Madrasa man

society based on the Khilafat (pan-Islamic movement) can change the nation," said Rahman, also leader of Khilafat Majlish and Shahaba Sainik Parishad, in the long interview, where he also named nine Islamist leaders who accompanied him to Afghanistan

Azizul Haq (district unknown), Mowlana Ataur Rahman Khan from Kishoreganj, Mowlana Sultan Jowk from Chittagong, Mowlana Abdul Mannan from Faridour and Mowlana Habibullah of Noakhali figure on the

Rahman also said the team visited the Harkatul Jihad office in Pakistan in its stopover in Karachi and met Islamic outfit leaders there.

Rahman was instrumental in the movement demanding death to writer Taslima Nasrin and prevented poet Shamsur Rahman and anticollaborator leader Jahanara Imam from visiting Sylhet.

The high-profile Islamic leader told The Daily Star that an officer of the Rapid Action Battalion -- part of the investigating team -- met him and sought help in investigation.

But he brushed aside the suspected roles of his organisations in the blast, second in five months at the 700-year-old heritage site, and denied his links to the Taliban.

"We have nothing to do with the Taliban ... we follow Islam," Rahman

Sources say detectives have found documents of the Islamic organisations and their leaders in an intense hunt for any link between local and international Islamic militants and the bomb blast.

Police also turned their attention to Harkatul Jihad and its suspected links with international militants as Rahman travelled to Afghanistan at the invitation of Harkatul Jihadir Islami described in his interview as an international Islamic movement.

A senior detective told investigators during a US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) probe that a bomb seized from a former prime minister

Sheikh Hasina's rally in Kotalinara in Gopalganj in 2000 was planted by

Police officials said Friday's deadly bomb attack threw the probability of Harkatul Jihad's role into sharp relief, as its leader Mufti Abdul Hannan, indicted in the 2000 case, remains at large.

Police took a Harkatul Jihad member. Shamim, into their custody and released him after interrogation on Monday night.

Intelligence agencies are also looking into a series of grenade attacks in Bangladesh and seizure of 20 grenades near the diplomatic enclave in Dhaka's Badda area in November 2003.

Police collected several anti-British and -US posters of Hizb ut-Tahrir, another Islamist outfit, which were posted around the shrine a few days before the bomb attack on the angladesh-born envoy.

The posters show pictures of Iraqis being abused by US-led coalition forces in Abu-Ghraib prison, with calls "Let's come and reject the democracy of the occupiers. Join the efforts to establish Khilafat in Bangladesh."

Police high-ups shy away from official statements on the investigation. "All sides are being considered, but we cannot say anything now as the investigation is going on," said Investigation Officer SA Newaz.

Criminal Joseph

FROM PAGE 12 term in the Morshed murder case.

Reading out the judgement at a am-packed courtroom, the judge acquitted Mohammad Islam (Munna) of the charges brought

Those on death row can appeal to the High Court within 30 days, the judge added

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 23 out of 35 prosecution wit-

Faisal awaits Test cap

was bowled by an innocuous delivery from off-spinner Omari Banks in the only Bangladesh innings of the

"I thought Faisal used the game pretty well and he has put a little bit of pressure on the selectors for the first Test and that's what we need. We need more players to put pressure on the tour selectors because that's a problem we would love to have," said coach Dav Whatmore on Monday.

Whatmore said that he had already thought about a possible combination but was going to wait until he had a look at the St Lucia

"I have a team in mind roughly but there's still a lot of things to consider. I think the surface is slow and flat. I think it will be hard work for

Medical student

repeated threats from the abductors, sources said Azim's father Noor Md Shikder,

an expatriate in a middle-eastern country, flew back home on Monday night, sources said.

Meanwhile.each of the four alleged abductors of businessman Nasir Uddin alias Lavlu, was placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

Police arrested the four. Noor Mohammad Sohag, 22, Sukumar Biswas, 32, Rashed Ahmad, 28 and Shahidul Islam, 33, while rescuing Nasir from the hideout at Bibirhat on Monday afternoon. Police said, they were also trying

to know if those four had any link with the abduction of the USTC student

In a separate incident on Monday night locals foiled yet another abduction attempt at city's Battery Goli (lane) under Kotwali Police Station.

