Mohiuddin heads for win

dominated by Jamaat.

around 9:00pm as they collected results from their agents, which showed a clear lead for Mohiuddin.

The AL and Nagorik Committee leaders exerted pressure on the RO's office set up at the Gymnasium Complex of the MA Aziz Stadium to be prompt in announcing the election results. They also enquired about the reason for the delay in announcing the results.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil along with senior party leaders last night met the EC officials in Dhaka and asked them to direct the RO's office in Chittagong to expedite the results announcement.

Law-enforcers cordoned off Mir Nasir's house opposite to Chittagong Circuit House as thousands of Mohiuddin supporters were parading down the nearby roads in Kazir Dewri Mor, Chittagong Club and Tiger Pass.

The Nagorik Committee supporters were chanting slogans in small processions in different parts of the city until 1:00am. THEVOTING

Earlier, the voting was held amid tight security with some stray incidents of violence and allegations of false balloting.

The polls were marked by baton charge by the police and army, clash between supporters of the two main mayoral aspirants and capture of more than a dozen polling stations. The voters complained of slow

pace of polling and harassment of voters in various centres, which they blamed on the inefficiency of the polling officers.

The supporters of Mir Nasir threw stones at the vehicle of Mohiuddin in city's Solokbahar area in the afternoon. Mohiuddin, however, left the scene unhurt amid cracker blasts by the alliance men.

The Nagorik Committee filed a complaint with the returning officer about rigging in 84 centres, while the ruling alliance said 71 centres witnessed such irregularities.

The Election Commission, however, denied the allegation of largescale irregularities and said the election was held peacefully and in a free and fair manner.

The BNP-Jamaat dominated Chawkbazar, Polytechnic Institute, Nasirabad and Chandgaon areas witnessed incidents of violence. The ruling alliance's hooligans allegedly wrested control of at least 10-12 centres by 12:00 noon and cast fake votes there

The election for picking a mayor, 11 ward commissioners and 14 women commissioners for the reserved seats was held under unprecedented security arrangement with 16,000 police and Ansar stationed at the centres. The army and BDR patrolled the city.

At least five people were arrested on charges of casting fake votes at different centres and sentenced to five to 30 days' imprisonment by the magistrates on the spot.

An elderly man was injured when the army clubbed and dispersed warring supporters of two commissioner candidates at Municipal School centre at about 12:45pm.

People stood up in long queues in ilmost all polling centres since the beginning of the ballot at 8:00am. But many voters, mainly women, could not cast votes due to slow process of voting and left polling centres waiting for hours on end.

The election observers found false voting in a number of centres.

Janipop and International Republican Institution (IRI) in a primary observation report said many polling stations witnessed a disturbing amount of false voting. These two observer groups fielded 13 teams to monitor 130 polling

"Despite strong presence of lawenforcers, party hoodlums assembled outside the polling centres, for either intimidating genuine voters or soliciting false voters, many of whom were women," said a joint statement of Janipop and IRI.

In many centres The Daily Star correspondents also found gangs of marauding youths backed by ruling alliance candidates. Voters alleged the hoodlums helped outsiders to cast fake votes in favour of their candidates in their strongholds.

Witnesses also raised allegations of false voting by the supporters of Nagorik Committee in a few centres. CAPTURE OF POLLING CENTRES Mohiuddin in a written complaint to the returning officer alleged that his rival's hooligans rigged polls in no fewer than 84 centres. They drove out his polling agents from 24 cen-

tres, he alleged. The opposition-backed candidate also alleged that a number of ministers and ruling party lawmak-

ers moved freely in different polling stations and interfered in the polling

Mohiuddin said the agents of Mir Nasir ousted his agents and captured the Polytechnic Institute centre. When Mohiuddin complained to the presiding officer at about 11:00am, the army took measures to ensure the presence of his agents.

