about 3:30pm yesterday.

Police produced the arrestees before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka with a prayer to place each of them on a five-day remand. However, the court granted a one-day remand.

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.

Seven employees of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (Adab), federating body of NGOs. meanwhile have condemned the attack on the procession of the disgruntled Proshika employees.

In a press release yesterday, they demanded arrest of the mastermind of the attack and the attackers, as well.

Md Shahadat Hossain, deputy director, field operations, of Proshika in a release yesterday refuted reports in a section of the press that Shahdat Hossain Sachchu, Abul Kalam Azad, Khandaker Anwar Kamal and others who took part in Tuesday's procession of the rebel group have been dis-

Army arrests

FROM PAGE 1

Police said Aziz, prime suspect in the killing of renowned Buddhist monk Gyanojoti Mohastabir, 52, is also accused in at least 20 other criminal cases, including killings, abductions and extortion.

Mohasthabir, founding director general of Wara Punya Bouddha Anathalaya (orphanage) at Hingala village in Raozan, was beheaded in his bedroom at the orphanage allegedly by the gang on April 21, 2002.

Army men handed the arrestees over to Raozan police.

Local residents alleged that Aziz's patron, allegedly a stalwart of the ruling BNP, was lobbying the administration for his release.

Bangla Bhai

Bangla Bhai says he was born to Nazir Hossain Pramanik of Kannipara village in Gabtoli upazila in Bogra. He claimed to journalists he graduated from Rajshahi University in 1995 with a master's in Bangla. But a crosscheck with the university shows there was no student named Azizur Rahman at the Bangla Department in 1995. Asked again, he said: "I studied Bangla at Azizul Hag University College affiliated with Rajshahi

"I enrolled at Rajshahi University, But I registered with the college because of various complications," he said without explaining the complications.

As Bangla Bhai was guarded about his school and college education, his senior leader Amir Mowlana Abdur Rahman who was also present during the interview said he (Bangla Bhai) studied at Tarafsartaj Senior Fazil Madrasa.

"I was a Bangla teacher at two top coaching centres in Dhaka. As my students did well in Bangla, the authorities of coaching centres called me Bangla Bhai," he said without naming the coaching cen-

Bangla Bhai denied his reported involvement with Bangladesh Chhatra League. "I supported it when I was in school. As a college student, I joined Islami Chhatra Shibir (an Islamist student organisation allied with Jamaat-e-Islami) When I finished my study in 1995, I quit Shibir because Jamaat accepted female leadership although it said it considered female leadership sacrilege."

Although newspapers portrayed him as the main leader of the antioutlaw vigilante group, Bangla Bhai is one of the seven members of JMJB's highest decision-making body, Majlish-e-Shura. His party has however designated him as the commander of the anti-Sarbahara Rahman who heads the highest

tier of JMJB moved from his Jamalpur home to Bagmara in Rajshahi after JMJB activities came The first tier of the outfit has

recruited on a full-time basis and act at the directive of higher echelons, the amir said. The second tier, "Gayeri Ehsar" has over one lakh part-time activ-

activists called "Ehsar" who are

ists. The third tier involves those who indirectly cooperate with the JMJB. "We divided Bangladesh into nine organisational divisions," Rahman said. Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Chittagong have an

sional offices and Rajshahi three. Residents of Rajshahi, Naogaon and Natore say the Bangla Bhai group roamed around with firearms openly when the JMJB launched the anti-Sarbahara vigilante activities in April. They also wielded swords other sharp weapons, hammers and hockey sticks. As newspapers exposed their movement, they

started lying low. Locals say they run training camps -- an allegation the JMJB denied. But the leaders admitted that their workers were given physical training and training on sticks for self-defence.