Two miscreants at around 8:00pm forcibly got a local businessman on their bike and tried to speed off. But the locals by a microbus gave a chase and as they got nearer the criminals, they let go of the businessman and fled,

West Indian bowlers if our batsmen are really prepared to dig the toes in the sand and make it tough for them. But we need to confirm on that when we reach St Lucia. The Tigers left Grenada for their

the bowlers. It will be tough for the

third island stop early morning on Tuesday. The team management is expected to sit for a selection meeting at 1 pm local time (11 pm BST). If Faisal plays, he will be the sixth

specialist batsman in the lineup including Javed Omar, Hannan Sarker, Habibul Bashar, Rajin Saleh and Mohammad Ashraful. The dilemma faced by the selec-

tors is whether they play just one genuine pacer in Tapash Baisva and partner him with all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman or take either Alamgir Kabir or Tareq Aziz Khan. If Baisya is the only fast bowler, then Enamul Haque could join fellow leftarm spinner Mohammad Rafique in

They remained tight-lipped to both Rescue ships

FROM PAGE 1

sunken vessel snapped at least four times. The ship was only 12 feet into the water.

When another launch MV Nasrin sank last year, the rescue team could not even detect the ship under water. Later, a navy team came and detected the vessel

Officials said the rescue ships do not have cutting and welding machines necessary for rescue operation.

In the recent case of Lighting Sun, rescue operation was stalled for six hours due to lack of a welding machine to seal the bottom of the launch that was cut open to rescue seven persons alive. 'We do not have proper diving

equipment and sonar machine to detect sunken vessels," Md Mounddin Haider, commander of Rustam, said.

Bangladesh has 7,000 kilometre of river routes during the monsoon, which shrinks to 5,000 kilometre in drv season

Some 7,000 registered river vessels -- 2,000 passenger launches and 5,000 cargo vessels -

of some five to six youths who were in a conversation at Gopibagh rail tracks about 3:45pm. The mob caught four of them named Ibrahim, Khokon, Babu and an unidentified youth and beat them up before turning them over to Sutrapur police. Ibrahim, who later died from the wounds at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, told reporters they hacked Mithu to death at his (Ibrahim's) house at 89/2/5/A in RK Mission Road in Demra about 3:00am. Later, they packed the body in the TV carton and dumped it behind Avishar Cinema Hall.

The other arrestees said they threw the victim's head on the eastside of Bhanga Press at Demra. Police later recovered the head from the spot at 6:00pm and sent it to Mitford hospital.

Mithu had a dispute with his partners over Tk 5 lakh. He was called out of his Narinda residence, taken to RK mission Road and was killed

Ibrahim also told newsmen at the DMCH that Mithu was killed due to business rivalry. Ibrahim died at assailants gunned down Liton, a former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, at Hrishikesh Das Lane in Sutrapur in the early hours of yesterday

The assailants shot Liton, son of Abdul Khaleq who is a Union Parishad member of Sripur in Mymensingh, in the chest and head from close range. A rickshaw-puller rushed him to Mitford hospital where the attending doctors declared him

The victim's uncle. Abdul Barek said Liton used to stay with his Dhaka. On the day of the incident, Lane about 11:30 on Monday night. As soon as he came out of the shop, a gang of five took him away at

Barek, however, could not cite any reasons for the killing.

body from the spot at about 2:30pm and sent it to Mitford hospital Liton's relatives said he was a

College in Old Dhaka.

OC faces showcase for filing case against dead man

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of Keraniganj Police Station to explain in seven days why a case was filed on charge of assaulting a man who died 14

Magistrate Abu Taleb gave the order following a petition lodged by the defence lawyers of the assault case Defence lawyers placed relevant

support of the victim's death 14 years ago. Moving the petition, they said Fazar Ali died 14 years ago. However, Mohammad Delwar

assault case with Keraniganj Police Station accusing their six clients on February 13 last year. The OC Mustafizur Rahman, also investigation officer of the case.

The lawyers demanded acquittal of their clients from the charges and punishment to the OC for his corruption and irregularities in service.

5 held Indians were on way to UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five Indian nationals who holed up in a Biman aircraft and were arrested at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on Saturday, came to Bangladesh after a gang assured

An inquiry report of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) revealed this yesterday.

"The five are not members of any insurgency group, rather they were brought here to be sent abroad," an official of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism said quoting the CAAB report.

