JCD men run riot

FROM PAGE 1 wounding at least 100 yesterday.

The new assault prompted seven opposition-backed student organisations led by pro-Awami Ľeague Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to call a countrywide student strike for tomorrow in protest.

Witnesses said a bomb exploded at the main entrance to the Arts Building, within 20 yards of the site of the JCD rally at the foot of Aparaievo Bangla, which was being held to mark the death anniversary of president Ziaur Rahman and protest the campus violence for the last three days

The JCD men blamed the BCL for the blast, beat up the its leaders and activists wherever they were found and chased them out of the campus. The student wing of the ruling coalition head also declared the BCL men unwanted on the campus for an

The BCL leaders have vowed to stage a comeback onto the DU campus today. They, however, feared that the showdown between the two organisations may escalate into violent clashes and threatened to enforce an indefinite strike at the educational institutions across the country and hartals if the DU authorities do not ensure their security.

The top leaders of the student organisations injured in the yesterday's attack are Biplobi Chhatra Moitri President Abu Naser Anik Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri President Rafiqul Islam Sujon, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation President Taslima Akther Lima, Bangladesh Chhatra Union vice- presidents Jolly Talukder and Zahid Mamun, BCL Vice-President Anisur Rahman, its central leader Arman Patwari and Jativa Samajtantrik Dal-backed BCL's DU unit President Azizur Rahman Aziz.

Besides, a number of leaders and activists and general students took first aid in the city's clinics and hospital Some of the critically injured students were undergoing treatment at different city hospitals

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) observed a onehour work abstention from 12:00pm to protest against the raging campus Later, it took out a silent procession that ended at the Central Shaheed Minar.

It all started with a group of 50 JCD men armed with sticks swooping on the Progatishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), a combine of six left-leaning student organisations, at Madhu's Canteen when the PCJ activists were preparing to take out a procession to lay siege to the vice-chancellor (VC) office to make the authorities concede their demands. They also broke chairs and tables at the canteen. Another group of as many JCD

men attacked activists of The Students against Repression, a platform of the general students, formed after the death of a university student on Saturday, at the rear gate of the Arts Building. The JCD men did not even spare the students who took refuge at the teachers' lounge.

The JCD adherents also looked out for the students as well as the BCL men in the common room for female students and in the classrooms on the ground floor of the Arts Building.

Yet another group of JCD men at around the same time attacked the students at the canteen of the Institute of Business Adminis-tration, DU Central Library, TSC cafeteria, Ducsu collection centre and cafeteria. They

mauled at least 20 activists of the BCL and other left-leaning student organi

The BCL activists in retaliation vandalised at least five vehicles in the city's Bakshi Bazar and Chankhar Pool areas. At this, the JCD men ransacked at least 50 residential hall rooms and vandalised and looted the valuables of the BCL leaders and activists. They also drove at least 50 BCL men from different halls after roughing them up

BLAMES TRADED

The JCD at a press conference at the Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) office said the BCL blasted the bomb to upset the congenial atmosphere on the campus. Its leaders demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the BCL men involved with the explosion.

The BCL at another press conference at the Workers' Party office blamed the JCD for the blast and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the JCD activists for their involvement with it. They threatened an immediate launch of a movement to bring down the government if the university vice-chancellor and proctor did not resign.

BCL President Liaqat Sikdar leged that VC Prof SMA Faiz and Proctor Prof AKA Firoz Ahmed instigated the blast

JCD President Azizul Baree Helal said that former VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Duta President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Dean of Social Science Faculty Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Sadeka Halim directly instigated the bomb blast.

OUTIDERS HELD

The DU proctor caught two outsiders, who are activists of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri (BCM) and turned them in to Ramna police. The BCM. however, said at least five of its activists have been arrested.

PRESS CONFERENCES

The PCJ and Bangladesh Chhatra Union in separate press conferences at Duja office demanded punishment of the JCD men for the attack and a proper investigation into the bomb blast. They also reiterated their demand for the resignation of the VC and the proctor.