"We are called part of al Qaeda, Taliban or Islamic militant organisa-

Paper mill owner

Shamsul Islam, Umme Kulsum and the passerby died on the spot while Ahmed Hossain at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in Dhaka and Bulbul at Dhaka Medical College Hospital

The injured car driver, Belal, 30, is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The victims were returning to Chittagong from Munshiganj.

tion. But we are not like that. We would like to serve people and serve them in line with Hilful Fuzul (a social organisation founded by Prophet Mohammad (SM) to serve the destitute). We try to awaken

people's religious feelings to estab-

lish their links with the creator,"

Rahman says. On why then the JMJB kept its activities under wraps, he said: "We did not want to declare our presence now. We did not want to take police help at the beginning. We wanted to establish the rights of the repressed

"Our workers were taking action local people. But local people are not enough to fight the underground outlaws," he justifies seeking police

The JMJB has strong bases in Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Chittagong, Joypurhat, Rangpur and Bogra and spread its network to most madrasas and other educational institutions in the

The JMJB amir worked at the Saudi embassy in Dhaka between 1985 and 1990. He studied at Madina Islamic University is Saudi Arabia and travelled to India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, among other countries. As recently as last year, he went to Pakistan.

"My travels abroad are no secret. We don't have links with any foreign organisation. Our funds do not come from overseas. We bear our expenses with the money of our workers and supporters," Rahman

"We don't have direct links with the Taliban either. The Taliban wanted to establish the ideals of Allah. They did their part with courage," he said.

Asked if the JMJB idealises the Taliban, he said: "Our model includes many leaders and scholars of Islam. But we will take as much (ideology) from the Taliban as we need.

He says his organisation is against the use of force. Nor does it want to go to power as a political party through elections. "If people of Bangladesh give us the responsibility of running the nation, we will accept it."

"We don't believe in the present political trend. We want to build a society based on the Islamic model aid out in Holy Quran-Hadith. Bangla Bhai said. Asked to clarify his model, he said, "Just wait and

Now shrine

FROM PAGE 1

6100-sft pond and left the spot. Night guard Monzurul Alam found the floating jar at around 10:30pm and informed shrine authorities, who detected pesticide inside the can. As dead fishes and sick turtles began to surface on the water, they immediately informed the matter to district administration

District administration has formed a three-member committee divisional forest officer (DFO) and director of Wildlife Preservation Project, to probe the incident. The submit its report in 10 days.

"It's an attempt to destroy the rare species of our country," Tapan told this correspondent yesterday afternoon. He said the turtles of the shrine, a rare species that cannot be found anywhere else, are believed to be aged between 400 to 500

vears. Until vesterday evening, 120 sick turtles injected with life-saving medicines have been taken to another pond at Kulgaon, 2 kilometres off the shrine, with help of the fire brigade.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Ahmed Murshed said. "We have collected samples of the poison and water will send those to Mymensingh Fisheries Research Institute for chemical test."

Pot extrava-ganza

site this year. Local police said they will be in the hunt for them like the previous vears. "If we find anyone smoking gania, we will arrest them. We have been doing that for the last few years," said a police officer of Mahastangarh, asking for anonym-

Religious or racial differences hold no bar for these ganja-lovers who will dance holding each other's hands after stuffing their lungs with marijuana smoke. Many come here with specially designed kalki or pot, which is part

of the tradition and the smokers will chain themselves to draw others attention. Those sit in shades with tridents will draw religious devotees who call them 'Baba'. Devotees will seek

blessings of the Baba and in return.

give them chickens and other hom-

"We have heard about this annual festival from our forefathers," said Abdul Majid, a senior resident of Mahastangarh. Local people have thrown up at

porary living quarters for the visitors on the archaeological site. Some of them will be dismantled, but some will stay as part of a systematic process of encroachment. Mahastangarh draws huge

visitors annually especially because of its religious values. In its history of more than 2,000 years, different saints of the Hindus, Buddha and Muslims have stayed in this city -making it a shrine of all religions of the region. Hindus who come here for holy

bath in the river Karatoa believe that Sheela Devi, sister of a Hindu king in the 1300 AD, jumped in the Karatoa river during a Muslim invasion and she swam under water for five miles in one breath. Muslim devotees come to this

place to pay homage to Shah Sufi, a

holy man who stayed here nearly a

thousand years ago. The Buddhist devotees believe that great king Ashoka came here and built a meditation ground, which remains to be unearthed, in homage of Goutam Buddha.

