Worry over Rab actions

law-enforcers should shoot him in

the leg, not kill him," he stressed. People now compare Rab actions with the Operation Clean Heart and the police, Bangladesh Rifles joint operations against outlaws in the southwestern region in which a number of innocent people were killed.

Sources said the government gave the elite force the 'green light to kill' and give the killings legal cover with such explanations.

The law and order monitoring cell meeting on Wednesday gave a clean chit to the force's action, saying people were 'happy' at their

MYSTERIOUS DEATHS

The first death in Rab custody was of Debashish, an alleged associate of top criminal Pichchi Hannan, arrested in Savar on June 26. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) a few hours after his arrest. The body of another associate of Hannan, Nitol, was found in Tejgaon.

The force claimed Hannan was killed in crossfire between Rab men and Hannan's henchmen at Diakhali in Savar on August 6.

Shajahan Ali, 28, a shopkeepe of Rifle Square, died on July 9 in the hospital a few days after his arrest at Jigatala.

Mohammad Ali, 65, a deed writer, was allegedly shot dead in his house at Rayerbazar three days later.

Sumon Ahmed Majumder, Tongi Juba League leader and prime witness in the killing of Awami League legislator Ahsanullah Master died in a Tongi hospital on July 16 allegedly from Rab torture during interrogation. Minar and Jumman of Charkuthipara in Kushtia died on July 10 and 19 in a hospital after the battalion arrested them with firearms. Tofazzal Hossain, an old man from Charkuthipara in Kushtia, reportedly died from drowning in a river while he was trying to get away from a Rab team on July 21 Anwar Hossain alias Kankata Ranju, 32, general secretary of ward No. 5 of BNP of Kushtia sadar died in Rab custody on July 24

Imam Sarder alias Hasan Imam.

32, a member of an underground

party and one of the four charged with killing Khulna city Awami League President Manzurul Imam, was killed in a gunfight with the battalion and police near Prasadpur Bridge in Rampal in Bagerhat on August 28. Sheikh Asaduzzaman Litu, prime accused in the killing of Janakantha correspondent Shamsur Rahman Kebol, was killed while trying to flee from Rab custody in Khulna on August 30. A five-year-old girl Mayesha and an alleged arms peddler were killed in a shootout at Sabujbagh on September 2.

Rab men gunned down Mollah Shamim, alleged ringleader of a gang, allegedly when his operatives tried to snatch on September

Raised through a government order of March 1, Rab went into formal operation from June 21 and working across Bangladesh under seven administrative units

Expressing grave concern at ne deaths, Dr Kamal said, "There should be inquiry into these."

It should be examined whether people responsible for arrests are carrying out their duty within the legal framework, he said

'We should probe under what circumstances they are dying, whether law-enforcers are applying proper law in arrests."

All, whether they are criminals or not, have the rights of being tried court and such deaths are depriving society of important information, he said.

President of Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud expressed grave concern at the deaths and said the deaths are creating apprehension and raising many questions in the mind

"It's alarming," he said, asking for an immediate end to the trend. The deaths should be properly

investigated as everyone has the right to pray for trial, he said.

Rab Director General Anwaru Iqbal declined to comment on the issue. "I'll not make any comment. contact our public relations sec-

Ultimatum of AL

to-dusk hartal is likely to be enforced

this month, sources said. Details of the ultimatum will be

finalised through discussions among senior leaders of the opposition camp before the grand rallies.

Meanwhile, the AL will join the parliament session due to begin on September 12 to protest the grisly grenade attack on its rally on August 21. If the ruling alliance 'behaves irrationally', the AL will walk out of the House and go for a continued boycott, sources said.

The opposition parties will also hold grand rallies at four divisional headquarters -- Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet and Khulna. Besides, programmes including human shield, demonstration and proces sion are likely to be announced

"We (all opposition parties) will hold separate party meetings tomorrow (Friday) evening in Dhaka and simultaneously announce programmes for greater movement to oust the BNP-Jamaat alliance government," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said while addressing a huge public meeting in Chittagong yesterday.

Earlier, 11-party alliance refrained from announcing simultaneous agitation programmes. The AL, Workers Party and JSD observed the nine-day agitation

programmes. The 11-party at its meeting on Tuesday agreed in principle to go for simultaneous programmes.