DISCIPLINARY MEETING

Four members -- Prof RIM Aminur Rashid, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Mahbubur Rahman and Prof Nim Chandra Bhowmik -- walked out of an emergency meeting of the DU Disciplinary Board chaired by the VC, citing authorities mishandling the campus situation and not executing the recommendations of the September 11, 2004 attack by the JCD on six opposition-backed student

3 PROBERS RESIGN

Members Prof Rafiqunnabi, Sadeka Halim and Dr Rahmatullah of the committee, formed to probe the police and JCD atrocities and vandalisation of the proctor's office, resigned yesterday terming the probe "an evewash and nothing but an attempt to suppress the facts".

Meanwhile, DU Treasurer Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan was not officially informed of his being selected as the head of the nine-member enquiry body until 9:30pm. Prof Hasan said he is now hesitant to sit on the committee after the resignation of the three

At the Bangkok summit, the

nessmen in the Bimstec region.

A .32 bore revolver, a local gun eight bullets, two knives, and five handmade bombs were recovered from the spot

Our correspondent from Rajshah reports: A team of Rab-5 arrested Badiuzzaman Buddu at Shialkhol Bazar in Siraigani on Monday noon.

his involvement in a number of crimes some other notorious criminals, said a Rab press release.

Following leads extracted from him, a Rab team took him to Bagmara to arrest the criminals. But as they reached Ramrama Kharadipara, a gang of criminals opened fire on Rab vehicles, forcing the Rab men to

Rab's vehicle at one point of the encounter. After the shootout, the Rab men found him lying critically wounded by the roadside. They rushed him to Bagmara Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead.

The Rab press release said they recovered a shutter gun, two bullets. and two blank cartridges from the

Buddu was accused in nine criminal cases and some of those were for robbery and murder. He was sentenced to 15 years in jail in one of the

Reportedly a close aide to a minister. Buddu joined AL in 1996 and returned to BNP after 2001 general

Rab claimed that he was involved in attacking Randhuni Police Camp in

He was allegedly involved in murders of Korban of Shialkhol union in 1993, Zamat Ali of Nalinda in 1994, Ansar in 1996, UP chairman Shahiahan in 1998. Fazal Rahman of

Observer publishers sentenced to jail

The First Labour Court has sentenced Khaled Hamidul Huq and Nazma Ali, directors of the Associated Printers Limited, which publishes the Bangladesh Observer, to jail for one year.

The court also fined them Tk 500 each, in default they are to suffer two months more in prison.

ATM Golam Kibria, chairman of the court, pronounced the verdict on April 21 upon a criminal case filed by Mohammad Nurul Islam, a worke terminated from service without payment of his claim. The court found the directors quilty of breach of contract and failure to comply with ts earlier order.

Islam was terminated from the service in 1981. When challenged, the court had ordered his reinstatement with payment of arrears. But he was not allowed to join nor were his dues paid.

Again he sought redress of his grievances from the court. After a engthy hearing, the court on April 21 awarded punishment to the directors of the Associated Printers Limited. The court, in its order, said since

the accused after securing bail remained fugitive, the conviction will be effective from the day police arrest them or they surrender to the

2-yr-old accused FROM PAGE 16

Rasul was mentioned as one of the 14 accused in the First Information Report (FIR) filed under Explosive Substances Act with the Khulna Police Station on March 8 last year.

The infant was implicated in a bomb attack on police on March 7 Meanwhile, authorities have

nitiated probe into why the infant was implicated in the bomb attack

Complainant of the FIR Subnspector Shafiqul Alam said extremists Jashim and Khalil named Rasul and his three brothers among bomb attackers.

But Jashim and Khalil, operatives of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (M-L faction) died in an encounter with police on the night of March 7 last year, at least 12 hours before the FIR was filed at 9:30am on March 8.

Bimstec meets

FROM PAGE 16

tourism, Myanmar for energy, Sri Lanka for technology and Thailand for fisheries. Thailand will also place a report on trade negotiation consultation on FTA.

A senior official of the foreign ministry told the news agency the Bimstec meeting will also focus on the progress of joint working group meetings on counter-terrorism and

Bimstec leaders agreed to coordinate efforts to combat terrorism in the region through exchange of intelligence information and other concrete measures of cooperation. The joint working group met in New Delhi on December 9-10 last year.

The meeting will also discuss people-to-people contact and issuance of travel cards for busi-

A free trade area agreement was signed last February and the agreement covers trade, services and investment. Negotiations are progressing well on specific issues. The agreement will come into force from July 2006.

Last night, the Bimstec officials had informal consultations over a working dinner at the State Guesthouse, Padma.

Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin will formally take over the chair of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sector Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) from Thailand for next one year.

The foreign ministry official said the meeting will discuss new membership of the eight-year-old forum. Nenal and Bhutan joined the grouping last vear at the foreign minister level meeting held at Phuket, Thailand.

Tk 41cr budget

secretary-cum-computer operator and peon to every lawmaker. But the lawmakers who are holding offices of ministers, whips and committee chairman will not get the facilities.

"We will recruit staffs for the awmakers after the finance ministry releases the funds," Sircar told reporters after the meeting.

The meeting, boycotted by the members of main opposition Awami League, also discussed security arrangement at the Sangsad Bhaban and its surrounding areas, and financial management of the parliament.

It also approved a revised budget for the outgoing fiscal year.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on ministry of foreign affairs Ziaur Rahman, State Minister for Finance and Planning Anwarul Kabir Talukder were, among others, present

Opposition for pro-liberation

villages in the country.

The eminent jurist said an organised movement is needed to bring a meaningful change of government to wipe out criminal activities from educational institutions, establish the rights and dignity of people and to separate the judiciary from the executive.

He proposed that the likeminded parties should reach a consensus on nominating only honest and qualified persons for elections.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) said if 'money game' in elections is not stopped, his party will never participate in

Mahi B Chowdhury MP, organising secretary of the Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDP), said instead of making emotional speeches, they are preparing concrete proposals for the good of the people

Mahi, on behalf of BDB President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, read out a goodwill message.

Economist Abul Barakat, general secretary of Bangladesh Arthonity Samity, said Bangladesh received around Tk 2 lakh crore from abroad in the last 34 years. Of this, 75 percent was misappropriated by about two lakh 'powerful criminals'. He stressed the need for a united

movement of all pro-liberation

save the country from these ele-

Others who spoke included Bimol Biswas, general secretary of the Workers Party, Dilip Barua, president of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal and Laxmi Prashad Chakma, assistant general secretary of Chittagong Hill Tracts Jana Sanghati Samity.

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu chaired the session and Joint General Secretary Shirin Akhter conducted it.

Earlier, JSD Joint General Secretary Igbal Hossain Khan presented a political proposal calling for a grand alliance of all pro-

Tax evasion getting tough

Tk 15,400 crore, third Tk 24,400 crore and last Tk 35,600 crore.

conveved this quarterly plan to the International Monetary Fund and to make this happen, it puts special

has kept its focus and activities limited to Dhaka. But in FY06. it will have an office in Chittagong too. Its staff strength will also be doubled from the current 27 to 54 and the NBR will be allowed to recruit investigators directly for the cell.

with a range of sophisticated intelligence and monitoring gadgets ncluding special software. Its officials will get training abroad, in countries that have excellent track of detecting and reining in tax evasion. The government has sought the donors' assistance in this "Since its inception to date, the

CIC has unearthed 10 cases of tax evasion by individual taxpayers. They dodged Tk 10 crore to Tk 40 crore each," said an NBR source without naming the tax-dodgers.

increase tax collection drastically

people also came up for discussion.

said that in the absence of access to

Chittagong port from north-eastern

Indian states, New Delhi is building

roads and ports in Myanmar for

getting access to the Bay of Bengal.

Inviting Bangladesh to board the

"It would not be a very distant

ndian 'look east' foreign policy train,

he said the policy has strong rationale.

future when one would be able to

take a bus from Kolkata and go to

Bangkok via Dhaka. One would also

be able to ride a train from Delhi to

the need for consolidating the rela-

tions among the countries in various

regional groups like Bimstec,

Mekong-Ganges Cooperation

(MGC) and Asean for their prosperity.

India and East Asian countries is

economically logical and essential," he

said, adding, "We may have missed

some openings in the past. Now we

are determined not to lose the new

chief election commissioner (CEC).