During April-May and December, least 5,000 makeshift shops to cash hundreds of thousands of people of in on this festival and other religious different religions gather here as activities. Many have erected tempart of their religious activities.

Ctg JCD leader gunned down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An armed gang yesterday gunned down a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader and wounded another ruling BNP's student front activist at Pathantuli in the port city. The gang sprayed bullets on

Imanul Haq Iman, 25, joint secretary

of the JCD unit of Pathantuli, and

Towhidul Islam, 20, in Magpukurpar area under Double Mooring Police Station at around 2:45pm, witnesses They were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where Iman, son of Abdul Hye of East Paley

village in Banshkhali upazila, died at

5:00pm, police said. Local JCD alleged Chittagong Government Commerce Collegebased armed cadres of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the main opposition Awami League murdered the JCD leader, sources

Cousin rapes 10-year-old girl in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An youth allegedly raped his 10vear-old cousin sister at Pirerbagh in Mirpur on Tuesday.

Samirul, a rickshaw-puller. went to the girl's house in a shanty in the night when she was asleep. He violated the class two student of a non-government organisation school finding her alone, alleged the victim's mother, a domestic help.

The mother returned home from work at around 9:30pm and found her daughter bleeding, she added. The girl was admitted to a local clinic immediately and shifted to

Dhaka Medical College Hospital

(DMCH) at about 2:30am yesterday

as her condition deteriorated. "I was sleeping when my cousin (Samirul) came to our house and raped me," the girl told journalists at

the DMCH. Samirul lives with his wife in Mirpur area, the mother said. No case was filed till 6:00 last

Tigers on top FROM PAGE 1

bat first with only Ryan Hinds holding The Board XI batsmen found the

going tough from the very beginning as Tapash Baishya and his opening bowling partner Mushfiqur Rahman kept them under a tight leash. Runmaking became more difficult because of the thick outfield as there is still a lot of un-cut grass.

Mushfiq made the first breakthrough with the score on seven when opening bat Wilkinson gave slip fielder Manjarul Islam an easy

One change Khaled Mahmud instantly started enjoying the breeze from the Caribbean Sea and in an inspired spell, removed dangerman Wavell Hinds (17), Sylvester Joseph (16) and Lendl Simmons (0) in his first three overs. Hinds was taken down the leg by wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud off Mahmud's first delivery.

Left-arm spinner Maniarul also chipped in with three wickets as the Board XI batsmen tried to hit their way out of trouble. The other wicket went to veteran Mohammad Rafique. Bangladesh have looked sprightly

in the ground and there has been virtually no fielding or catching lapses. There has been generous applause from the locals for all the diving stops and acrobatic efforts. West Indies Board XI is being

captained by Under-19 skipper

Denesh Ramdin. Their pace attack

has main team bowler Pedro Collins

and a returning Jermaine Lawson. AL joins Sangsad

opposition Awami League (AL) lawmakers returned to the House wearing black badges to mourn the death of their colleague as well as to register their protest against the

savage killing of a lawmaker. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar moved the obituary reference on Ahsan Ullah Master saying, "the nation lost an eminent politician, a freedom fighter and social worker. This parliament expresses deep shock and sorrow at his death and sympathy with the members of the

Treasury and opposition members then joined the discussion on the life and activities of the slain lawmaker. Awami League (AL) member

bereaved family."