Police, meanwhile, arrested the owner and the manager of Euro Garden, a guesthouse in Gulshan, where the five Indian nationals checked out before leaving for Hong

Abdur Rouf Chaklader and Nurul Islam, the owner and manager of the questhouse, were questioned at the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) yesterday before being produced before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate with a remand petition. The court placed Rouf and Islam on a three-day and 10-day remand for interrogation.

Police in the remand petition said the hotel owner and manager might have links to human traffickers as no register of boarders was maintained although many locals and foreign-

Metropolitan Police, wishing anonymity, said one Bhajan Singh and his wife brought the five to Bangladesh for sending them to Britain. The official also said Bhajan is a member of a human trafficking racket and used to check in at Euro

Proshika chief

entertain the bail petition and asked his lawyers to come up after finishng the process in the Metropolitan Session's Court.

mitted that the magistrate had given a "mechanical order" without receiving the case dairy and examining the elements required for this purpose. In this case, Section 167 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) intention.

investigating the cases. So the guestion of abuse of Section 167 of

CrPC does not arise. Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Amir-UI Islam Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, Barrister Tanjib- Ul Alam

team of Bac yesterday interrogated Qazi Faruque Ahmed. But they did not disclose the place of interrogation. Bac sources said the team would further interrogate him today as they did not get the stay order.

MV Digonto

FROM PAGE 1

out in the electronic media. They also are angry with the local lawmakers for their absence and inacivity in this case.

desh Internal Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) however visited the accident spot vesterday morning and located the place of the drowned boat.

Sources in Chandpur river-port office said port and district administration officials visited the accident spot of Digonto yesterday morning. Salvage ship Rustam which went back to its Naravangani base vesterday morning after completing its works for Lighting Sun would be called to salvage Digonto, if necessary, they added.

Meanwhile, five more passengers of Digonto have been reported as missing, raising the number of listed missing persons to 20, without any dead body recovered so far.

Shrine blast

police and intelligence agencies in their investigations into the grenade attack that killed three and injured 70 including British High Commi-ssioner

and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Police had

would contact Bangladesh police for any further information they might need for their inquiry.

Shahadat Hossain, the superintendent of police (SP) of Sylhet suspended for failing to provide adequate security to the visiting high commissioner, last night handed over his charge to Additional SP Rezaul Karim. Hossain leaves Sylhet today and would report to the police headquarters in Dhaka.

persons named Fazal, Nayeem and Moyeen in connection to the grenade blast. Fazal, who had worked in the shrine for a few months and then left Sylhet three months ago, was nabbed at a stone quarry in Jafflong. Moyeen and his brother Nayeem were arrested at Rajargoli, adjacent to the shrine. Sylhet Kotwali police in the afternoon took them into custody for interrogation, an official said.

quizzed about 30 beggars, who used to seek alms regularly in the shrine

Police are also on the look out for a beggar who was given a 100-taka note by Abdul Hai Khan, a close relative accompanying the British the attack.

and did not seem like a beggar, Khan, also the president of Sylhet District Bar Association, told the newsmen yesterday. He however gave him the money as the high commissioner asked him to, in face of the man's persistent begging, Khan recalled, adding the man was wearing a green

the principal attacker flee after hurling

Svlhet District Bar Association at a press conference yesterday demanded for a probe body headed by a Supreme Court judge into the

Friday's blast in order to ensure a

proper investigation.' At the conference held at the Sylhet Press Club in the afternoon. the association also demanded for making the report of the probe committee into the January-12 blast public at the earliest and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

Speaking at the conference, Khan alleged the incident took place due to utter failure on the part of the local police administration in arranging security for a VVIP like the British envoy and demanded withdrawal of all police officials in Sylhet.

Khan had accompanied High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury since his arrival in Sylhet by a Bangladesh Biman flight Friday morning until the blast, in which he, too, received minor injuries. The lawyers demanded for setting

and for using metal detectors at all of its entry points. They threatened to start agitation if their demands were not met soon. Last Saturday, lawyers of the divisional headquarters had

up a police camp in the shrine area

Friday's attack. On Monday night, the Sylhet district unit of the ruling four-party alliance urged Awami League (AL) to withdraw its day-long hartal called for tomorrow. May 27, as part of its six-

The Sylhet city and district units of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the AL, on the other hand, have called strike in all the educational institutions in Svlhet demanding immediate release of the nine BCI leaders and activists held by police in connection to the blast.