On the other hand, supporters of Mir Nasir alleged that Nagorik Committee men captured Kusum Kumari Girls High School, JI Madrasa, Char Chaktai High School and Forest Research Institute centres and herded Nasir's agents out. OUTSIDERS IN GUISE OF VOTERS Witnesses said hundreds of Jamaat-

e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir

activists arrived in Chittagong from

Allegations are there that fake

voters from Satkania, Lohagara, Chandanaish, Chittagong University and Chakoria areas cast votes in the early hours of polling. False balloting was also found in

many centres including Mohsin College, Chittagong Government High School, Kajem Ali High School, Abdul Jalil Primary School and Dr Khastagir Girls School. MINORITIES INTIMIDATED

At 11.35am, Tinku Das (voter no 1229) came to Kasheful Ulum Madrasa centre in Sholokbahar (ward no 8) but he could not cast his vote as a JCD activist stopped him and tried to drag him out of the centre, witnesses said.

A few minutes later, some ICD activists chased Minu Barua (voter no 2773) at the entrance to the centre, alleging that she had already cast her vote. They pulled at her saree and harassed her, the witnesses said.

The unruly JCD activists led by its Chittagong City unit Assistant General Secretary Kamrul Islam attacked police Inspector Ataur Rahman and an Ansar man when they came to the rescue of the woman. They also barred photojournalists from taking snaps of the

The policemen on duty were found totally helpless at the main gate of the polling centre as the JCD men took control of it and were obstructing voters.

After a few minutes, the cops clubbed the JCD activists and dispersed them. They took Mina Barua to a safe place. Magistrate Khalil Ahmad then asked the police inspector to call the army to tackle

"How could we run election in such a situation?" the magistrate said when Inspector Ataur told him that he did not have walkie-talkie to call in the army. Mina Barua under the magis-

trate's custody burst into tears and said, "I do not want to cast my vote anymore. Please help me go back Finally, a contingent of army

arrived at the centre after 45 min-FALSE VOTING, COCKTAIL

BLASTS Allegations of fake voting, intimidation and chase and counter chase marked the polling in Chittagong Polytechnic and Technical Training ntres in East Sholoshahar (ward no 6) despite presence of a large

number of police, army and BDR. When Nagorik Committee candidate Mohiuddin accompanied by several journalists reached the Polytechnic centre at 8.10am, his supporters and many voters rushed to him and raised scores of allega-

Voters Minu Rani Dey and her husband Banshi Muhuri, Nagorik Committee polling agents Yasmin Akhtar and Jahangir complained that they had been prevented by the ruling party men from entering the

The ruling party supporters misbehaved with daily Amar Desh's photographer Morshed Alam and stopped him from taking snaps at

Rahima Khatun, another voter, alleged the ruling party cadres forced her out of the centre.

At booth no 5 of this centre, journalists found all the four women agents belonged to Mir Nasir. One of them (Senowara Begum) claimed to be the agent of Mohiuddin but he said he could not identify her.

Presiding Officer of the centre Sirajuddin Sarker dismissed all these

Mohiuddin then called Officerin-Charge of Khulshi Police Station Abdul Matin and asked for his help to control the situation. "My supporters are being intimidated here. I need your cooperation," he told the

At around 9:45am, some ruling party cadres led by one Sayeed hurled five to six crackers at Abdul Jalil Primary School centre located in Sholoshahar area, close to

Mohiuddin's residence. The mayor is number-1 voter in this centre. The cocktail blasts created panic among the voters but the polling was not hampered. Presiding Officer Abu Sufian said he heard some blasts.

NASIR COMPLAINS OF SLOW At 9:17am, Mir Nasir visited Fateyabad City Corporation Girls High School centre. He wanted to know from Presiding Officer Rafiq Anwar why the casting was so slow. Why are you making delay in vot-

ing," he said. Rafiq said 33 votes out of 400 in that booth were taken in the first one

Mir Nasir talking to journalists said the voting atmosphere was nice and fair.

After visiting Laliarhat Hossainiya Senior Madrasa in South Pahartali (ward no 1) at 9:50am, Mir Nasir entered a phone-fax shop and phoned general officer commanding (GOC) of Chittagong Cantonment.