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim opened the discussion, joined by senior AL leader Abdus Samad Azad. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shaheed, Mohammad Nasim, Suranjit Sengupta, Advocate Rahmat Ali and Shahjahan Khan Others took part in the discus-

sion are Water Resource Minister Hafizuddin, State Minister for

Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman, Zainul Abedin Faruk and Fazlul Huq Milon of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Raushan Ershad and ATM Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party, Anwar Hossain Manju of Jatiya Party (JP) and Bangabir Qader Siddiqui of Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League

It's a foreign policy

FROM PAGE 1 problems for the American foreign policy and US credibility being a moral leader. But our strength will be shown as in the cases of Watergate scandal and President Clinton's mpeachment hearing to show no American is above law. These persons will not only be investigated but prosecuted to show the world we are a nation of law "

"In recent days, Americans have come to know this shocking conduct by US servicemen and women résponsible to oversee prisons in a decent manner as per the Geneva Convention, Instead, we have seen shameful images of prisoners being subjected to abuse and humiliation. Such practices do not reflect American values. They are stains on our country's honour and reputation. The US believes in dignity of every person. Asked if he has any explanation

about how these abuses happened, the envoy said: "We are still learning about the abuses. The major general who was asked to probe the incidents has done a 6.000-page report, which indicates it was not a systematic crime but abuses by some soldiers. We have to wait for a second report to let us know what military intelligence was doing in prison to avoid such events."

Expanding on the training of US soldiers, he said from day one, when a US serviceman is inducted, they are instructed of Geneva

Convention. The Iraq incident

ship in prison, he admitted.

"We don't know how it happened. Our soldiers are taught proper treatment of prisoners according to

the Geneva Convention," he added.

Thomas also denied allegations by the international press that the prison abuse was an outcome of US arrogance and said: "All I can say is all Americans are shocked and dismayed by what happened. We don't believe in arrogant people. We try to assist nations, we attract immigrants from all nations. If you look at the prison abuse probe team. you will find that all parts of the US are involved in it. The prison command is a female general, a US born

what you mean by arrogance." Talking about the EPZ trade union agreement, he expressed his thanks for having such a deal that helps working men and women as well gives businessmen a chance to operate in a free manner.

Filipino is investigating. I don't know

"We are continuing to engage with Bangladesh government on mutual interests. Our government is sending officers to Bangladesh to talk to students in high schools and universities to show them the US is open to student visas. We have a long tradition of Bangladeshis studying in the US and this is beneficial for both countries." he added.

Abuse row woman

vesterday.

make the images available privately to lawmakers only over a three-hour period yesterday

The photos would then be

they are evidence in a criminal case. he said. He did not say whether the mages would be made public, joining dozens already published and broad-

returned to the Pentagon because

cast in the festering scandal. Meanwhile, two more American soldiers have been ordered to stand trial for abuse although no date for the courts-martial was set, Brig. Gen Mark Kimmitt announced in Baghdad

Sgt. Javal Davis, 26, of Maryland

and Staff Sgt. Ivan L. "Chip" Frederick II of Buckingham, Va., were ordered to undergo a general courtmartial, Kimmitt said. He said the trial date and venue had not been set. However, in the interview. England said the actions depicted in

psychological pressure on the Iraqi "Well, I mean, they [the photos] were for psy-op reasons," she said

"And the reasons worked. I mean, so

the photos were intended to put

to us, we were doing our job, which meant we were doing what we were told, and the outcome was what they wanted. They'd come back and they'd look at the pictures, and they'd state, 'Oh, that's a good tactic, keep it up. That's working. This is working. Keep doing it. It's getting what we

West Virginia who is four months oregnant, is now stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. The interview was taped Tuesday at Fort England is among seven soldiers