The AL termed the 11-party decision a development in the one-point movement to topple the government in the wake of the August 21 assassination attempt on AL chief Sheikh Hasina that killed 19.

Two more

FROM PAGE 1

when another Interpol expert Jacqueline Pullum left the city four

The two spent a busy day visiting major spots and talking with local and Interpol investigators.

They also visited the spot on Bangabandhu Avenue and examined the truck kept at Police Control Room at Shahbagh. Grenades were hurled at the truck, which was used as podium by the central AL leaders Later, the two met the criminal investigations department (CID) officials at the CID headquarters and discussed the progress of the probe. They also examined docunents, evidence and latest findings the investigators Sources said CID officials gave a list of 30 criminals from all over the country to the Interpol men.

40 killed in US-led

insurgents, in an area the US military charges is infested with fighters infiltrating from Syria.

A health official said at least 28 people were killed and 71 wounded from the bombing alone -- the second US-led raid on the town in five

up to 57 killed.

streets could not be collected and Doctor Rabih Yassin accused US troops and the Iraqi national guard of turning back ambulances carry-

terrorist element" has "displaced local Iraqi security forces" in the

"Today, multinational forces and Iraqi security forces initiated operations to eliminate this threat," it said

in a statement. relentless series of night-time raids,

At one house flattened by a US missile, an AFP correspondent saw locals drag five bodies out of the rubble and children help retrieve

pieces of flesh. Witnesses said the family who lived in the house was sleeping on the roof when the missile struck.

blowing their bodies to smithereens. the western city, which the military has classified as a den of foreign terror networks, ever since seven

marines and three Iraqi national

guardsmen were killed in a car

raid was a "precision strike" on a hideout used by militants loval to Iraq's most wanted man, alleged al-Qaeda operative Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has a 25-million-dollar price on his head.

"Three Zarqawi associates were reported to be in the area, no other individuals were present at the time of the strike." a statement said.

Samarra could become another Fallujah were eased following a peace deal between the US military and local leaders, allowing US troops into the northern Sunni Muslim bastion for the first time since June.

On the hostage crisis, Italy's Margherita Boniver was to head to Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen and Syria to seek help to free charity workers Simona Pari and Simona Torretta, who were seized from their Baghdad office at gunpoint on

to raise "awareness in the Arab world about how monstrous the kidnapping of these two women was"

A coordinator for charitable activities has said most of the 50 aid groups with foreign staff in Iraq are planning to leave after the two 29year-olds were snatched in broad daylight in a quiet residential neighbourhood.

dential election and with the debate over the merits of the war to oust Saddam Hussein showing no reprieve, a top UN weapons inspector challenged one of Washington's key justifications for war.

Maya's youngest son remanded again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday remanded Rashedul Hossain Chowdhury Rony, son of Awami League leader Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya, in police custody for a second phase of two

Uttara police produced Rony before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at 4:00pm on completion of a two-day remand, seeking further remand for five days.

In the remand prayer, the IO investigation officer) said he gathered important information from Rony during interrogation and needs to quiz him more.

petition seeking bail and cancellation of the remand prayer. They said the charges brought against Rony were false and fabricated. He was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy, as his name was not in the FIR (first information report), they added.

After hearing both the sides, Metropolitan Magistrate Shafiq remanded Rony for two days.

robbery case filed against his elder brother Dipu Chowdhury. Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Rony from his Baily Road billiard club on

Unite against

FROM PAGE 1 Earlier in the day, the six student organisations at a meeting at Col Taher Auditorium decided to start a united student movement against mainstream opposition.

programme.The programmes include joint protest rally on Dhaka University campus on Sept 11 countrywide procession and rallies on Sept 14 and laying siege to the education ministry to press for cancellation of the Muniruzzaman

communalism day on Sept 20 to mark the death anniversary of Jobayer Chowdhury Rimu, a Chhatra Moitry leader of Rajshahi

AL unlikely

parliamentary seat, which fell vacant after the death of AL legislator Abdul Momin, the main opposi-

not to compete in any by-election under the coalition government.