He told the GOC that his supporters from Shah Amanat Colony were being barred from coming to a local polling centre. As he asked for the GOC's cooperation, an army jeep arrived there in a few minutes.

BDR CHASES BNP MP BDR chased ruling BNP lawmaker Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad at outside the city and rushed to the Ameer Forkania Madrasha polling

polling centres in the morning to centre in Bakolia in the morning cast fake votes especially in the areas when he tried to enter the centre when he tried to enter the centre with dozens of followers.

The situation at Kattali Nurul Haque Chowdhury Primary School polling centre in Pahartali at noon was tense as around 50 people were chanting slogans with allegation of fake vote casting inside the centre.

The magistrate went inside the centre and called striking force of the army that were patrolling the streets. Within a few minutes, army personnel in three vehicles arrived at the spot. They charged batons on the protestors to disperse them. MOHIUDDIN'S DAUGHTER FAILS TOVOTE

Fauzia Sultana Tumpa, daughter of Mohiuddin, and Nusrat Naushin, his niece, came to Polytechnic centre at around 8.15am to cast vote

They alleged that they had faced obstruction by the BNP and ICD cadres. They raised the allegation when journalists visited the centre, known as a stronghold of JCD, the student wing of ruling BNP. INTERRUPTION INVOTING

Polling was suspended for about 10 minutes at booth no 1 of Panchlaish High School centre from 11:05am for the absence of Assistant Presiding Officer AKM Obaidur Rahman. Voting resumed after he came back to the centre.

Obaidur defended himself saying, "I went to the presiding officer's room to collect fresh ballot books as the first ballot book was used up."

Vote casting in this centre was too slow, alleged some voters.

SB man

wrong statistics from the Election Commission about four-party candidate Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin's "lead" in the CCC election. Witnesses and AL leaders said

Inspector Tofazzal Hossain of city Special Branch (SB) was informing the SB headquarters by his walkie talkie that Mir Nasir polled 315,000 votes and ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury 200,000 in 208 centres. The actual number of votes

polled by Mohiuddin Chowdhury at that time was 124,288 while his nearest rival Mir Nasir bagged The AL leaders handed him over

to EC officials, who later allowed him to leave the control room as he sought apology.

10-yr girl

school broke up at 1:30pm, the youth spoke with a school guard, she added.

After the girl came home with serious injuries, her mother rushed her to a nearby clinic. As her condition deteriorated, she was admitted to DMCH. The girl was bleeding and her

condition serious, doctors told

No case was filed in this connection as of 7:30pm.

11 AL men given FROM PAGE 16 swooped on AL leaders and activists while local lawmaker Tanjim Ahmed Sohel was addressing a rally on the court premises, expressing his dissatisfaction over the judgement

atabout 12:30pm. The convicts are Singhsree Union Parishad Chairman Ashraf Uddin Khan, Sajal, Shafiq Kaiya, Huzrul, Romel, Mukul, Kashem, Momtaz Morol, Khokon, Swapan and Farhad Hossain.

The court acquitted 11 others as the charges brought against them

were not proved.

Judge AR Masud of the Speedy
Trial Tribunal-4 handed down the verdict in a packed courtroom in the presence of the convicts.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements

of 14 prosecution witnesses. According to the prosecution, Mohammad Moktar Hossain, 30, of Hariadi under Kapasia upazila of Gazipur, was killed by a group of miscreants, led by Ashraf Uddin Khan, at Koriadi on October 5, 2001

while on his way to Singhsree bazar. The victim's brother, Mokbul Hossain, filed a murder case against 21 people, including Ashraf, with the Kapasia Police Station two days after

the incident. The investigation officer (IO) pressed charges against Ashraf and 21 others on June 12, 2002 and the court framed charges against the accused on January 9 last year.

Special Public Prosecutory Aminul Islam appeared for the star-while advocates Mahbub Ahristi, Rezaul Karim and Rafiqul Islam defended the accuract defended the accused.

Later, at a press briefing at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity, Sohel, who was named as the prime accused in the case but was later dropped from the chargesheet, alleged the case was politically motivated and that all witnesses in the case were not genuine.