England, an army reservist from

from the 372nd Military Police Company who face charges for allegedly degrading and humiliating Iragi prisoners. 'To all of us who have been charged, we all agree that we don't feel like we were doing things that we weren't supposed to, because we

instructed to do this and to do that.' England said. She told KCNC she was looking forward to having her baby and hopefully one day putting the abuse

least 20 fighters loyal to radical Shia

Locals said the fighting erupted

Tuesday evening and raged until

about midday Wednesday, with

members of Sadr's Mehdi Army

militia holed up in a mosque and

surrounded by US troops backed by

tanks and armored vehicles. A senior

US officer in Baghdad said 20 to 25

militiamen had been killed and seven

In a dramatic twist to Shia upris-

ing, Sadr yesterday offered to end his

insurgency if the US-led coalition

agreed to negotiations, according to

leaflets handed out by his office in the

occupation forces officially ask for

negotiations on condition that these

negotiations are just and transparent

and under the stewardship of the

Shiite religious authorities," said a

ASF celebrates

victims, but now the victims at least

get necessary support from the ASF

though it could do little to stop this

director of ASF, said the foundation

has provided support and assis-

tance to 1,400 acid victims in many

ways including taking care of their

treatment in the last five years. "But

unfortunately we could not save all

of them," Munira regretted.

Munira Rahman, executive

"I am ready to end everything if the

American soldiers wounded.

central holy Iragi city of Naiaf.

statement signed by Sadr.

heinous form of crime.

FROM PAGE 12

were told to do them. We think every-

thing was justified, because we were

American beheaded

said yesterday.

FROM PAGE 1 the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, new yesterday. The CIA is said to be checking claims that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a suspected top member of the Islamic militant network al-

Qaeda, was involved in the killing of Meanwhile, US troops killed at

Reinvestigation

FROM PAGE 12 fabricated and motivated. Sheuli, an information assistant at the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) at Zia International Airport (ZIA), filed the case on November 13, 1993, five days after the alleged advances

and his assistant Mahbub Alam. She said they work at the same office and also discuss their family affairs sometimes. The accused would often make advances during office hours and touch her on different excuses.

At about 8:30am on November

Mostafa asked her to meet him

at his office room. But she did not go

there and was waiting at the pas-

sengers service desk. After a while,

were made by DD Mostafa Faruq

Mostafa came there, frisked her and took her duty pass away. Later, she went to his office at around 10:00am to get her duty pass back. Instead of returning it, the DD attempted to violate her.

FROM PAGE 12

includes Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party. Surjeet is pitching in for Sonia to interact with NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav. Both Pawar and Yadav have reservations about a Sonia-led alternative. However, Sonia spoke to Pawar

over telephone Monday and the two are due to meet on May 14, a day after the results are officially out, to discuss the post-poll scenario. The left parties, which were gung-ho about formation of a Third

Front, are now reconciled to a Congress-led alternative, especially after the result of the state assembly Meanwhile, Surjeet yesterday had a meeting with former prime

southern state of Karnataka.

down 16 percent from last year. She cited women's refusal to oblige their stalkers and conflicts in conjugal life as the primary reasons for the acid attacks. However, she added, attacks over love affair has considerably reduced, she added.

minister HD Devegowda, whose spoke, among others. Janata Dal (Secular) is expected to Later, the acid survivors sand a song and staged a drama.

According to the ASF, 14 acid victims have died in the country since 2000 to date and the first victim was Jibon Tara, a teenaged

Tara, in January this year to treat acid victims free of cost. Munira said the percentage of acid violence from 1999 to 2002 increased by 15 percent, but it came

girl of Bogra district. It has opened a

16-bed hospital, named after Jibon

Robert Gibson, deputy British high commissioner. Dr Samanta Lal Sen, director, burns unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, singer Suvro Dev, representative from Unicef and a photographer also

garner some parliamentary seats in

killed in Pabna

Police and locals said 12 mem-

Magistrate, Chittagong and sought seven days' remand. The court, however, sanctioned a three-day

CID police also found that Helal, a police sergeant, reportedly had nformation on the shipment of arms

his duty station, another source said.

The car, which was found near

Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ashraful Huda and

> organisational divisional office each. Dhaka has two JMJB divi-