

## Ahsanullah murder

**FROM PAGE 12**  
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 force.

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

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

"They may give accurate information on the killers and their whereabouts."

The First Class Magistrate's Court in Gazipur yesterday remanded the arrestees in six-day police custody.

**MOURNING RALLY**  
Hundreds of people gathered at Gazipur yesterday to attend a rally organised by Gazipur Awami League at its office to mourn the death of the slain lawmaker.

Over 2,000 police guarded the rally, addressed by Ahsanullah's younger son Zabit Ahsan Soheli, frontline AL leaders including Motia Chowdhury, Obaidul Kader, Amir Hossain Amu, Giasuddin Manna and Mukul Bose with AL Gazipur unit president Mozammel Haq in the chair.

AL's Tongi unit also hold a similar rally there on May 17 and another at Gazipur district headquarters on May 20.

Jatiya Shramik League organised a milad mahfil at its office in the capital yesterday, praying for the peace of the soul of Ahsanullah.

Ahsanullah's younger brother

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

"Today they arrested Palash, a poor scrap metal trader, who tried his best to save my brother in the wake of the shootout," Moti said.

"Police have arrested no-one of the killers five days into the killing. They are busy with harassing people who tried to save my brother and now demanding trial of the perpetrators," he alleged.

"Police say they don't know the whereabouts of the killers. I would ask them to arrest Nurul Islam Sarker," he said, accusing him of masterminding the killing.

Local residents alleged police picked up over 200 innocent people including AL adherents, but Nur Ahamad, officer-in-charge of Tongi Police Station, said the number was not more than 60.

"We're arrested about 20 people in 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 by the killers to snatch his body from there.

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

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

## 2 outlaws killed in Pabna

**UNB, Pabna**

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

Police and locals said 12 members belonging to an extremist group locally known as Bahini shot dead Habibur Rahman Bulu, 50, of outlabeled Purba Banglar Communist Party (ML-Lal Pataka) when he was sitting at a tea stall at Laxmipur Bazaar at about 9:00am.

The attackers then entered Laxmipur village, picked up Ayub Hossain Sheikh, 48, Another member of the outlawed party, from his house and shot him dead.

Following the incident police raided the area and nabbed 15 people.

## CTG arms haul

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

Marium also provided important clues to the sophisticated arms smuggling incident, CID police said.

CID police also found that Helal, a police sergeant, reportedly had information on the shipment of arms consignment beforehand and locals saw him near the dock area on that night though the CUFL jetty was not his duty station, another source said.

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

Helal also faces allegations that he helped the criminals involved in the arms smuggling into hiding and hid the private car used by Hafizur.

The car, which was found near 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 said.

## Proshika

**FROM PAGE 1**  
headquarters on Tuesday on charge of attacking some of their disgruntled colleagues, who went to the Proshika office in a procession.

Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ashraf Huda and the Deputy Commissioner of Detective Branch Faruq Ahmed visited Proshika headquarters yesterday.

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 the headquarters in a procession at 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 yesterday.

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 Shahadat Hossain Sachchu, Abul Kalam Azad, Khondaker Anwar Kamal and others who took part in Tuesday's procession of the rebel group have been dismissed.

## Army arrests

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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.

Mohastabir, founding director general of Wara Punya Boudhdha Anathalaya (orphange) 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

**FROM PAGE 1**

others names."  
Bangla Bhai says he was born to Nazir Hossain Pramanik of Kanniapara 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 Haq University College affiliated with Rajshahi University."

"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 centres.

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 sacrilegious."

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

Rahman who heads the highest tier of JMB moved from his Jamalpur home to Bagmara in Rajshahi after JMB activities came to light.

The first tier of the outfit has activists called "Ehsar" who are 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 activists. The third tier involves those who indirectly cooperate with the JMB.

"We divided Bangladesh into nine organisational divisions," Rahman said. Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Chittagong have an organisational divisional office each. Dhaka has two JMB divisional offices and Rajshahi three.