"Police along with local BNP leader Brigadier General (Retd) Hannan Shah and his 30 hired cadres attacked me and other AL leaders and activists when I was seeing off my party leaders," Sohel said, adding that the police attacked him despite his identifying himself to them.

Sohel said his party activists were injured when they tried to save him from the attack by the BNP cadres. He alleged, "The court premises are also not safe now either for

commoners or even for an MP." He said he would file a case in this connection.

Chargesheet in blast

NEWS

FROM PAGE 16 the grenade, which was used in the incident that killed AL lawmaker Kibria and four other AL men on

But the court rejected the appeal as well as the prayer for bail of the eight accused and issued warrants of arrest against the two absconding accused.

The eight accused were produced before the Special Tribunal-1 under strict security at around 11:30 am. They are principal accused Abdul Kaiyum, Shahed Ali, Jamir Ali, Joinal Abedin Momin, Aiat Ali, Selim Ahmed Joinal Abedin Jalal and Tajul Islam.

In his appeal, complainant Mohamad Azizul Islam, told the court the investigating officer (IO) in the explosive case mentioned that the grenade used in the January 27 incident was brought from Chunarughat. But the IO in the charge sheet did not mention from whom the grenade was collected. Azizul Islam termed it a failure of

sion that lack of such information would not bring justice. He also mentioned, "If the source of grenade is disclosed, the mystery behind the grenade attack and the

killing will come to light."

the IO and expressed his apprehen-

Pointing at the allegation of the complainant against the IO, lawyer of Abdul Kaiyum, principal accused in the case, prayed for the bail and pleaded before the court that a fresh investigation would find no involvement of his client in the brutal incident of January 27.

Altaf blank

FROM PAGE 16

'It seems that some technical issues, which were blocking the negotiations, are nearing solution. This would mean substantial breakthrough by July this year," reported PakTribune.

Replying to queries, Altaf said, "Higher tariffs will be cut more than lower ones," -- the only statement from him on the issue.

As many as 30 trade ministers of the WTO member states attended the meeting and focused on several

The issues include service rules and regulations including trade facilities to agriculture and nonagriculture markets globally for finding a solution before the scheduled WTO meeting in Hong Kong in December this year.

CEC terms it fair

On allegations made by Dr Kamal and Jalil, the CEC said, "They have raised some good points."

He said it was a local body election, not any national polls, and everyone should grasp the reality.

The allegations, however, have been referred to the field-level for necessary actions, the CEC added.

EC sources said on receiving the complaints from the opposition leaders and Nagorik Committee's candidate, the CEC contacted the Returning Officer (RO) Golam Quddus and inquired about the election situation. Quddus assured the CEC that the situation was under control and voting was being held peacefully. Assistant Returning Officer

Mahbub Kabir in a report at about 2:30 pm informed the EC that nothing untoward has taken place. The EC did not receive any allegation from the ruling alliance candidate. The polling officials too did not complain of any irregularity. BNP lawmaker Zahir Uddin

Swapan lodged a complaint on behalf of Mir Nasir Uddin with the RO of irregularities in 71 centres. The allegations include capturing polling stations, ousting the poling agents of Mir Nasir by the supporters of Mohiuddin Chowdhury. Besides, the complaint said that activists of BCL, the student wing of

AL, assaulted ruling BNP lawmaker Mofazzal Hossain Kaykobad, and two magistrates and eight police As soon as the polling began at 8:00am, complaints on behalf of the Committee candidate started to pour

in at the control room of the Returning Office in Chittagong. The allegations included ousting of gents, supporters and workers of Mohiuddin Chowdhury from different centres, casting fake votes and

inconsistencies among the voter lists. Awami League leader Nurul

Islam BSc met the RO at about 4:00pm, and raised a number of allegations. He pointed out to the RO the differences between the voter list sent to Polytechnic Institute and the original copy in the Election Commission.

Helal Nizami, another leader of Nagorik Committee, lodged complaints of irregularities in 24 centres. Earlier, complaints about irregular practices at 56 centres were filed with the RO office.