Before Gazipur-2 by-polls, the AL had decided to take part in the by-polls to the parliamentary seats they bagged in 2001 general elec-

the AL took part in Gazipur-2 by-election and boycotted Dhaka-10, Munshigani-1 and Kushtia-1 by-polls.

Buddhadev

an attack on Buddhadev's convoy Workers' Union, 150 kilometres of Kolkata.

Charge Sanjay Chakrabarty of Ranibadh Police Station to the probable attack, prompting him to rush to the scene and remove the landmines to the relief of the police

the 11 PWG cadres believed to have holed up in the area.

Buddhadev is on the hit lists of both PWG and MCC (Maoist Communist Centre). Yesterday, he travelled by train to Durgapur before he changed over into a car.

police sources, the four landmines could have destroyed a large part of the road and several cars.

Cricket

In the other match, debutants United

English county side will be the Tigers' second and final official practice match after their 70-run win over the Americans on Monday. But Bangladesh's real test comes

when they take on South Africa on September 12 at Edgbaston. Their second Pool B game in the meet is against West Indies on September 15 at the Rose Bowl, home of Hampshire Country Cricket Club. coach Dav Whatmore a chance to

assess the fitness of all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman, who has been absent since breaking down during the first tour game against Ireland last month. Besides, young paceman Nazmul

Hossain, one of the three players picked from the recent Under-19 tour of England, is likely to feature in the match after sustaining a finger injury in one of the build up games. The Tigers without their captain Habibul Bashar, who has recently

broken right thumb, has been moderately successful preparation for the Trophy. Their only disappoint came in a high-scoring encounter against Scotland, who pulled off a last ball victory chasing Bangladesh's 259 in the second practice match on

September 3.

Bangladesh loses

FROM PAGE 12 His funeral will be held in Fort Collins on September 17 and he will be buried with national honour at

Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. USA His love and respect for Bangladesh is reflected in his last wish, as he told his relatives, friends and admirers in the USA and elsewhere

to donate funds to a charity founda-

tion in Bangladesh instead of sending flowers and gifts to his family.

His book *The Cruel Birth of* Bangladesh is an account of the emergence of the country seen through the eyes of a sympathetic American diplomat in Dhaka since the devastating cyclone of 1970 to

the Liberation War in 1971. Blood glorifies Bangladesh's struggle for independence "as a statement of admiration for all those who in their own way helped transform a seemingly forlorn dream into bright, shining reality. Before working in the then East

Pakistan, Blood served in the US Missions as diplomat in Greece, Germany and Afghanistan. He also held important desk positions in the State Department in Washington. After his term expired in Dhaka, he served the State

Department in various capacities

and became a deputy commander for international affairs in the US Army War College in 1974. After serving two terms as chargé d'affaires in US Mission in New Delhi, Blood retired in 1992. He was a diplomat in residence and professor of political science in

1982-90 and also a professor emeritus at Allegheny College, USA. He had a master's degree in international relations from George Washington University. He had served as quest lecturer at a number of universities and institutes in the US and

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote in a condolence message said, "We're deeply shocked at the death of Mr

Archer K Blood, a true friend of Bangladesh and its people.' Bangladesh cannot repay the favours Blood has done to it. We still remember with gratitude how fearlessly he spoke and wrote the truth

against the ruthless Pakistani iunta

in 1971, it added. The statement further said Blood proved his courage many times when he insisted on revealing the truth even though his own government was supporting the Pakistani junta for reasons of realpolitik.

It went on to say that people read with pleasure The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh, which reveals not only his scholarship but also his rigid adherence to truth

Veteran freedom fighters Nasiruddin Yusuff, Shahidullah Khan, Habibul Alam, Bir Protik, Fateh Ali Chowdhury, Maj (retd) Akhter Ahmed, Bir Protik, Minu Huq, Shahudul Huq, Gazi Golam Dastagir, Bir Protik, Nayla Khan and Shahadat Chowdhury in a joint statement paid glowing tributes to

him.
"We strongly believe Blood's family has the courage to bear this irreparable loss," the statement

Pakistan kills

FROM PAGE 1 nearby Shakai vallev.

The June raids left at least 65 militants and 18 soldiers dead.

