EMAIL THREAT

Suspected sender remanded again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Saibal Saha Partha, arrested on charge of emailing the daily Prothom Alo with a threat to kill Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, on a three-day fresh remand

In the remand petition, investigation officer of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) said he took up the investigation charge on August 30 and he would require time for interrogation to find out the

The defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking bail and cancellation of the five-day remand prayer. Moving the petition, Advocate Gyanendra Chandra Biswas told the court that Dhanmondi Police had earlier taken Partha on a fourday remand and he was sent to jail after completion of another two-day

Moreover, Partha was physically and mentally tortured in custody of law-enforcement agencies for a five-day confinement without court order. Life of the young man will be at risk if he is remanded again, as he cannot move without the help of others, the lawyers argued.

After hearing both sides, Metropolitan Magistrate Jahangir Alam rejected the bail petition and placed Partha on a three-day

Intelligence agents picked Partha on August 25 from Heart.net Cyber Café at the Elephant Road.

The intelligence agents guizzed him in an undisclosed place for five days, sidestepping the law to produce arrestees before court within 24 hours of arrest.

Partha is facing charges of emailing the Bangla daily to claim the responsibility for the August 21 grenade attack that killed 19 people and threatening to kill Hasina in

The lawver said Partha completed his Master's in business administration at Chennai in India and returned to Bangladesh in July, adding that he was browsing

Govt destroying rally

explosions and huge arms seizures, Jalil alleged the government halted every probe into the crimes finding the involvement of the ruling alliance activists and fundamentalists He said by involving Interpol

and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the government-run probe, the government was trying to project it as an international investigation.

Quoting Interpol officers, he said they were only giving technical advice to the government investigators

The AL leaders alleged despite repeated demand by the opposition, the government denied independent international probe, fearing exposure of its hand in the crime.

The press conference once again demanded international probe into the August 21 crime under the supervision of the United Nations or the Commonwealth Replying to a guestion. Jalil said: "We have seen such investigations in Iraq. Why is it not possible

He said the government was often referring to some irrelevant issues to shift people's attention from the assassination attempt on Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina that killed at least 19 people and injured over 200 others.

"We want to make it clear that Sheikh Hasina left the scene by her bullet proof car."

He said Muktangon was not the main venue of the August 21 programme of his party, it was kept as an alternative venue in view of past police action on the party processions and rallies in front of

its headquarters. "We had sent press releases." published advertisements in the newspapers and posted posters a few days before the August 21 programme," he added.

He alleged despite repeated attacks on Hasina and threats to kill her, the government, even the prime minister, showed utter indifferent to her security.

"The prime minister even made a derisive comment in parliament after a death threat to the leader of the opposition on July 5 this year,'

On destruction of evidence, Jalil said at least five grenades, retrieved from the scene and the adjacent areas in the wake of the attacks were exploded without taking fingerprints and police did not cordon off the spot after the attacks to preserve the evidence.

Police even took away the truck from the scene, he added.

At the press conference, Jalil quoted a recent speech of State Minister for Manpower Amanullah Aman at a BNP rally.

"Aman told the rally that the government would finalise the probe report soon accusing Awami _eague leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Hamid, Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Motia Chowdhury and Saber Hossain Chowdhury," he claimed.

The AL also raised questions about Khaleda's sympathy for Hasina after the grenade attacks.

"The prime minister's letter to the leader of the opposition did not mention the grenade attacks and it was sent to newspaper offices before it reached Sudha Sadan, Hasina's residence," Jalil said.

AL leaders Tofael Ahmed Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir, Saber Abdul Mannan and Asaduzzaman Noor were also present at the press conference.

Khulna UP

(PBCP) and he came to offer me bribe to get the final report of shrimp trader Sultan Joarder murder case in his favour," Habibur said.

Huijat is also a prime suspect of murder of his predecessor and BNP leader Amir Azam Khan, he added. Azam was killed in a bomb attack

at Tootpara in Khulna on January 29 this year. Hujjat was elected chairman in the by-election and was moving freely taking the benefit of UP chairmanship.