Observers

FROM PAGE 1 accounts with those of other independent monitors, it is difficult to idge the overall effect of these irregularities on the election

results," said a Janipop press release. It said 13 teams of the IRI and Janipop inspected the polling centres in 41 wards.

Though there was a substantial presence of the law-enforcers, partisan hooligans took position outside the centres and prevented voters from exercising their franchise. Several people, however, have been arrested for casting fake votes, said the press release.

Adhikar, a human-rights organisation that observed 43 polling centres, in a report said its observers found that fake votes were being cast at some polling centres. Quoting local voters, it said a few outsiders were seen at a few polling centres and voters alleged slow pace of ballot casting.

"The law-enforcers were lax in preventing fake votes," it said in a press release, adding that law and

order situation was satisfactory. Manobadhikar, another human rights organisation, in its report said polling agents of Nagorik Committee-Chowdhury were driven out of some polling stations. Voters and polling officials were locked in quarrels over beginning of voting behind schedule at some polling stations.

All's not well on quiet

But the peace around was a decep-

tive one. A large number of youths were seen roaming near the polling cen-tres. Genuine voters were surprised o see them, mostly unknown faces.

These youths' names were not on the voter's list. Some local leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir gave them voter slips of genuine voters and escorted them to polling booths for casting votes as genuine voters waited in the queues.

Hundreds of such youths-- all Shibir cadres -- were brought from Satkania, Lohagara, Chandanais and Chittagong University areas and also from Cox's Bazar. About a dozen local leaders of

Shibir were seen busy inside the three centres when this corresponded visited them between 8:00am and 1:30pm. At Mohsin College centre at about

9:15am, some Shibir men escorted their cadres to cast fake votes for BNP-led ruling alliance candidates for mayoral and ward commissioner posts. They were brought from the city suburbs and accommodated at dormitories of Chittagong College and Mohsin College. Your voter numbers are here, go

and cast votes," one youth told other youths inside Mohsin College centre. Polling agents of oppositionbacked candidates watched such fake voting but they hardly lodged any complaint fearing reprisal by Shibir men who are a force to be reckoned in the area.

Shibir cadres are casting fake votes since the beginning," said a polling agent of Awami League-backed mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury. "I can't protest...I can't even leave the centre. I have to face serious conse-quence if I do so as I live in this area." Fake voters even cast more than

one vote each, he alleged.

Asked about slow progress of voting, Mahbubur Rahman, presiding officer of the centre, said every voter has to use three ballot papers to elect mayor, ward commissioner and women commissioners against reserved seats. This naturally takes more time than in other polls. On false voting, he said, "How

can I say false votes are being cast when no polling agent lodged any complaint."
The situation at Kajem Ali High
School centre with 3,021 voters appeared worse. A local BNP leader and rebel ward commissioner can-didate from Chawkbazar said Shibir

men are controlling the centre.
Sabukta Gin Siddiqui Mokki
narrated the irregularities to this correspondent in front of the centre's Presiding Officer Mohammad Awrangojeb, who outright denied the allegations.

"Very orderly, very peaceful voting. Let's hope it continues," the presiding officersaid. Presiding officers of Mohsin College and Chittagong Government High School centres also expressed similar views.

Jamaat lawmaker Shahjahan Chowdhury was seen visiting the three polling centre areas in a private car, and talking to Shibir men at a polling camp in front of Kajem Al High School centre at about 1:00pm. You need not waste your time.

Your vote has been cast," said a polling agent of alliance mayoral candidate Mir Nasir when Moinuddin Ahmed (voter no 601), a lawyer, came to vote.

"It is not worth getting killed for voting," one voter said. Many others echoed him. The situation at Mohsin College centre was however different for half an hour when British Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka Steve Bergs visited it. He told The Daily Star, "I

am here just to see the voting system in Bangladesh. It seems to me that casting of votes is very slow." Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman visited the centre areas. Asked about fake voting, he said he was not aware of any such happening. Everything was going on well.

PM to attend

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the progress so far made in this regard.