advocate Asaduzzman will be given

the party election symbol 'boat' as

[the AL] is not contesting the elec-

Working Committee will be held at

the party's Dhanmondi office today

at 10:00am with Leader of the

Opposition and AL chief Sheikh

the party had a plan to contest the

by-election but it backed away

following claims of the new CEC that

the AL is going to accept him by

participating in the Narsingdi-1 by-

Earlier Monday night, an emer-

gency meeting of the AL Central

Working Committee warned party's

Dhaka City Unit President

Mohammad Hanif and General

Secretary Mofazzal Hossain

Chowdhury Maya to face disciplin-

ary actions if they fail to resolve their

internal conflicts as it is damaging

organisational power of both Hanif

and Maya as conflict between the

two leaders intensified in recent

days over the formation of thana

and ward committees of the party's

The meeting with Sheikh Hasina

in the chair handed over responsibil-

ities of eight parliamentary constitu-

encies in the city to the supervision

of separate committees consisting

of eight presidium members. The

presidium members will report to the

party chief about the disputes in

different thana units of Dhaka city AL

in next two weeks. They will also

form the thana and ward units, said

Dhaka city unit.

The AL high-ups have cut out

the party's most important unit.

The main opposition leaders said

The meeting of the AL Central

tion," said a senior AL leader.

Hasina in the chair.

"Chances are very slim that

opportunities that come our way.'

observed.

"Growing cooperation between

The Indian secretary underscored

Singapore," he said.

The external affairs secretary

from clearing and forwarding (C&F)

crore a year before the CIC was

introduced," says a CIC official. "After we started compiling their data in our computers, they started paying bigger tax. Would you believe, now they are paying more than Tk 2 crore a month? We expect to gather Tk 40 crore tax from the C&F agents in the current fiscal year," he added.

Under the new drive to make tax evasion difficult, the NBR started monitoring and investigating the leading physicians in the capital in FY05, resulting in a dramatic rise in tax collection from doctors. "A doctor, who showed Tk 5 lakh income in the previous fiscal year, has been forced this year to state his true annual income -- around Tk 80 lakh," the CIC official told The Daily Star yesterday. He said, "Next year we shall

bring other professionals like chartered accountants or lawyers under this monitoring and investigation

PEPPED UP LTU

Both the Large Taxpayers Units (LTUs) of the Income Tax Department and the Vat (valueadded tax) Department will also be

The Income Tax LTU currently has 1,005 files and the Vat LTU 160 files on 'perceivably' large taxpayers. The government now considers defining a turnover threshold to place the taxpayers having more than that under the LTUs. However the threshold figure has not been determined yet.

Next year, the LTUs will conduct more joint audits than they presently do. In the current fiscal year, they conducted three joint audits and detected a Tk 3 crore tax evasion by a mineral water company The NBR will also form an inde-

pendent audit unit headed by an adviser, with the rank and status of a board member, reporting directly to the chairman The country presently has

around 15 lakh enlisted taxpayers, although only one third of them actually pay up. The NBR expects to raise the total number of taxpayers on the list to 17 lakh and that of real taxpayers to around 7 lakh in FY06.

Rab's 'shootout' claim

3:30am yesterday. The gunfight occurred when a gang of criminals opened fire at a patrol team of Rab n the area.

The Rab press release said the Rab members after the shootout found the body of Sumon lying on the spot. Later Khilgaon police identified him as "Goailva Sumon." a notorious criminal of Goran area, it claimed.

However, witnesses said some plainclothes Rab men had picked up Sumon and two others from the office of a cable operator in Goran where he worked as a cashier.

office of Lorel International, the cable operator, in East Goran at about 8:30pm on Monday. A few others followed him and identified themselves as Rab members. "One of them loaded his pistol

and pointed it to Sumon's abdomen. Another man blindfolded Sumon, Hanif and Bidyut. Then they left the place in a yellow taxicab," a shopkeeper in the area said, seeking anonymity. Hanif and Bidyut are the linesmen (mechanics) of the cable operator. "About 50 people witnessed the

ncident. The plainclothes Rab men later put on their uniform before pushing the three youths into the cab." he said.

Asked about the alleged criminal activities, most locals said Sumon was polite and modest and he was not involved in crimes.

FATHER'S STATEMENT Sumon's father Abdul Hakim said he

and his wife Amela Khatun rushed to Khilgaon Police Station after they heard that Sumon was arrested. As the duty officer confirmed that Khilgaon police had not arrested him, they went to the Detective Branch (DB) office on Mintoo Road but did not find their son there. "At about 2:30am we went to the

Rab-3 office at Tikatuli and found Sumon sitting in a Rab jeep. Possibly, they were taking him out of the office," Hakim said. "We tried to meet Sumon, but the

Rab members drove us out when we identified ourselves as Sumon's parents." he said. Sumon's mother was found shell-shocked, sitting on a chair, when The Daily Star correspondents visited their house

yesterday he went to Khilgaon Police Station and found Sumon's body lying in a police van with blood pozing from his abdomen.