15 more bodies

FROM PAGE 1

A total of 34 bodies of the victims of MV Lighting Sun were sent to their relatives in Madaripur. Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Muzahid handed over the corpses to their

the victims in the twin launch capsize for compensation, said a press release yesterday.

MV Lighting Sun and MV Diganta capsized in the river after a strong nor'wester hit the launches early

Plight of UK visa

kept closed by the British authorities on security concerns. The British High Commission in Baridhara was re-opened yesterday although its Visa Facilitation Service (VFS) office in Dhaka remained open all

tion but are hopeful of opening the Sylhet office soon," a high commission official told The Daily Star yesterday, asking not to be named. Sources, however, said the wait

as the Awami League's announcement of a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Sylhet on Thursday has made security more vulnerable. Naim Bakht, a businessman from Sylhet, who has been in Dhaka since May 21 for an appointment for

visitor visa interview on May 23, describes his predicament: "My elder brother is having serious heart troubles in London and is scared of the operation so I immediately need to be with him." "I don't know what to do now, even

if I go back to Sylhet now the office will be closed and I am not sure if it will open soon as the bomb blast happened in Sylhet," added Bakht,

Shamsul Hag, who was to give the visa interview also on May 23, met a similar fate. "I have waited for three months to get this interview and now it has been pushed back again, it's frustrating. But, I do understand how they feel about the bomb, so I will have to cope with it." Scores of others like Shamsu

Haq, who had applied for a special work permit visa, hail from Sylhet home to around half of Bangladeshis living in the UK.

The VFŠ office also had to deal with rescheduling difficulties.

Two monks from a monastery in Chittagong, Dharmeshwar and Buddhapriya Bhikkhu, said they will miss the religious programme they planned to attend on May 27 as their date of interview has been pushed back from May 24 to June 1.

that they have no alternative but to reschedule the dates since the interview schedules at the high commission are always packed. However, for urgent matters such as medical treatment, they are making exceptions. They are also providing students with a document of explanation to deal with their enrolments.

Petrobangla in talks

FROM PAGE 12

Hossain expected that the negotiations with the US company would be completed in a month.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. who is also in charge of the ministry, will give the final approval before signing a GPSA (gas purchase and sales agreement) between Petrobangla and Unocal

Earlier, on May 13, Petrobangla approved Unocal's Bibiyana development plan without mentioning export option and also with the investment slashed by \$62million.

Petrobangla reduced the investment, as the joint management committee found \$230million to be required for the development Unocal's proposal was for \$292million

As per the PSC (production sharing contract). Unocal will solely make the investment and Petrobangla will not have any

Mannan refused FROM PAGE 1

The returning officer refused to allocate kula to Mannan as he did not recognise Bikalpa Dhara as a political party.

Election officials will convey the unchanged decision to the High Court today. "According to the election law, we don't have scope to change our previous decision, Deputy Election Commissioner (Dhaka) Abul Kashem told The Daily Star after the meeting. The symbol, kula, was allocated

will realise the money during the cost-recovery period by selling gas from the field.

Earlier, the Unocal had proposed

The field is expected to go into production by the end of 2006. Initially, it will have a production capacity of 300 MMCFD (million cubic feet of gas per day), rising in phases to 600 MMCFD.

Petrobangla officials hoped that

year's award in recognition of his role in pioneering microcredit, which as an innovative approach reached out to millions of poor to help them find a route out of poverty.

Nikkei introduced the prizes in 1996 to commemorate the company's 120th anniversary. Distinguished personalities like Indian Prime

Ahsanullah killing

FROM PAGE 12

drugs ring allegedly led by Nurul Islam Sarker, a leader of Jubo Dal and brother of local BNP leader Hasan Sarker.

"Some eight more gunmen ran to the dais firing from the front," he said

failing to identify any of them. "In fact,I was so shocked to find Ahsanullah Master falling on to the ground sustaining several bullets that could not notice who were firing (running to the stage)," said Azmatullah, general secretary of AL's Gazipur unit.