The summit is of special importance as it will give the leaders an opportunity to discuss and formulate a common position on the strategies for developing countries, the official said. Khaleda is expected to hold

bilateral talks with Ameer of Qatar Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani on the sidelines of the summit. The Ameer had paid an official visit to Bangladesh recently.

The city

He said it would be very unfair if Mohiuddin's victory is snatched away by the ruling alliance candi-

date through unfair means. People's fury, however, subsided as the RO's office resumed declaring the election results after one and half an hours, at about 11:30pm.

When the election officials were declaring results of different centres slowly one by one, tens of thousands were demonstrating outside the RO's office.

Still, several lakh enthusiastic people waited in the area until late night and stood guard around the RO's office. "Normally, I close my shop at 10.30pm but tonight I am yet to down the shutters as people are still buying goods," said Shahjahan, a shopkeeper at Kazir Dewry at 1:30am today. Like him, many shopkeepers in the

area also kept their shops open until early this morning. The markets, hotels, restaurants, flower corners, tea stalls and other private establishments in areas close to the RO's office also did not turned off the light.

Thousands of people in the residential areas also spent a sleepless night, sitting before TV sets to watch the latest election bulletins by private channels. The unprecedented gathering

kept the government election office under siege until 2:30 this morning. The police and security personnel cordoned off the house and election office of Mir Nasir in nearby Kazir Dewryarea. People also entered the nearby Chittagong Circuit House complex

and chanted slogans in favour of

Mohiuddin's election symbol hurri-

cane. "Never before in my life have I seen such enthusiasm among the people," said Bacchu Mia, a rick-The sheer number of people out on the streets to throw their weight behind Mohiuddin took outsiders

and election observers alike by

Until 2:00am, small processions were marching down the streets and senior leaders of the Nagorik Committee were addressing spontaneous rallies, urging the people not to return home without final results

Man killed

his head.

FROM PAGE 16 Ibrahimpur Bazar and arranged treatment for some pellet wounds in

He quoted Benazir as saying that a gang was in a mugging spree, waylaying at least five rickshaws near the China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre at about 8:30pm Sunday. They snatched a cellphone set from his passenger Sohel. After that the police team arrived at the scene. But the muggers fled hurling bombs at them. "The police held my passenger,

my rickshaw to go to Monipuripara and was innocent. They warned me not to get involved," Halim quoted Benazir as saying. Benazir handed over some docu-

though I told them that he had hired

ments of a car that Sohel was carrying and left in the rickshaw to Halim. Sohel's father said, "There was not even a general diary filed against my son." He said Sohel had been working for the last 15 years at the house of Shamsul Islam, a businessman, at 17/E, Monipuripara.

Milton, son of Sohel's employer, told reporters at the DMCH that he sent Sohel to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) office at Mirpur for some paperwork for his wife's private car.

On completing the job at BRTA, he visited his aunt's house at Mirpur and was returning to Monipuripara in a rickshaw. Duty Officer of Kafrul Police

Station Sub-Inspector Alimuzzaman

confirmed that there is no case against Sohel. Referring to the claim of the victim's father, Alimuzzaman said whenever a criminal dies, family

members describe him as innocent. He said Saiful Islam, one of the victims of Sunday night's mugging, filed a case against four people with the police station, but he did not name any of the accused.

Morgue sources said Sohel was shot from a point blank range.

BDB demands FROM PAGE 16

Chowdhury made the call speaking as the chair at a meeting organised to celebrate the occasion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh auditorium in the city.

He launched a broadside against

the four-party alliance government for "extra-judicial killings in the name of crossfire by Rapid Action Battalion", saying, "One day they will have to account before the nation for this." Badrudozza, a former president, urged the opposition camp mem-

bers to work together to unseat what he termed the 'present autocratic and failed government'. Jatiya Oikkya Mancha President Dr Kamal Hossain, Jatiya Samaitantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu, Awami League Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Krishak Sramik Janata League President Abdul Kader

Siddique, BDB Secretary General

Abdul Mannan, former whip Abdur

Rouf and BDB Organising Secretary

Mahi B Chowdhury also spoke at the

Dr Kamal lambasted the government for letting in an excessive price hike of essentials and deterioration of law and order. He also echoed the BDB chief's call to the opposition school to step up movement to topple the ruling coalition. the court.