Hundreds of al-Qaeda fugitives slipped into the region after a US-led military offensive ousted their former Taliban hosts in Afghanistan in

Jalil hints at crippling

FROM PAGE 12

and around the meeting venue and atop buildings surrounding it. Besides, Detective Branch of police using metal detectors checked people including pressmen and some AL leaders as they entered the main meeting venue. The AL general secretary

olamed the government for the August 21 grenade attack and questioned its sincerity in investigatng the grisly incident. "Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. nstead of immediately going for

investigations into the incident, had squandered two days and played a drama of discussion to divert public attention," Jalil alleged. He reiterated his party's rejection of the one-man judicial probe body formed by the government. "The judge heading it is a BNP-backed

person and hence we don't have any confidence in him " he said We won't recognise any probe body controlled by this government.' Speakers at the meeting included AL central leaders Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Sajeda Chowdhury, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir,

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu,

Chittagong AL leaders MA Mannan.

Mosharraf Hossain and

Mayor and General Secretary of city AL ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was

said, it always feels its obligation is to patronise the killers. "This government rewarded the killers of Bangabandhu and obstructed their trial at the Supreme Court," he added "This is a government of killers. It

must be ousted, and for that we have launched one-point movement," Tofail told the rally. Sajeda Chowdhury said the

cratic politics. It will be removed through all-out mass movement, JSD President Hasanul Huq Inu said the October 1, 2001 general election that brought BNP-Jamaat coalition to power was a "political

virtually been thrown into a war Since a war does not go by any rule we will have to win the one-point movement against the Khaleda Nizami regime at any cost." Inu said.

Bangladesh costliest

FROM PAGE 12

Enforcing a commercial contract is also difficult in Bangladesh, the cost of which is 21.3 percent of debt as against an average 10.8 percent in the OECD nations.

Among all the world's regions. the cost of firing workers is also the highest in South Asia -- on an average, it takes 86 weeks of wage in severance, penalties and notifications to dismiss a worker.

In this case, too, Bangladesh holds a much better position, as firing of a worker here costs 47 weeks' salary, compared to 40.4 weeks in OECD countries. Among the regional countries

only India, Pakistan and Bangladesh get a place in the list of 58 countries that reformed business regulations. No economy in the region ranked in the top quartile of 145 countries

report put Bangladesh in the second best quartile. The report found entrepreneurs in poor countries face more regulatory burdens than in the rich countries, making it doubly hard than rich nations for them to start, operate or

on ease of doing business. The

close a business. Heavy regulation and weak property rights exclude the poor, specially the women and younger people, from doing business in the poor economies.

"Heavy regulation not only fails to protect women, young people and the poor -- those it was intended to serve -- but often harms them," observed Caralee McLiesh, one of the authors of the report.

Army to help

effectively in the aftermath of the bomb attacks, the latest being the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally that killed 19 people

The armed forces division will decide on assistance depending on the nature of future threats, but any field-level assistance did not come up at the meeting, the sources said.

Yesterday's meeting discussed skills and capabilities of the police to tackle bomb attacks and threats and future meetings will decide on capacity-building measures after pinpointing flaws in the police.

BNPPP to witness

FROM PAGE 12 April this year after a few sittings.

"Issues like man-made national disasters, security problem and terrorism might figure in the meeting," said Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the defence ministry At the previous meetings held on

March 21 and April 25, some deputies expressed dissatisfaction at the performance of some ministries including home and commerce for their failure to combat crime and contain price hike of essentials. They also demanded trimming of Syed Manjur Hossain, chairman of a parliamentary standing commit-

course, we will ask the government to take proper steps to tackle the situation." he told The Daily Star. "Lawmakers of the party are likely to come down heavily on some ministers for their poor perfor-

mance," said a ruling party whip, requesting anonymity. Khulna FROM PAGE 12

of 'jarda' filled with dust. Deputy Commissioner (South) Akbar Ali of Khulna Metropolitan Police said a clique of criminals is trying to create panic among educational institutes. "We're probing the tee, said lawmakers would also

object, which turned out to be a can

buy freedom in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Two NGO (non-government organisation) officials abducted earlier were brought to Ghagra zone army headquarters vesterday after ransoming the abductors Wednesday night at Thandachhari jungle beside Rangamati-Chttagong highway.