Assistant Superintendent (CID) Khalequzzaman who leads the fourmember CID team recorded the statement Azmatullah told the CID team that

the killers are now threatening him for his active involvement in demanding the arrest and trial of the culprits. "They phone repeatedly threaten

ing to abduct and kill my children," he told this correspondent. The slain legislator's brother Motiur Raman also told the CID team

that threats kept coming from the "An unknown caller rang last night and asked me whether I wanted to live or not," Motiur said. "He said I was 'doing too much' to bring them to

Sources in the CID said the team was talking with the witnesses to verify the information they have already elicited from the three accused and the four suspects. The CID team is currently interrogating accused Monir and Dulal while the others remain in jail.

Giving his statement before the court Sunday, accused Mahbub confessed that he fired during the operation and said that Nurul Islam Sarker masterminded the killing a year ago.

Many Tongi locals, meanwhile, raised doubts that the other accused, still at large, might go beyond the reach of the police by the time Mahbub disclosed 'everything

India to review

FROM PAGE 12 plans submitted by the task force neaded by India's former Power Minister and Shiv Sena leader Suresh Prabhu, and discuss the matter with Prime Minister

project is being implemented and also due to construction of some other dams, he said the new government's highest priority is to attend to "human problems as also environmental problems that might arise in execution of any project.' Agreeing that the country

ter, however, said it can not be done at the cost of human lives and destroying their habitation. What is needed is a collective approach to the whole issue and

Bangla Bhai

FROM PAGE 12 Oikya Parishad (BSKOP) at the party's Dhanmondi office, Hasina said the BNP-Jamaat coalition has absolute inability to

On activities of Bangla Bhai and his men in Rajshahi, she said Islamist groups have emerged and are becoming powerful with every passing day, and Khaleda Zia's government has passed the responsibility on to fundamentalist forces to

Ahsanullah Master and bomb attack on the British envoy in Sylhet has only made matters worse. She said if Awami League voted back to power, the teacher community would not have to agitate on the

street for realising their demands. "We would do whatever we car do for you as you are the architect of the nation," she told the teachers. The BSKOP leaders sough cooperation from the AL president

Bush outlines

administration takes over on June 30 to prepare for January elections that will choose a national assembly to draft a new constitution that will allow a permanent government to be chosen by the end of next year.

College in Carlisle, Bush warned that "there are difficult days ahead and the way forward may some-

times appear chaotic.' Yet he vowed the handover would take place on schedule and that the US-led coalition would not be defeated by insurgents blamed for the recent surge in violence.

least a vear. Instead, he said the current US troop level, which now stands at 138,000, would remain the same for "as long as necessary" and could grow depending on the situation on

send them." (AFP, REUTERS)

PM, WB president

conference briefed the Wolfensohn on her government's poverty alleviation programme and success in microcredit.

The World Bank president told Khaleda that the bank at a recent meeting appreciated her government's programme for girls' education, empowerment of women and microcredit programme for poverty reduction.

Wolfensohn praised the antidowry movement initiated by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and said this particular measure would play an enormous and far reaching impact on the empowerment of women. He said the anti-dowry movement would be an example to follow by other countries across the globe.

and e-governance programme of the present government and said the World Bank welcomed the decision of Khaleda Zia in this respect, which would further enhance efficiency and transpar-

He also commended the infor-

mation communication technology

World Bank Bangladesh Mission Chief Christina Wallich assisted the

World Bank chief at the meeting. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Principal secretary to the Prime Minister Kamaluddin Siddiqui and Alternate Executive director of World Bank Dr Akhbar Ali were present

In the afternoon, British Minister for Department for International Development (DFID) Hilari Benn met the prime minister at her hotel

Benn, who came here to attend the World Bank sponsored microcredit conference, told Khaleda of his government's appreciation about the enormous success of Bangladesh government in microcredit programme as a tool for

Caribbean floods

FROM PAGE 12 Metropole. The toll could not be independently verified.

Forecasters say the rain will continue for two more days. "Right now there is moderate to strong precipitation, occasionally accompanied by wind gusts over a large part of the national territory," Dominican National Emergency

Benn assured the prime minister that his government's would expand support to Bangladesh development pursuit. In this context, he identified Bangladesh as priority country for British development support in the socioeconomic field.

During the meeting, Khaleda expressed sorrow at the Sylhet ncident in which the British high commissioner to Bangladesh was hurt. She described the incident as most unfortunate.