Police sent him to jail showing him arrested in shrimp trader Sultan

Twenty injured

Hossain was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with wounds in head, chest, stomach and hands.

the fire and fury when Hossain beat machine operator Abdul Jalil in his office at 3:00pm allegedly for demanding their outstanding overtime pays.

"I asked manager when he would pay our overtime bills, which he had not been paying for the last two months, though the payment is usually made by the end of every month," Jalil told The Daily Star vesterday

Instead of answering the query the manager picked a quarrel asking Jalil why his fingers were dirty and at one stage struck the operator on his head with a tube-light, the workers narrated. Hossain then beat Jalil with a stick, they added.

The workers alleged Rahman, who had joined the factory two months ago, used to beat them whenever they demanded any dues and accused him of embezzling

him bleeding, around 50 workers including women stormed into the manager's chamber, beat him with

tube-lights and ransacked the room. The furious workers also damaged some machines on the third floor of the factory building and beat

the security guards that rushed in to rescue the manager. Talking to The Daily Star Hossain denied the allegations against him and said some 60 workers demand-

machines and then attacked him. The workers rushed out of the

security guards aside. They blocked Outer Circular Road yelling slogans against the manager and demanding their dues until police dispersed

them after a couple of hours. The factory management later fixed dates for settling the workers' dues in phases and declared the factory closed for two days from

On August 31 last, a large section of around 900 employees of the factory observed a strike demanding the dues. That day the manager persuaded them to withdraw the strike, the workers said, assuring to pay them on September 4, the day the managing director of the company was scheduled to return from

abroad. Impressive Apparels Managing Director Khorshed Alam termed vesterday's incident a feud between the manger and the employees and claimed a loss of Tk one crore.

Sheba Telecom

Bhd (TRI) in the cell phone company

for \$15 million. The companies later reached a consensus following a long arbitra-

tion in Singapore. TRI, a concern of Malaysian state-owned Telekom Malaysia, had signed the settlement agreement with the ISL on June 15.

The settlement involved TRI selling its Sheba stake to ISL for \$15 million and a liability of \$10 million with Standard Chartered Bank in Dhaka, officials said.

One of the issues TRI and ISL had disputed was the size of each of their equity stakes in Sheba.

Trader killed, 2 abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Kushtia

A businessman was killed in Meherpur and a farmer was abducted in Jhenidah on Friday night while a Chuadanga college student abducted on Wednesday is still missing.

Outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) slaughtered a fish trader as he failed to pay Tk 2 lakh as ransom demanded earlier over his taking lease of a waterbody in the area ignoring the PBCP-ML's warning. PRCP men stormed into the

house of the fish trader Imam Uddin at Dulalpur village in Muiibnagar upazila at about 11:00pm and slaughtered him in a nearby field, Meherpur police said. One Sumon claimed responsibility for the killing saying Imam wás a PBCP-Janajuddho sympathiser.

In Jhenidah, criminals abducted a farmer from Mahisdanga village in Sailkupa upazila on Friday night and demanded ransom of Tk 2 lakh from his family. A gang in the guise of police called Sunil Kumar Mondol. 50. from sleep and took him to an unknown place at gunpoint, sources

Family sources said local union parishad chairman and members were negotiating with the captors while Sailkupa police said they have heard the incident, but no complaint was lodged in this regard.

Police could not rescue an Alamdanga Degree College student Asaduzzaman Liton, 24, abducted by a gang on Wednesday while he was returning home from local bazar at about 9:00pm. For his release the gang demanded his family to give Tk lakh. They declined to inform police on receiving death threat to the boy.

Bangladeshis

Referring to the recent incident of bomb attack, Khaleda said those who do not want progress of the country are responsible for letting loose anarchy in a planned way. "The vested quarter is trying to hinder the development process when every factor is in favour."

She also assured that there was no dearth of sincerity of the government in maintaining law and order. and mentioned the invitation to the Interpol and the formation of the judicial inquiry commission to probe the bomb blasts. The 40-member delegation of the

front was led by its convenor State Minister for Water Resources Advocate Gautam Chakraborty. The prime minister called upon

people of all religions to work unitedly for progress of the country. State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahiahan and Joint Convenor of the front Dr Paresh

Chandra Mondol also spoke.