Sumon's father said he would file a case against Rab for killing his only son.

DISCREPANCIES IN SUMON'S IDENTITY,

and theft cases, police however accused Sumon mentioning his father's name as "Hakim." But both the permanent and present addresses mentioned in the chargesheets appeared to be wrong.

His local address was mentioned as 435, South Goran and permanent address as Sataimura in Araihazar upazila in Narayanganj His age was not mentioned. However, Jubo League leader Sumon's father said his permanent

address is village Faridabad in Banchharampur upazila in Brahmanbaria district. Hakim, a furniture trader, said they never resided in 435, South

Goran. Sumon was born at their own house at 259/1, East Goran where they reside, he added. Hakim also said he had built the house soon after the Liberation War. On the other hand, one Joynal Abedin has been living at 435,

South Goran since 1985. "Before I

came here, a rickshaw-puller

named Hakim lived in this plot (No

435). I knew he had a son who was a driver and married," Joynal said. One Noorjahan filed a rape case against "Sumon of 435, South Goran" in January 1997. At that time Jubo League leader Sumon was only 13 years and seven months old as his father yesterday said Sumon

Asked, the second officer of Sabujbagh Police Station said they could not arrest Sumon, the accused in the charge-sheets, as he was absconding. But locals said Jubo League leader Sumon always lived with his parents in Goran.

11 killed in Pak riot

was 22.

One of the assailants died in a gunbattle with police who were standing guard at the door of the building. The other blew himself up and the third sustained a serious head injury, apparently in a fall, city police chief Tariq Jamil told the news agency.

Two worshippers and a policeman also died in the attack, while 21 people were hospitalised, four of them in a critical condition. Hospital officials said the surviving

attacker had regained consciousness. 'He identified himself as Jamil," said senior police investigator Manzoor Mughal said the man said he was affiliated to the Sunni militant group

Jaish-e-Mohammad, banned by

President Pervez Musharrat in 2001.

But he said "normally these militants hide the actual facts and it takes time to verify their identity." Police were guarding the room of the suspect but doctors would not

allow them to interrogate him. "The proper investigation would start when he is fully recovered," Mughal said.

The man may help police uncover possible links to a suicide bombing on Friday which killed 19 people, most of them Shiites, at a Muslim shrine in the capital Islamabad.

blast, but police were unable to stop

the Shiite mob in Karachi, which also

torched two gas stations and a number

of vehicles in addition to the KFC

Security forces were placed on high alert following the Islamabad

Police and firemen said they found two bodies Iving on the ground when they opened the door of the autted restaurant after family members informed the KFC management that the employees did not return home late into the night.

During the search police found two more bodies from the first floor while the bodies of two other employees were found frozen in the KFC cold storage, Jamil, the city police chief, told

Five of the victims were aged between 25 and 30 years while the sixth was a guard aged about 50, Jamil Thousands of Shiite and majority

Sunni Muslims have been killed in Pakistan in recent years, with attacks including bomb blasts, suicide bombings and targeted killings. Last year 160 people were killed. Sectarian extremist groups are

opposed to Musharraf for leading a crackdown on Islamic militancy and their associates from the Al-Qaeda terror network of Osama bin Laden. Security has been tightened in

Karachi as funeral prayers of the blast victims were scheduled in the same mosque while separate burials of the arson victims were also expected later in the day.

Tension was already high in volatile Karachi after the abduction and murder of a local leader of the main fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party in the city on Monday.

Manmohan for better

FROM PAGE 1 postponed 13th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) to be held in Dhaka in November this year adding that India is committed to strengthening the Saarc to make it an effective

range of issues including domestic politics, economy and international relations, Singh said there was now an atmosphere for discussing the "basic problems" between India and Pakistan.

He said it would be "unrealistic" to solution for the last 57 years.

never accept anything that leads to further division of India on religious lines. I have no mandate to negotiate on redrawing our boundaries. Within these limitations, the two of us [India and Pakistan] must work together to create an environment to take the peace process forward.