The British minister thanked the Bangladesh prime minister for immediate medical facilities provided by her government for the

RMG sector

FROM PAGE 1 unsold stock of overseas suppliers

proposed The RMG manufacturers have long been demanding for central bonded warehouse facilities to

may be re-exported, the report

delivery time. Caved in against the opposition from spinners and textile manufacturers, the government woke up to

regime is only few months away. With international organisations portraying gloomy future of the Bangladesh RMG, the government only a few months back formed a national coordination council to bail

National Board of Revenue (NBR) to submit a report on how the warehouse can be set up and what should be the operating mechanism Two months gone, the NBR is yet to submit its recommendations. "To

The Daily Star Monday. The association, representing over 3,000 garment industries, will hold a press conference and presentation on the proposed warehouse in Dhaka on May 27 to press for its demand.

BGMEA also wants the govern-

ment to negotiate with the European

Commission on relaxation of the

rules of origin for Bangladeshi

German said. woven products.

the backdrop of a series of major

Death toll in a launch capsize on Sunday in the Meghna near Chandpur rose to 76 and around 100 remained unaccounted for. Another launch sank nearby at about the same time. A launch disaster at the confluence of the Padma and the Meghna

The parliament standing committee on the ministry of shipping at a meeting on Monday also grilled the

couple of weeks." He however did not mention the names or posts of people going to face the actions. Akbar Hossian admitted there is a bunch of corrupt people in his minis-

firing and transfer of people within a

The minister emphasised introduction of a local classification society for the inland shipping sector to bring a permanent solution to the problem of faulty design of ships. A vested quarter in his ministry and the Department of Shipping are creating various obstacles in this regard, he

Legal actions will be taken if any dockyard or firm builds any launch without stability test, he added. The directives said all launches

condition in the wet seasons. set to its officials at major launch terminals to inform launch operators about weather condition.

he said probe committee on Sunday's launch disaster, the minister said he is going

their work fell far short of expecta-The fund was channelled to the

against them." Nurul Islam Moni, a committee member told reporters Committee Chairman Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lalu presided

over the meeting, also attended by

In Baghdad, a US soldier was

Meanwhile, the US is searching

killed and four others wounded in a

rocket attack on a coalition base

northwest of Baghdad, the US

for a replacement for Lieutenant

General Ricardo Sanchez, the top

US commander in Iraq, a senior US

defence official said, while strongly

rejecting any link to the Abu Ghraib

Seven soldiers have been

military said vesterday.

scandal

relocated. Then, with the approval of the Iraqi government, we will demolish the Abu Ghraib prison as a fitting symbol of Iraq's new begin-

inside Shia's holiest shrine, medics The upper part of one of the main gold-covered gates leading to the tomb of revered Shia Imam Ali was

wounded, including 10 injured at the shrine," said medics at Najaf's Hakim hospital. In Kirkuk, a senior politician

representing Iraq's minority Turkmen population was assassinated by gunmen late on Monday as he left his office in the tense Iraqi city, police said. Ahmed Najm al-Din, one of the

charged over humiliation of naked detainees, who were seen in photos and videos that drew international condemnation. One has been jailed for a year but investigations have been started to see if the mistreatment was approved by senior officers. "He's been there 13 months,"

looking for a replacement for him like you do for every other soldier." Karpinski, who has returned to the United States, has not been

said the official. "You have to be

suspended from her command does not mean she has been relieved of command, so technically she could be reinstated, although the intensity of the international furor over the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse makes that highly unlikely, said the officials. speaking on condition of anonymity.

Trader hacked to death

Police quoting Ibrahim said at about 3:00am.

6:20pm.