Evaluation Officer Santosh Kumar Dey and Credit-in-Charge Apu De Costa of Community Health Care Project (CHCP) are now undergoing treatment at the army health centre for critical illness caused during their 4-day captivity, army sources said.

The captives were released after paying ransom of Tk 5 lakh through negotiators. But the NGO officials declined to comment on the deal. local sources said.

Unidentified gunmen abducted them on September 4 from remote Bottoli area in Kolompoti union when after a surprise visit to an ongoing project there, they were returning to the CHCP sub-office in Kawkhali upazila. The abductors in a letter demanded Tk 10 lakh for their release, police said.

Army and police forces were to start a rescue operation following the abduction but the NGO's highups preferred starting a negotiation with the captors. Later, local indigenous leaders taking up the matter reached the captors and eventually managed to release the captives, local sources added.

The duty officer of Kawkhali Police Station however told journalists yesterday that they heard abductors were given a handsome amount but there was no evidence.

Threat letter sent to MP, Ctg admin, iournos

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

A letter sent to a journalist yesterday threatened to kill a BNP lawmaker. the deputy commissioner of Khagrachhari and all newspersons in Rangamati and to blow up important government and nongovernment establishments here.

The letter demanded suspension

of Rangamati and Khagrachhari

municipality polls slated for October

6 and 7 by September 20. Otherwise, BNP legislator Wadood Bhuiyan and the DC of Khagrachhari will be killed, it reads. Abdul Hamid, elderly journalist and member of the local press club. found the letter inside his shop in Tabalchhari. The sender identified

himself as Igbal Murda and claimed to be a 'major' of their 'forces'. "We're here to organise our forces We'll later move to Dhaka or Sylhet when our operations are

carried out here." the letter said The letter also threatened to blow up the house of Moniswapan Dewan, deputy minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts affairs, the offices and houses of the DC and superintendent of police of Rangamati, district jail, press club, government boys and girls schools

and different market places. Deputy Commissioner Dr Jafar Ahmed Khan admitted this and said "I directed law enforcers to beef up security measures and remain vigilant to check such elements.'

Charges pressed

FROM PAGE 12 Tallabagh in a week, police said. Tracking down Dipu through the email, police arrested him at his house on New Elephant Road on August 31 and seized his personal

computer that, police claimed carried his links to the crime. Instructed by police, Dipu asked his accomplice Wahid to go to Sat Masiid Road where they arrested

Sub-Inspector (SI) Shahadat Hossain of Dhanmondi Police Station filed a case against them under the Speedy Trial Act (Law and Order Disruption) the same day. Police also took them on a five-

day remand. The investigation officer (IO) SI Julfiker Ali submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

The IO showed nine persons as prosecution witnesses in the charge sheet and mentioned that the charges brought against the two were primarily proved. He also collected 13 items of

evidence during the investigation.

discuss the political situation. "Of Outlaw leader FROM PAGE 12

Bamandanga and Robin Gain and Chandi Gain of village Hetalbunia in

Assassuni upaliza. According to police, the villagers chased and caught the six operatives of the underground outfit when

they came to village Bamandanga at about 11:pm to collect tolls. They beat Damudar Mondal dead and injured five others. Assassuni police rushed to he spot rescued the injured and sent them to

Satkhira Hospital. They also recov-

ered Damudar's body and sent it to

the hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged with Assassuni Police Station.

Two NGO staff | Space capsule

Roger Wiens of Los Alamos National Laboratory. "This just wasn't supposed to happen. We're going to have a lot of work picking up the

The capsule held billions of charged atoms a total haul no bigger than a few grains of salt that were harvested from solar wind on five collecting disks during the 884day, \$260-million mission.

