Low turnout, fake

FROM PAGE 1 held in a free, fair and transparent manner. He denied the allegation of false voting and capture of polling

Turnout of voters was thin as people had a little enthusiasm about the by-election due to the boycott by the main opposition party. Most of the polling centres wore a deserted look three to four hours after the balloting started at 8:00am.

Different election observer oups including National Election Observation Council and Bangladesh Centre for Human Rights and Development in their preliminary reports said the voters' turnout was very low in the by-polls.

Khokon, a former Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) general secretary, and Munna were the main contestants to win the seat that fell vacant at the death of BNP lawmaker Shamsuddin Ahmed Ishaq.

Munna and his supporters came under attack at the Narsingdi Government Girls' School centre by the ruling party men from their party office in front of the school.

"Police and other law-enforcers

were at the centre but they did not come to rescue me when the BNP cadres swooped on me," Munna

alleged.
After driving Munna and his supporters away from Satirpar area, the BNP men brought out procession chanting slogans against the independent candidate.

Munna later led a procession to the returning officer's office but it came under police attack while the Station Road area at about 3:00pm.

The cops intercepted the procession and charged batons on Munna's supporters when they tried to break the police barricade. They however allowed Munna and a few of his election agents to meet the returning officer (RO).

Munna submitted a written complaint to the RO alleging that the supporters of the ruling alliance candidate forced his agents to leave different polling centres. He accused the administration of working for the BNP candidate.

He said the alliance supporters drove away his agents from Narsingdi Govt Girls School, Satirpar KK High School Bhelanagar Govt Primary School, Madhabdi SP Institute, Brahmandi Govt High School, Shalidha Govt Primary School, Brahmanpara Govt Primary School and Shahepratap Govt Primary School centres.

Munna accused the polling officers of slowing down the process of vote casting in char areas where he claimed a huge number of voters turned up to cast their votes. He felt that the slow vote casting would only help the ruling alliance candidate.
But Khokon refuted his competi-

tor's allegation and said people cast their votes peacefully and without any intimidation. Asked about the attack on Munna and his supporters and the capture of polling centres Khokon said he was not aware of

The Daily Star correspondents while visiting different centres found at least two centres at Brahmhandi and Satirpar captured by the ruling party men

Local BNP leader Monjur-e-Elahi led a group of about 30 youths who forcibly entered the Brahmandi KK Government School polling centre at

When the group started fake voting at the centre, Presiding Officer ARM Anisuzzaman challenged them but the BNP leader

warned him of dire consequences. The Satirpar KK Institution centre was also captured in the same way. Around 4,500 law-enforcers including army and paramilitary BDR, were on duty during the eighthour balloting that ended at 4:00pm without any break. There were 15

striking forces, 41 mobile forces and

SITUATION OF SOME POLLING

Unusual vote casting and fake voting were found at Shalidha Government Primary School centre. According to the presiding officer, in the first hour of the balloting, a total of 1.200 votes were cast out of the

"It takes two minutes to cast a vote but sometimes women take more time to cast their votes compared to the male," said Giasuddir med, the presiding officer.

Asked how 1,200 votes were cast only one hour. Ahmed replied There was a huge rush of voters in the morning and we have sever Police arrested two boys at the

centre on charges of fake voting. The arrestees, Idris Ali and Saddam Hossain, told The Daily Star that one Bachchu, belonging to the local BNP unit, had sent them for casting fake

When The Daily Star correspondents went to Narsingdi Government Girls High School centre at 10:00am a handful of voters were found casting their votes. The assistant presiding officers and polling agents

were found gossiping.
Presiding Officer KN Tamjidul Alam said some 600 votes had been cast till 10:00am.