Conveying greetings on the occasion of Janmastami, to be observed tomorrow, the front leaders thanked the prime minister for giving permission for worship at Ramna Kal

The leaders expressed their happiness over the initiative to estabrecalled that the allocation of Tk 3 crore for the Buddhist Welfare Trust last year spurred the activities of the

organisation Earlier, members of the Janmastami Udjapan Parishad (Janmastami Observation Council) led by its leaders Ranjit Kumar Chakraborty, Sukumar Chakraborty and Sujit Kanti Dutta met the prime

force later recovered a foreign-made revolver, a sawn rifle, a bullet and a sophisticated knife from his bedroom. He was being guizzed at the Rab-7 headquarters at Patenga until after-

ldris Alam, also an AL leader and a columnist for his arrest.

"He (Idris) was a candidate in the last city corporation election and suffered a heavy defeat. Now he has avenged the defeat helping Rab to my arrest," Shahidullah said

Shahidullah was earlier arrested twice in the last two vears but came out on bail. He was first arrested during the countrywide special anti-crime drive, Operation Clean Heart.

Sources said four more brothers of Shahidullah have a history of crimes and the eldest one is now serving a 30year imprisonment.

HC grants

alias Thandu on 'health ground' despite strongly opposed by Deputy Attorney General Gholam

Mohammad Chowdhury Alal. TH Khan, known as top legal adviser of the government, had appeared for petitioner Thandu.

The government had identified the murder as a sensational case and transferred it to the Speedy Trial The court sentenced Thandu and three others to life imprison-

ment for murder of Abdul Kader, a businessman, gunned down at Motijheel Commercial Area in October 2001. Seven others were awarded death penalty in this case.

Additional Attorney General Abdur Rezzak Khan who deals with criminal cases told the news agency that he had already filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking stay of the High Court order, which is likely to come up for hearing in the vacation bench today.

India won't link

FROM PAGE 1 October, Hafiz said while taking part

in live online discussion styled "Flood 2004 and our role" yesterday. The discussion was jointly organsed by websites www.kobitaogaan.com and www.banglasociety.com at the ministry's conference room.

He sought cooperation of neighbouring countries for an effective flood management plan as "Bangladesh alone can't accomplish it." "A multilateral flood manage-

ment plan involving India,

Bangladesh, Nepal and China is necessary," the minister said responding to a query about the country's flood management plan. On the multilateral flood management, Hafiz said Bangladesh has taken steps to this end. Nepal

has already responded and we are

now waiting for India's response. Dhaka was concerned about India's plan to link 37 major rivers including the Ganges and the Brahmaputra and divert their flow from northeastern India to waterdeficient southwest areas. Once implemented, this scheme will deprive Bangladesh of its fair share of water.

Bangladesh is very much dependant on the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, as 85 percent of its dry season surface water stream from them, officials said. If the flow of these rivers stops due to the river-linking project, seawater will gradually fill southern rivers and land, increasing salinity and reducing land fertility, they noted.

The minister said Bangladesh with its own resources has faced the recent deluge which left at least 500 people killed. The extent of damage of the nearly one-month long deluge was estimated at about \$7 billion.

In reply to another query, he said food grain production has increased three-fold to 2.50 crore tonnes from 80 lakh tonnes in the 1960's. Bangladesh can attain self-

sufficiency in food production by increasing irrigation and using hvbrid seeds, he added.

Dr Omar Faruk Khan, secretary of the ministry, Md Mokhlesuzzaman, director general of Water Development Board, ANH Akhter Hossain, managing director of Dhaka Wasa, Dr Asif Nazrul, associate professor of Dhaka University, and water experts also

A panel of selected journalists, experts and professionals from home and abroad attended the session moderated by Aman-Ud-Dowla, a US expatriate journalist.