Singh, who has been invited by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf to visit that country, said he looked forward to visiting Pakistan but gave no indication regarding the

enough has been done [by Pakistan] to dismantle the terrorist infrastruc-

He brushed aside suggestions that India was giving "confusing signals" in its policy towards Nepal following the dismissal of a democratically elected government in that country by King Gyanendra.

"Our considered view is that constitutional monarchy and multiparty democracy are the twin pillars of Nepal's polity to enable it to function effectively," he said.

According to Singh, he had told King Gyanendra that there should be a visible road map for restoration of democracy in the Himalayan kingdom. "Some steps have been taken in the right direction but some other steps remained a cause of concern,

OC closed

FROM PAGE 1

loaded with 140 maunds of garment cotton and six tonnes of scrap from KSM Jute Mills area in Sitakunda The OC of Sitakunda Police

Station was involved in the act, said the criminals in their confessional The Rab-7 recently set up three

special camps at Baroiyerhat, Feni and Comilla points of the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in the wake of rise in robbery of export-import cargoes, trucks and covered vans.

Commerce and Industry had earlier staged demonstrations to press home their demand for setting up Rab camps and regular patrol on the

3 killed in 'encounters'

AL Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury claimed Sumon to be innocent. He said Sumon had no criminal records, and was a dedicated leader of Jubo League. He [Sumon] had distributed leaflets

in the local mosques in March this year to mobilise locals against deviation from the original design of Khilgaon fly

PROTEST Hundreds of locals in East Goran took to the streets yesterday protesting

Saber Hossain Chowdhury and

Jubo League General Secretary Mirza

Azam MP, among others, participated

Sumon's death in Rab custody.

in an hour-long procession, which paraded the Goran streets, starting from 10:00am Mahmuda Islam Marzina, ruling BNP-backed female ward commissioner, and Wadudul Hag, father of another BNP-backed ward commis-

sioner [ward No 24] Abdul Quayum,

visited Sumon's family in their house at 259/1, East Goran. "Sumon was polite and there was no case against him. His killing is abominable and it should be investigated who had directed Rab to kill

him," said Marzina. Sumon's namaj-e-janaza will be held after johr prayers today and he will be buried at Azimpur Graveyard later.

After a tip-off, a joint team of Pallabi

and Savar police arrested Saidur Rahman, an absconding criminal, on Dhaka-Aricha Highway at Amin Bazar at about 9:30pm Monday. He was going to Savar in a car.

PALLABI

Billah from the car. During interrogation at Pallabi Police Station, Saidur confessed to having illegal firearms hidden in Sagufta NM Housing area, said a police press release.

The police also picked up Masum

Following the statement, a police

team led by assistant police commis-

sioner of Mirpur took him there at

2:25am yesterday. "As soon as the policemen reached the area, criminals lying in wait there opened fire and hurled bombs at them," reads the press release, adding that police too fired in self-defence.

At one stage of the gunfight, Saidur got shot. Sub-Inspector Syeduzzaman and Assistant Subhurt in the shootout, police said. Police rushed Saidur to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), but doctors declared him dead on arrival.

RAJSHAHI'ENCOUNTER'

During interrogation at Rab headquarters in Raishahi, Buddu admitted and promised to assist Rab in netting

Buddu managed to flee from the

2003 when four policemen were murdered and several firearms were looted.

Bhadraghat in 2000.

"There are around 2,500 C&F The government has already agents in the country. It may sound unbelievable, but their combined tax invigorated. payment had been less than Tk 1

emphasis on the CIC. Formed last year, the cell so far

The CIC will also be equipped

The cell's monitoring also helped

Transit, port use Indian High Commissioner in

Bangladesh Veena Sikri stressed

the need for regular dialogue for

removing all mistrust between the two neighbouring countries. The people of Bangladesh are very friendly towards India, she

Diplomats, former ambassadors, members of parliament, high government officials and economists participated in the open discussion.

FROM PAGE 16 three years and said Sundav's defeat had not triggered his deci-"I took this decision independently of

the outcome of the referendum on the

European constitution." he said.

Promotion of the loyal Villepin could be a sign Chirac intends to fight back after the referendum humiliation and keep open his options for seeking a third term in 2007. A career diplomat, aristocrat and

sometime poet. Villepin won applause at the United Nations and plaudits at home on the right and the left for opposing the US-led war in

India's relations with China and Pakistan are also improving, he Iraq, but angered and frustrated Speaking on the occasion, Washington.