Two killed

FROM PAGE 16 party men at Babuganj upazila of Barisal district at about 4:15am

Captain Iftekhar, commander of the Barisal Rab camp, said Jalal Bepari was arrested from the Gowalpara Khal area under Agorpur union of Babuganj upazila on

Sunday morning. On the basis of information prised out of him about arms and his men, the Rab took Jalal to Brahmandia of Babuganj in the early hours yesterday, the Rab sources

When the Rab team reached near the Gowalpara Khal at Brahmandia, the associates of Jalal attacked them in abid to free Jalal. A 20-minute gunfight ensued as the Rab also fired back Ialal was killed in the "crossfire

The Rab recovered one pipe gun with three rounds of ammunition from the area after the miscreants Nayek Sekandar of the Rab was

while trying to flee.

also injured in the incident. The dead body of Jalal was sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for postmortem.

Earlier on Monday afternoon, in an interview with local journalists at the Barisal Rab camp Jalal denied all allegations against him including his involvement with the Sarbahara Party. He claimed there was no case against him except a case of felling trees from a disputed land and that he worked for Golam Kibria Tipu, local Jatiya Party nominee in last parliamentary elections.

A notorious criminal in the northwestern part of Barisal, Jalal was wanted by different police stations in Barisal in a dozen cases for two murders, toll collection, extortion and rape.

Meanwhile, the UNB sources reported that "Tiger" Alam alias "Dakat" Alam of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party was killed in a "shootout" between the Rab and his associates in Iswardi upazila yesterday. Alam, 35, son of Bahar Ali Niazi of

"infamous dacoit". The Rab personnel rushed to village Khairdair in the upazila at 11am after a tip-off that a gang of the

village Banglapara, was also an

KUSHTIA CROSSFIRE HC gives govt 2 weeks for explanation

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain within two weeks why the extra-judicial killing of Enamul Islam Ena of Kushtia should not be properly investigated and the perpetrators should not be brought to

A division bench headed by

justice MA Matin also directed the

respondents to ensure independent

inquiry into the killing to be conducted by the district magistrate of The district magistrate has been

asked to submit a preliminary report on the matter in two weeks. The court orders came on a writ filed by Naimul Islam, brother of the victim, challenging the extrajudicial killing in the name of 'crossfire' by the police.

Enamul Islam Ena , a leader of

Kushtia District Motor Workers Union, was picked up by the Detective Branch of police from Majampur area in the town on April 13 without showing any warrant of arrest. He was killed in 'crossfire' on April 16 at Talbaria under Mirpur Police Station.

Barrister Amir-Ul Islam

appeared for the petitioner. Colonel Faruk

acquitted from

forex case COURT CORRESPONDENT

currencies.

Condemned prisoner in the Bangabandhu Murder Case Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farukur Rahman has been acquitted of charges in a case filed for possessing foreign

The Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday pronounced the verdict in presence of Faruk, also sentenced to life in the Jail Killing Case. Judge Mohammad Monzurul

charges brought against him were not proved. Police produced Faruk before the court adjacent to Dhaka Central Jail at 11:30am under a tight security.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments

Haq Bachhid of the court said the

and the court recorded statements of six prosecution witnesses. According to the prosecution, the then officer-in-charge (OC) of Cantonment Police Station said that he along with a team of law enforcement agencies raided Faruk's house at the DOHS in the capital at about 3:45am on August 13, 1996 and seized a revolver, a shotgun, an airgun, a stengun, 616 bullets, eight

Later, two cases were filed with Cantonment Police Station -- one under the Arms Act and the other under the Special Powers Act. The Criminal Investigation

international passports, 2,830

Pakistani rupees and 62.75 Libyan

dinars. They arrested him at the

Department (CID) pressed charges against Faruk in the foreign currency case on January 29, 1997. Assistant Public Prosecutor Jalaluddin Ahmed appeared for the state and Advocate Syed Mizanur outlawed outfit gathered there for a