4 lawyers iailed

BSS, Bogra

Four lawyers, including Secretary of Bogra Bar Association Golam Rabbani, were sent to jail after their bail prayer was rejected in a criminal

They were accused of assaulting Abul Hasan of Koigari area of the district on February 29 inside the courtroom where he appeared as plaintiff of a case.

The incident took place at a magistrate's court when the trial of the case was going on, court

Abul Hasan lodged an FIR (first information report) with the local police station alleging that the lawyers attacked him inside the courtroom.

Police pressed charges against the lawyers on July 23.

The accused lawyers yesterday surrendered before the court and prayed for bail. But the court rejected their bail prayer and sent them to jail.

Three other lawyers accused in the case are Abdul Mottalib, Syed Akhter and Ashegur Rahman.

Forex reserves

FROM PAGE 1 end of June this year.

The reserve will remain above \$3 billion even after payment of \$200 million to Asian Clearing Union (ACU) next week. The amount is equivalent to the import bills of more than four months, the BB officials

Bandladesh has been receiving over \$3 billion remittance for the last two years which was earlier below \$2 billion on average. BB officials said the continued growth in remittance mostly contributed to the healthy reserve

Besides, the country received a total of \$400 million from the WB and IMF as budgetary support, assistance for education sector and Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) loan, which also helped maintain higher foreign exchange

In last one month, the WB disbursed \$200 million as budgetary support and \$100 million for education sector development while the

IMF provided \$100 million as PRGF loan to help Bangladesh prepare for the quota-free regime.

Finance ministry officials said although overall foreign aid disbursement was not very significant over the last few years, Bangladesh received another \$450 million as budgetary support and PRGF loan in the last one-and-a-half years. Remittance flow also saw an 11 percent rise in the first month of this

fiscal year compared to the same month of last year. Expatriates sent \$287.7 million in July this year while the amount was \$258.8 million in According to Bangladesh Bank

statistics, expatriates sent remittances worth \$239.39 million between August 1 and 26. Moreover, the country witnessed robust growth in export earnings that enriched the foreign exchange

reserve. In the last financial year the amount fetched was \$7602.99 million posting a 16.10 percent growth over the previous year

Astronomers deny ET

computers around the world to sift through data for anything unusual. The data has been collected by radio telescopes scanning the sky

for any unusual signals from space. It is believed that any extraterrestrial intelligence might want to send radio messages across the cosmos to make contact with other intelligences. Over the years, Seti@home has

sands of spurious signals and has used statistical techniques to identify them as interference. About 150 signals survived the process and were subjected to

detected many hundreds of thou-

further scrutiny but none passed the final test to be classed as a potential signal from FT The "signal" that kicked off

furious media excitement on

Thursday is called SHGb02+14a

and was first detected by computers

running Seti@home software in

Germany and the US. It has a frequency of 1420 mega-

hertz - one of the principal frequencies of the most abundant element hydrogen.

Speaking to BBC News Online from the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico, where he is preparing an observing run to follow up Seti@home analysis, Dr Wertheimer said: "It's all hype. We don't have anything we are excited

"At the moment, we have no candidates that we are particularly excited about and the new 'signal' is

not a priority." He continued: "With Seti@home having analysed some 50 trillion frequency bands, it is not surprising that a signal like this occurs purely due to chance.'

Dr Horowitz, who looks for alien signals using optical telescopes. told BBC News Online that it was "not new and definitely not a signal".

Violence flares

as insurgents lobbed mortar rounds and fired Kalashnikovs in response to the US armoured vehicles, warplanes and helicopter gunships, an AFP reporter witnessed.