Roy Haggard, who took part in the initial reconnaissance of the capsule, said the capsule's shell had been breached about three inches and the science canister inside appeared to have a small The inner canister was flown to the Army's air field at the proving

ground and put in a clean room, a work area in which the air quality temperature and humidity are highly regulated to prevent contamination. The reconstruction was expected to take several days, and scientists were hopeful they could salvage the embedded atoms

metals and silicone. "This is something that's not a total disaster," said Carlton Allen, astromaterials curator for the Houston-based Johnson Space Center. "We didn't lose all the sci-

among the twisted platters of exotic

ence in the crash. Nasa planned to appoint a "misnap review board" to determine a cause for the failure. Flight engineers say a set of tiny explosives didn't trigger the capsule's parachutes, although the fact that all explosives failed pointed to another cause.

The spacecraft was designed

and built by Lockheed Martin Space

Systems near Denver. Robert Corwin, an engineer for the company, said a battery that overheated shortly after the 2001 launch could The mishap also raised questions about the durability of another Nasa sample-return capsule called Stardust, due to land here in 2006.

more rugged and will land on its own with a parachute. Scientists got their first glimpse of the damage when the Genesis

But that capsule was built to be

capsule was wheeled into a garage bay late Wednesday. The capsule's inner canister was all but unrecognizable, although scientists thought

holding the atoms. The space capsule had been outside the earth's magnetic shield for three years, collecting solar wind particles that could explain how the sun formed an estimated 4.5 billion years ago and what keeps it fueled.

they saw some unbroken parts

Two killed in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two passengers including a woman were killed and twenty others niured, two of them critically, in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Mirer Sarai last evening.

Protesting the accident, reportedly blamed on extortion by a traffic sergeant, local people barricaded the highway for over an hour and disrupted traffic movement. The accident occurred between a Dhaka-bound S Alam Paribahan

coach and a truck at Chinki Astana at around 6:00pm when Traffic Sergeant Kabir, in his desperate attempt to stop the truck to collect toll, came on the highway blocking the way of the running vehicles sources alleged. The 60-year-old truck driver and

a female passenger of the coach

died on the spot while at least twenty

others were injured among which Ibrahim and Mostafa were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition. Local people in an instant protest parricaded the alternative road at Zorargonj when the highway remained blocked by the damaged vehicles. Mob also chased the traffic

ocal journalists. The barricade was removed after Assistant Police Super of Mirer Sarai circle Mozahidul Islam assured the mob of measures against the traffic sergeant.

sergeant who was later rescued by

Blast rocks Australia

FROM PAGE 1

A senior Indonesian police officer who asked not to be identified said eight people died in the 10:15am blast, including three policemen guarding the building. A doctor at a nearby hospital said 98 people were admitted with injuries, none of them foreigners.

"Initial investigations show this

Australian Prime Minister John

was a car bomb. We do not know

whether anyone was in the car,'

police chief Gen. Dai Bachtiar said. About a dozen Australians were slightly wounded, mostly by flying glass, an embassy spokeswoman

Howard breathed defiance. "This is not a nation that is going to be intimidated by acts of terrorism," he told reporters in Melbourne. His foreign minister, Alexander Downer, who was due to fly to Jakarta later yesterday along with a team of bomb experts, put the death

toll at 11, all of them Indonesians.

Sukarnoputri pledged to track down those responsible, and broke off a trip to Brunei to fly back to Jakarta. After a visit to the site and to blast victims in a nearby hospital, she

called on Indonesians not to panic.

Indonesian President Megawati

"I ask all Indonesian society to remain calm and to be on alert in terms of security," she said. Her national police chief said the morning attack bore the hallmarks of an al-Qaeda linked militant

blasts in Indonesia. Windows in the nearby Russian embassy were among those blown

Islamic network blamed for earlier

out, some reports said. Passers-by witnessed grisly scenes as security officers covered the bodies of victims ripped apart by the blast with newspapers. A sev-

ered human leg lay on the intersec-

tion between the two lanes of the street, its trousers torn of the by force of the explosion.

The police commander said the attack was similar to the 2002 Bali blasts that killed 202 people and last vear's suicide car bombing of Jakarta's J.W. Marriott hotel that left 12 people dead.