Residents of Rajshahi, Naogaon and Natore say the Bangla Bhai group roamed around with firearms openly when the JMB 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 JMB 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 organisation," he said.

**Paper mill owner**  
**FROM PAGE 1**  
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.

## Pot extrava-ganza

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site this year.

Local police said they will be in the hunt for them like the previous years. "If we find anyone smoking ganja, we will arrest them. We have been doing that for the last few years," said a police officer of Mahastangarh, asking for anonymity.

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 homage.

"We have heard about this annual festival from our forefathers," said Abul Majid, a senior resident of Mahastangarh.

Local people have thrown up at least 5,000 makeshift shops to cash in on this festival and other religious activities. Many have erected tem-

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 the archaeological site. Some of them will be dismantled, but some will stay as part of a systematic process of encroachment.

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, hundreds of thousands of people of different religions gather here as part 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 said.

They were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where Iman, son of Abdul Hye of East Paley village in Bankshkhali upazila, died at 5:00pm, police said.

Local JCD alleged Chittagong Government Commerce College-based armed cadres of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the main opposition Awami League, murdered the JCD leader, sources said.

## Cousin rapes 10-year-old girl in city

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A youth allegedly raped his 10-year-old cousin sister at Pirebagh 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 evening.

## Tigers on top

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bat first with only Ryan Hinds holding fort with 34.

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. Run-making 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 felder Manjarul Islam an easy catch.

One change Khaled Mahmud instantly started enjoying the breeze from the Caribbean Sea and in an inspired spell, removed dangerous 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 Manjarul 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

**FROM PAGE 1**  
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 bereaved family."

Treasury and opposition members then joined the discussion on the life and activities of the slain lawmaker.

Awami League (AL) member 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 discussion 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 impeachment 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 responsible 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

means a failure in military leadership 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 Filipino is investigating. I don't know 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.

"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

**FROM PAGE 12**

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

The photos would then be returned to the Pentagon because they are evidence in a criminal case, he said.

He did not say whether the images would be made public, joining dozens already published and broadcast 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 yesterday.

Sgt. Javal Davis, 26, of Maryland and Staff Sgt. Ivan L. "Chip" Frederick II of Buckingham, Va., were ordered to undergo a general court-martial, Kimmitt said. He said the trial date and venue had not been set.

However, in the interview, England said the actions depicted in the photos were intended to put psychological pressure on the Iraqi prisoners.

"Well, I mean, they [the photos] were for psy-op reasons," she said "And the reasons worked. I mean, so

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 need.'"

England, an army reservist from West Virginia who is four months pregnant, is now stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. The interview was taped Tuesday at Fort Bragg.

England is among seven soldiers from the 372nd Military Police Company who face charges for allegedly degrading and humiliating Iraqi 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 were told to do them. We think everything was justified, because we were 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 scandal behind her.

## American beheaded

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the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, new images of which are to be released 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 Berg.

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 were made by DD Mostafa Faruq and his assistant Mahub 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 13, Mostafa asked her to meet him at his office room. But she did not go there and was waiting at the passengers service desk. After a while, 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.

## BJP

**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-pol 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 polls.

Meanwhile, Surjeet yesterday had a meeting with former prime minister HD Devegowda, whose Janata Dal (Secular) is expected to garner some parliamentary seats in southern state of Karnataka.

least 20 fighters loyal to radical Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in a battle in the Iraqi city of Karbala, the US army said yesterday.

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 American soldiers wounded.

In a dramatic twist to Shia uprising, 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 central holy Iraqi city of Najaf.

"I am ready to end everything if 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 statement signed by Sadr.

## ASF celebrates

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victims, but now the victims at least get necessary support from the ASF though it could do little to stop this heinous form of crime.

Munira Rahman, executive director of ASF, said the foundation has provided support and assistance 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.

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 girl of Bogra district. It has opened a 16-bed hospital, named after Jibon 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 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.

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 spoke, among others.

Later, the acid survivors sang a song and staged a drama.