(0400 GMT) to hunt down a "terrorist cell" and detained one wanted individual, the military said. "The city of Tall Afar has been a suspected haven for terrorists crossing into Iraq from Syria," it

Amid heavy fighting, an aircraft dropped a one-tonne bomb near the Soldiers killed two insurgents

and detained 18, the US military said, adding that an OH-58D Kiowa helicopter made a controlled landing near Tal Afar after being hit by gunfire. None of the crew were seriously injured. US forces left the town at around 2:00 pm (1000 GMT), but insurgents

were hunkered down in their posi-

tions around Tall Afar for fear of a

fresh assault by US and Iraqi gov-

Twelve policemen were killed and five national guardsmen wounded Saturday in a joint US-Iraqi offensive on Latifiya, a haven for Sunni Muslim insurgents, an Iraqi national guard intelligence officer told AFP.

and five national guardsmen wounded. Two hundred suspects were arrested in the Bass district in central Latifiya," the officer said on condition of anonymity, speaking from Mahmudiya, 20km from the trouble spot. The towns of Latifiyah and

Mahmudiya have long been under de facto control of the insurgents. Rebels have regularly assassinated police officers, raided stations and ambushed cars on the deadly stretch of road. Two French journalists being

Rab nabs ten outlaws. recovers arms

OUR CORRESPONDENTS, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) of the Rajshahi region arrested 10 suspected outlaws and recovered arms and ammunition from the village of Salaipur under Gavespur union in Pabna Sadar Upazila in a pre-dawn raid yesterday.

The arrested were identified as Abdur Rouf, Abdul Hannan, Abdul Khaleque, Helal Uddin, Abdus Salam, Rezaul Islam, Saiful Islam, Bablu, Nayan and Benu. The Rab personnel recovered

revolvers, SBBL guns, .22 rifle, air rifle and 72 bullets and sharp weapons including 15 machetes and two Chinese axes from their possession. Acting on a tip-off, the elite forces

village at 3:00 in the morning as the gang was staying there. The Rab sources said the arrested outlaws were involved in

road robbery, killing and extortion. Police sources said they were likely to be members of some outlawed group and were preparing to

carry out some criminal operations. Rab and police are interrogating the arrested and filed an arms case with the Pabna sadar police.

Bomb threat

"An academic committee meeting will be held on September 7 to discuss the overall situation," the chair-

man said A delegation of 12 teachers of the department went to the office of Vicechancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz vesterday morning to ask for security measures at the department. The VC later visited the department and asked the security officer to deploy two security guards for routine duty round the clock for at least 10 to 12

Talking to reporters, Prof Faiz said. "We the students, teachers and officials will work together so that the congenial academic atmosphere at the university continues. We have already taken appropriate steps for

Evil forces are trying to create anarchy in the country as well as at the university by spreading panic by planting bombs or not planting, he

JS body

FROM PAGE 1

passage of the bill. According to the rules of procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad, the speaker will include the bill in the order of the day. At yesterday's meeting held at the Jativa Sangsad Bhaban, opposition Awami League (AL) lawmakers expressed dissatisfaction as the speaker did not include several amendment bills to

AL lawmaker and member of the committee AKM Jahangii Hossain threatened to resign from the parliamentary body if the ker did not al of the bills to the House The parliamentary body

decided that chairman of the com-

the constitution in the day's order.

mittee would communicate with Sneaker Jamir Uddin Sircar for placement of the bill. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia set up a 60-member jumbo cabinet that drew criticism from different quarters. Later, a few members were dropped, but the size of the cabinet still remains over 50 Different donor agencies are still

insisting that the government downsize the cabinet. Talking to The Daily Star Jatiya Party lawmaker GM Quader said the cabinet should have a specific number of members just as parliament has a fixed number of law-

"Downsizing the cabinet will help reduce the cost of the government." he said. If the speaker allows Quader to

place the bill, then it will be sent to the standing committee on law ministry for scrutiny. Mozammel Haque, chairman of the committee, presided over the meeting. BNP lawmaker Nazir

Hossain, Awami League lawmakers Shawkat Ali and AKM Jahangir Hossain, Jatiya Party lawmaker Dr TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury and Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Abdus Sobhan were present at the meet-The meeting also adopted a

censure motion on the August 21 grenade attack on an opposition rally and expressed deep shock at

10 more AL

FROM PAGE 12

makers.