In another incident, unnamed

family in Sripur but would frequent he went to a shop at Hrishikesh Das

Sutrapur police retrieved the

morgue for autopsy. JCD unit leader of Suhrawardy

COURT CORRESPONDENT

years ago. The Court of Additional District

documents before the court in Hossain of Keraniganj filed the

pressed charges against the accused on July 22 last year, they added.

them of sending to Britain.

ers stay there. A top official of Dhaka

The court, however, declined to Lawyers for the petitioner sub-

has been abused with a malafide Opposing their contentions, Additional Attorney General Abdur Razak Khan said the interrogation is required in the interest of investigation. The magistrate granted remand as required by the officer

appeared for the petitioner. Our Staff Correspondent adds, a

A group of frogmen of Bangla-

to the independent candidate by lottery, as several candidates demanded the same symbol

updated the British team on the progress made by Bangladesh

Anwar Choudhury. According to a police official, DIG Chowdhury informed the British investigators that Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Director (Investigation) Sadequr Rahman and a number of officials from National Security Intelligence (NSI), Directorate General of Filed Intelligence (DGFI)

joined in the probe. The British detectives said they

Police yesterday arrested three

Rab officials yesterday afternoon

high commissioner, a moment ahead of the blast. Based on Khan's statement, police suspect the beggar may have link to the gang responsible for The man was aged about 40 to 42

Police also suspect that some other people were at the spot to help

along.
"We are still assessing the situa-

is likely to run till the end of the week

the government to export gas to India from the field in Habiganj, in the hydrocarbon block 12 of the country, with the estimated recoverable reserve of 2.4 TCF (trillion cubic feet)

Yunus wins

The award will be presented in a ceremony on June 2 at Tokyo's Imperial Hotel

Nikkei Asia Prizes in the past.

Manmohan Singh before deciding their course of action. Asked on the problem of people being displaced once the proposed

requires augmentation of water sources on a larger scale, the minis-

that without any confrontation, he

govern the country and now it was time to force them to step down.

tackle outlawed members. Hasina said the country is facing acute image crisis abroad for misdeeds of the alliance government and killing of AL lawmaker

for realising their 17-point demand.

FROM PAGE 12

The US and Britain earlier presented a new draft resolution on Iraq to the UN Security Council, in a bid to gain global support for the plan. In his speech to the Army War

However, the president did not set out a specific date for the withdrawal of US and other coalition forces, which the draft UN resolution envisions remaining in Iraq for at

the ground and requests from Bush said the head of US Central Command General John Abizaid and other commanders in Iraq "are constantly assessing the level of troops they need to fulfill the mission. If they need more troops. I will

increase their competitiveness in

the reality at a time when the quota

out the sector. The council, headed by Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Kamaluddin Siddiqui, asked the

my knowledge, there is no progress to date. NBR is yet to submit the report to Prime Minister's Office, BGMEA President Annisul Huq told

Akbar cites fund crisis

must keep mobile telephone sets and must not sail without knowing weather The minister also asked Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority to provide mobile telephone

pending with the Planning Commission. When approved, the radar stations will be set up near major launch terminals to avert accidents. On the questions raised about the

A Tk 7 crore project proposal for

installing seven radar stations is

to form another investigation committee comprising high official of his

22 NGOs

NGOs from different projects to cut illiteracy, they said. "As the NGOs did not deliver their designated tasks properly, we asked the ministry to take stern action

other committee members. US wants to knock

bleak as violence continued across In Najaf, seven people were killed and 45 wounded in fighting vesterday in Irag's central holy where a mortar round exploded

eaders of the Turkmen Union Party, was shot dead in a targeted drive-by

police said.

charged with an offense. Being

shooting as he was leaving his party's headquarters after dark,

Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and former Thai Deputy Prime Minister and current Director General to the World Trade Organisation Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi received

abstained from work and took out a silent procession to protest the

day agitation in protest of the Friday's

relatives, BIWTA sources said. Some BIWTA officials yesterday started for Madaripur to a make a list of

Officials at the Dhaka VFS said

financial involvement. The IOC (international oil company)

Country's current gas demand is 1,370 MMCFD against a 1,340-MMCFD supply. The annual demand growth is 12 percent. Bibiyana would help meet the growing domestic demand.

military commanders.

The downpour has caused landslides and has isolated commu-

launch disasters during his tenure.

Commission spokesman Jose Luis

last year left 600 people killed. shipping minister. officials who failed to do their duties to check launch accidents, the minister replied. "You will see a series of

try. "But no corrupt and inefficient officials will continue in his ministry after the actions," he pledged.

told a questioner. But he vowed to introduce the society within two months. The minister yesterday issued a number of directives for launch operators. "No passenger vessel would be allowed to ply without going

through a stability test of its design,

A new beginning however looks

damaged and rubble strewn on the blood-stained floor of the shrine, an AFP correspondent said. "We have seven killed and 45