Villepin

Narsingdi by-polls

AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed was given the charge of Sutrapur and Kotwali thanas, Kazi Zafarullah of Lalbagh, Amir Hossain Amu of Mirpur and Pallabi, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim of Ramna and Tejgaon, Suranjit Sengupta of Dhanmondi and Mohammadpur. Abdur Razzak of Motijheel, Sabujbag and Khilgaon, Motia Chowdhury of Demra and

15 hurt

Chowdhury of Gulshan.

FROM PAGE 1 depot keeper, who also received burn injuries.

Shyampur, and Syeda Sajeda

The blaze also burnt several shops adjacent to the building. Three teams of the Fire Brigade from its headquarters, Postogola and Sadarghat stations reached the area at about 7:00am and brought

Firefighters Chand Mia, Fazlul

Hag. Imran. Faisal. Nasiruddin Bepari, Jahangir, Abul Kashem. Mizan. Mahtab and Sattar were injured while trying to douse the fire. "They were injured in explosions of containers of chemicals," said a

Fire Brigade officer.

loss of Tk 15 lakh.

the fire under control by 8:00am.

Some of the injured received treatment at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. Later, Station Officer Chand Mia and diver Fazlul were shifted to a clinic in The injured locals are Sumon,

Fazlur Rahman, Farug and Manik.

Owner of the depot, Nazma

Begum, said the fire caused her a

FROM PAGE 16 the Liberation War of 1971 Some labourers while digging

around 10:30am came across 23 hand grenades stored in a clay pot. As they dug further, they found three more grenades, a rocket launcher, a pipe bomb, and a blank

magazine of a light machine gun

(LMG) at around eight feet below the ground. The pipe bomb is nearly one foot long and has a fin attached to its back and a fuse on its head. "It (the bomb) is usually used during wars," said Sub Inspector Mahfuz, who

had received training in firearms from Bangladesh Army. Deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of

safe place inside the police station. We are not yet sure whether they are live or not. We are waiting for army experts to examine those,'

He said that the weapons are rusted, making the inscriptions illegible. "Pakistani forces might have dumped those in 1971 when they

tion buried underground," the SP said replying to a guestion.

fleet of surveillance planes, several C-130 transporters and more than a dozen helicopters. The Italian army announced vesterday that four Italians were

killed in southern Iraq when their

military helicopter crashed during

The new Iraqi Air Force has a small

where Italian troops are based "came down overnight for reasons that remain to be determined."

29 and 39. base after dropping off an Italian

"Shortly after take-off from Camp Buehring base, where the aircraft stopped for refuelling, radio contact was lost." The wreckage was found several hours later. Their deaths bring to 24 the

the army said.

military coalition. a November 2003 truck bombing that killed 17 soldiers and two civil-

Liberation War

earth inside Shibganj Police Station

for foundation of a building at

Chapainawabganj yesterday visited the scene. "We have kept the munitions in a

said Superintendent of Police Moinul Islam.

used the police station as a military camp," he added. "We stopped the construction work after the incident. We will request the army experts to determine whether there is a possibility of

finding more firearms and ammuni-

Iraq governor FROM PAGE 16

the night near the city of Nasiriyah, It said in a statement that the helicopter, based at Tallil airport,

southern Iraq, it added. The soldiers were aged between The helicopter was returning to soldier at Kuwait City who was

returning home for family reasons,

The crash happened about 20

kilometres southeast of Nasiriyah in

number of Italians killed since Rome deployed some 3,000 troops to Iraq in June 2003 as part of a US-led

The highest single death toll was

nstrument of regional cooperation. Answering questions on a wide

fix a timeframe for resolving the Kashmir issue which has defied Singh, however, asserted, "I will

The Indian premier said "not

ture" and that the first and foremost pre-condition which he conveyed to Musharraf was that "terrorist elements must be fully under control." "If we have a major attack like the one on the Indian Parliament [in 2002] or Jammu and Kashmir state assembly, it could upset the whole process," Singh said.

Chittagong Chamber of

ADDRESS Sabujbagh police said "Sumon" is accused in three cases, one each for murder, rape and theft in 1996 and 1997. But there is no accused named "Sumon" in the chargesheet of the 1996 murder case. They said a man first entered the In the charge-sheets of the rape