Rahman, Women's Affairs Joint Secretary of Sechchasebok League Umme Razia Kajol, Women's Affairs Secretary of Dhaka district Sechchasebok League Mahbuba Parveen and grievously injured Neela Chowdhury left Dhaka at 6:00pm AL leaders Mahfuzur Rahman,

Mohammed Firoz Hossain,

Mohammed Ataullah and Iqbal

Hossain Titu were also among The party leaders will get treatment at Peerless Hospital in

Earlier, 20 AL leaders including Presidium Member Abdur Razzak and Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader went to India for

Kashmir peace plans

FROM PAGE 12

disclosed but during ongoing meetngs between the two sides since March -- known as the Composite Dialogue -- both teams have released a number of blueprints for

building peace. India's ideas on the table have included the start of a bus connecting the capitals of the Indian and Pakistani zones of Kashmir, the granting of most favoured nation status by Pakistan to India, the opening of the Wagah border for trade and greater interaction among the business communities.

The mandate for the Khokhar-Saran talks was to finalise the agenda for the dialogue between Singh and Kasuri.

The last foreign secretary-level talks were held in New Delhi on June 27-28 and were followed by a

President, PM shocked at Russia incident

BSS, Dhaka

President lajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday condemned the act of terrorism in southern Russia and expressed their profound shock at the loss of many lives including the schoolchil-

"No condemnation is strong enough to express our abhorrence for this mindless act of atrocities that untimely took away so many lives," the president said in a message sent to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

He prayed to the almighty to give

strength to the people who have lost

their loved ones and the people of the Russian Federation to bear the shock of the incident. In a message to her Russian counterpart Mikhail Fradkov, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia strongly con-

She conveyed deep shock to the members of the bereaved families and prayed for the peace of the

demned this senseless act of terror-

series of meetings between officials in July and August.

Kasuri was due in New Delhi late Saturday for a full schedule during which he was expected to meet opposition leaders, Kashmiri separatists and senior Indian leaders before and after the formal talks.

Unocal

FROM PAGE 12 "side letter" that the issue would be resolved in line with the arbitration on a similar argument for

Jalalabad field. The US company had made it a point that the government cannot deduct 4.5 percent wheeling charge for its Jalalabad or other fields as the

company does not market gas. Rather, it came up with the observation that the company pumps gas up to a certain point into Petrobangla pipeline carrying gas through its own pipeline from the

wells in Jalalabad. Another argument was that the international oil company (IOC) does not get the tariff equivalent to one paid by the end-users rather it gets the wellhead price. Unocal sought an arbitration on

the wheeling charge issue for the Jalalabad gas field, now producing about 150 MMCFD after Shell-Cairn won a similar case for its offshore Sangu gas field. According to production-sharing contract (PSC), the government can

deduct 4.5 percent wheeling charge

f an IOC markets its gas using the

Petrobangla pipelines. Like Unocal, the Shell-Cairn combine had also built pipeline to carry gas up to a certain point of pipeline of Petrobangla. As in case of Jalalabad and Moulvibazar, the Unocal will construct pipeline from Bibiyana to carry gas to a certain

point of national gas grid. Earlier, Unocal had also signed a GPSA with the Petrobangla for Moulvibazar gas field, which is expected to go into production by the first quarter of 2005, with a similar "side letter". The field initially will produce 70 MMCFD, rising up to 100 MMCFD in course of the opera-

Russian school siege

on the edge of Chechnya, said Russia's Deputy Prosecutor

General Sergei Fridinsky.

Fridinsky told reporters. "These are not the final figures, and they will probably grow, but not by too much.'

He also said that 27 hostage-

takers were killed in the attacks and

three were captured in the fighting

"We are still identifying

bodies. We have recovered 322

bodies. 155 of them are children.

which continued on the school grounds but also spread to several neighbourhoods around the school. Officials said that among the hostage-takers killed there were nine people of Arab descent and

forces troops lost their lives in the assault, the crisis unit said. Putin ordered crackdown in southern Russia after the school siege and warned Chechen sympathisers yesterday they would be seen as "accomplices of terror-

"One of the tasks pursued by the

terrorists was to stoke ethnic hatred.

blow up the whole of our North Caucasus," Putin told local security "Anyone who will feels sympathetic toward such provocations will

be viewed as accomplices of terror-

The hard words suggested Putin

had no intention of backing down from his tough policies of crushing Chechnya's separatist rebellion to keep the mainly Muslim region within Russia, using tactics long criticised by human rights activists. The storming of the school by

Russian forces plunged the small

town of Beslan into pandemonium.

ists and terrorism.'