Sensing the presence of the Rab, the criminals opened fire on them forcing

them to fire back, says a Rab release Alam was hit by bullets during the "shootout" and died on the spot. The Rab recovered a rifle, two

cartridges and two sharp knives from the scene. Sentenced to 32 years imprisonment in a few cases and also wanted in a dozen other cases, including two for murder, Alam had been

absconding. Rocca talks

FROM PAGE 16

both countries, the IANS report said. Rocca is expected to arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a two-day official visit for talks with Bangladesh leaders on bilateral, regional and Middle East issues. Dhaka and Washington would review the entire gamut of bilateral relations during the official talks.

Rocca would hold meetings with

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and other high officials of the foreign ministry tomorrow and is likely to call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia the day after. Rocca's visit will be the first highlevel tour from America after

President Bush was inaugurated on a second term in the White House. She had come to Dhaka months before the US presidential election

US offensive

FROM PAGE 16 Qaim, a city near Obeidi, the US military said.

Insurgent violence killed eight US service members in Iraq over the weekend, raising the death toll to more than 300 from a torrent of attacks in Iraq since April 28, when a new Iraqi Cabinet was approved by parliament with seven positions undecided.

At least 1,600 members of the US military have now died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated

FROM PAGE 16 persons such as political leaders, newspaper editors, ward commissioners and others. The remaining 76 personnel also are engaged in security duty for the president and the prime minister

during their programmes outside The home ministry proposal stated that the protection unit is currently facing an acute shortage of manpower due to the deployment of 223 gunmen with VVIPs/VIPs and important persons.

The police authorities withdrew

some gunmen after requests from the persons concerned, but they were given protection again follow-ing several violent incidents, including the August 21 grenade attacks on an AL rally and the killing of AL leader Shah AMS Kibria MP sources said. Of the 171 posts sought, five are ASPs, 12 inspectors, 66 sub-

inspectors and 64 constables sources said, adding that the creation of the 171 posts will require Tk 1.43 crore for salary purposes. The proposal is now waiting for the final approval of a committee headed by LGRD and Cooperatives

inspectors, 24 assistant sub-

Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. The committee is working to recast all the intelligence agencies and prepare a guideline for security of the VVIP/VIP/ important persons

and foreign guests.

25 bullet-hit FROM PAGE 16 Jasim, Misir Ali, Badal, Jamal, Sajib, Babul, Mannan, Ambar Ali, Arif, Johnny, Taslima and Sohel were

The incident set off a panic among locals. Although a case has been filed with the Fatulla Police Station, no

looted Tk 10 lakh and gold ornaments weighing about 25 tolas from the flat of Shahjaban's brother,

of robbery in the area.

started to throng at Mohiuddin's Nandankanan house. They cheered at every election result coming from the poll centres being announced over loudspeakers by the Nagorik Committee election office.

election symbol. According to Nagorik Conmittee information on 116 of the 577 polling centres, its nominee Moliuddin

behind the 'obvious defea'.

selves to home and shop kept their shutters down fearing post-ballot violence. Additional lay enforcers have been deployed it different strategic points in the lity to avert any backlash over ne election results. Jeeps of Bangadesh Army were patrolling the strets.

Many city dwellers lept them-

admitted to a local clinic. one was arrested as of yesterday afternoon. Three months ago, robbers Shahjalal, in the same building. Locals alleged that police are inactive despite repeated incidents

Mohiuddin

When they heard that Mohiuddin was leading his cardnal challenger by some 48,000 votes the crowd burst into jubilation. They paraded the city streets, plying drums and other musical instruments, and shouting slogais in support of hurricane, Mohiuldin's

rival Mir Nasir 42,842. In the other camp, of Mi Nasir at his Kazir Dewri residence silence and frustration ruled supeme over several hundred supporters. Some of them were reckoning the reasons

bagged 89,618 votes and his main

Rahman defended the accused in

Home ministry