"The modus operandi is verv similar to other attacks, including the Bali bombings and the Marriott blast," Bachtiar said. "We can conclude (the perpetrators) are the same group." "This group is the same as

Azahari's group of bombers," he added. Azahari is a senior figure inside the Southeast Asian militant Islamic group Jemaah Islamiah. linked to al Qaeda and blamed for the Bali and Marriott blasts, Azahari is believed to have helped make the

Bali and Marriott bombs. **PM SHOCKED** Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed deep shock at the loss of lives in tragic bomb blasts in Jakarta.

Soekarnoputri. Khaleda conveved sympathy to the members of the bereaved familie. She prayed that the families of the victims might bear the loss with

In a condolence message to

Indonesian President Megawati

courage and fortitude. She also prayed for eternal peace of the departed souls. In another message to Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan expressed pro-

found shock at the loss of lives in the tragic bomb blast.

(AP/ REUTERS/UNB)

2 'Indians' nabbed

FROM PAGE 1

Indian nationals as Chandan Hajong, 35, son of Motindra Hajong, and Suresh Hajong, 32, son of Subhash Hajong. Both the Indians reportedly hail from Umflu village under Talab thana of Indian Cherapunji district. The packets of plastic explosives

containing TNT (trinitrotoluene)

bear the name of Bharat Explosives

Limited, Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh,

India, as the manufacturer, the release said, adding the fuses are of silver colour. A senior BDR official said the packets also have a code -- 284403 (UP) MX BEL 90 -- printed on them and two packets are marked as

'200mm' and the other two as

'25mm' The border guards also reportedly found 75 Bangladeshi takas and 200 Indian rupees on the arrestees. On initial interrogation, the

release said, the arrestees confessed to have supplied explosives to a certain man also in the past. They were later handed over to Chhatak police along with the

seized explosives. "They may be sent to Dhaka sometime this night, an official said. According to army and BDR officials, TNT can be easily fitted to any structure and is normally used

by army to destroy bridges, culverts

and even buildings, besides being

widely used in mining. It can also be used to make highly powerful bombs ANTITANK SHELL

ered Tuesday afternoon from a suburban house at Pirerbazar adjacent to Jalalabad Cantonment which now lye in a garden in front of

No step has yet been taken to

dispose off the antitank shell recov-

An army team on Wednesday afternoon examined the shell, a Blind used in military training. The blast of another Blind last Sunday killed two and injured seven others in the same house, when a daylabourer unknowingly tried to

break the bomb.

Svlhet Kotwali Police station.

Three boys and the parents of one, who live in the house, in their confessional statements before a magistrate on Tuesday morning narrated how the boys had collected the shells and sold them to daylabourer Anwar, who and his nephew were killed in the blast

Police and others also guess that

the poor boys while scavenging had came across and gathered the abandoned shells from the Firing Range of the cantonment. A police official yesterday said they have sent two letters to the

authorities concerned to send explosive experts, who are still to arrive, adding, "We are waiting for

However the US army reported Many bodies strewn in the

ing medical supplies. The US military said a "large

In Fallujah, the greatest symbol of reistance to US occupation in Iraq, jets pounded the city in a killing 12 Iraqis, including five children and two women, a doctor said Nine others were wounded.

US warplanes have pummelled

The Marine Corps said the latest

Meanwhile, fears that the town of

Boniver said she was desperate

Two months from the US presi-

The defence lawyers submitted a

Anwar rejected the bail petition and Police showed Rony arrested in a

terrorism and fundamentalist forces following the current agitation of the They have chalked out a 10-day

Education Commission on Sept 16. They will observe anti-

tion now mulls over the boycott of the by-polls. The AL took part in Netrakona-3 by-polls last year, changing its stance

In accordance with that decision,

People's War Group (PWG) plotted and planted four landmines on the route to the meeting venue of the Bidi Villagers alerted Officer-in-

administration. The intelligence bureau usually checks any route before the chief minister takes it, but officials failed to provide information about the PWG plan this time. Police are yet to trace

According to information from

States play New Zealand at The Oval in London. The 50-over contest against the

The practice match will allow

undergone surgery in Australia on his

in the chair UNB adds: Tofail Ahmed said democracy is not safe in the hands of the Khaleda government as, he

BNP-Jamaat government has banished non-communal demo-

disaster" as the country has now plunged into a deep crisis under its "With the staging of the August 21 grenade attacks, the country has

Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhurv Babu.