Troops and armed civilians US top expert

FROM PAGE 1 on Hasina at her residence, Sudha

Sadan, in the morning.

Later he will meet foreign minister and other officials at the foreign ministry. He is scheduled to brief the press on his discussion with Hasina and Morshed in the after-Black will fly in from Islamabad where he sat with the joint working

Delhi earlier, to hold a meeting of the US and India joint working group. This is part of his four-nation South Asia tour that includes trips to India, Pakistan and Nepal, besides

group on counter-terrorism between

the US and Pakistan. He visited

Bangladesh. Black's office plays a leading role on the State Department's counterterrorism task forces organised to coordinate responses to international terrorist incidents, and improve counter-terrorism cooperation with the foreign governments, including policy and planning of the US antiterrorism training assistance programme.

With a 28-year CIA career behind him, Black was formerly the CIA counter-terrorism centre task force chief of the Near East and South Asia division and received numerous awards including the Distinguished Intelligence Medal by the US government.

Black will leave Dhaka tomorrow.

after explosions inside. Pupils

parents and teachers, many

drenched in blood, were carried out

on stretchers or in the arms of loca

Questions remained about the circumstances of the assault, and Putin in apparent contradiction insisted that special forces had not planned the action to free the hostages, held without food or water by

armed militants demanding independence for Chechnya. "We examined all possible courses of action at Beslan, but use of force was not planned," the ITAR-TASS agency quoted Putin as saying

during a meeting here with local and national officials.

(AFP, REUTERS)

Interpol looking FROM PAGE 1 including the Islamic fundamentalist and militant groups, suspected to have links with any of the blasts,

besides trying to find which of them have connections with international militant organisations. "The probe has really gained a momentum," said a local investiga-

tor, requesting not to be named adding soon they would start conducting raids in various places. **FBĬ PROBE**

Inspector General of Police Shahudul Haque however told The Daily Star last night. "I don't have any knowledge whether the FBI agent left the country or not " Wilson reportedly came only to examine the bulletproof vehicle of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, which was hit by seven bullets

during the assassination attempt on

August 21. He collected evidences

After a three-day stint, FBI agent

Gibson Wilson left Bangladesh

from the car and sent them to US for laboratory tests JUDICIAL PROBE The one-member judicial commission assigned to probe the August 21 carnage vesterday recorded

statements of 17 witnesses.

The commissioner, Justice M Joynul Abedin, recorded deposition of four being treated at Holy Family Hospital and seven at Shikder Medical College Hospital Statements of six others were taken at the commission office at Kakrail.

Sources at the commission office said they so far have recorded statements of 60 witnesses.

Black talks

FROM PAGE 1 meetings of the Indo-US joint work-

We plan to look into -- and if correct -- confirm the Indian view Ours is a very interested position, Black added. "We need to determine the terrorist threat not only to

ng group on counter-terrorism.

Bangladesh but also its use as a platform to project terror else-Asked about India's claim that terrorists camps in Bangladesh are

nimical to the stability of the region, Black replied, "We've certainly taken to heart information and the view the Indian government has of terrorist camps in Bangladesh. We

The workers were spurred into

Hearing Jalil's cry and finding

ing due payments despoiled factory

building hitting and shoving the

FROM PAGE 12

minister and invited her to the festival

Rab arrests FROM PAGE 12 According to his confession, the elite

While talking to reporters yesterday, Shahidullah blamed his uncle

The US Army's 2nd Infantry Division entered the city at 8:00 am

city, the military acknowledged.

"Twelve policemen were killed

held hostage by a radical Islamist

group since August 20 disappeared

while traveling the perilous route

(AFP, AP)

seven firearms including foreign raided house of Abdur Rouf in the