At the Duttapara Government Primary School centre, the vote casting was unusually slow. The presiding officer of the centre said ,050 votes had been cast till

voters' presence at the Narsingdi Pilot High School was also thin. Mohammad Shahidullah, presiding officer of the centre, said ,100 votes had been cast till

A mobile court arrested two youths -- Abdul Quddus and Hajrat -- from Dilalpur Govt Primary School Centre on charge of roaming around the centre with sharp weap-

At the Basail Government Primary School Centre, Munna's agent Nurul Islam was beaten up allegedly by the alliance workers at about 8:00am.

At the Narsingdi Women's College Centre, Munna's polling agents Abid Hossan Rinku and Asad ossain Bhuiyan were driven away by their opponents at about 10:30am.

HC asks govt

freed on bail," Dr Kamal said. He claimed the government has no specific evidence to prove the money laundering charge.

Opposing the bail prayer Additional Attorney General Abdur Rezak Khan said Bidisha has been accused of funnelling abroad local and foreign currencies worth Tk 21 crore. It needs to be seen what is the source of this money, Khan added.

Dr Kamal was assisted by Barrister Sara Hussain BarristerTaniib-al-Alam and Advocate Shafiuddin Bhuiyan Rezak Khan was assisted by DAG elaluddin Mollah.

Earlier on Sunday, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court once again rejected the bail petition of Bidisha in the money laundering case filed against the estranged wife of former president HM Ershad.

Bidisha was sued for money laundering on June 16 minutes after she was granted bail in all the three criminal cases filed earlier since he arrest amid a high drama.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md Mominuliah rejected her bail prayer in the latest case filed by the officerin-charge (OC) of Gulshan Police Station under Section 13 of the Money Laundering Act.

Bidisha's lawyer filed a criminal miscellaneous case against the order of Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rouf wherein her bail prayer was turned down on Saturday.

areas. JCD men also collect tol

from shops and business houses at

Waize Ghat, Islampur, Banglabazar

ers get share of the money

KABI NAZRUL COLLEGE

Sources said JCD city unit lead-

JCD college unit President Rubel is

involved in snatching, toll collection

In the past, he was nabbed

several times by Rapid Action

Battalion, police and army person-

nel during the Operation Clean

Heart for such criminal activities.

misappropriated Tk 10 lakh of the

JCD sources alleged that Rubel

But he still continues his misdeeds.

and Patuatuli.

and drug peddling.

five mobile courts.

expelled from the JCD for toll collection from a business house a few days ago, JCD sources said. College unit JCD President

Zahid and General Secretary Suion have made huge money through extortion. All owner associations of

amounts of money also from freshers at the college every year in the name of arranging their admis-

men are engaged in criminal activi-

about Tk one crore in various illegal Motijheel police meanwhile College unit JCD General Azizul Haq, JCD activists at Dhaka Secretary Omar, Kabir, Zahir, Turan, Rinku, Swapan, Jhantu, Ripon were accomplices of Rubel. Jhantu has

been arrested and Ripon was killed when he was going to deposit the in 'crossfire' a few days ago. sum in a bank Carrying a pistol. Omar tried to Police are now looking for a leader of the student body, Ruhul

collect toll from a nearby fuel station recently. But police rushed to the Sutrapur police said there are

several criminal cases against

When contacted, JCD General Secretary Shafiul Bari Babu said his organisation is very strict about criminal activities by any of its leaders and activists. "We take action whenever we get allegation of our men's links to extortion mugging or other crimes. We have taken action against many in recent times, and we have all the docu-

ments to prove it," he said. Shafiul claimed they never give shelter to any of their members involved in crimes. "We even punish if someone abuses the name of JCD for collecting toll," he added

Chuadanga

leader shot dead

BNP district vice-president and chairman of Shankarchandra Union Parishad (UP) was shot dead and his close associate wounded by unknown assailants on Wednesday

Police said Noor Ali, 45, died on the spot when the gunmen sprayed bullets on him as he was talking to a group of party workers at his Dingeda residence at 8:00pm. His close associate Zillu wounded by bullet was rushed to the hospital.

Party workers attending the meeting said two unidentified men riding a motorbike came to the house, fired three shots at Noor Ali and quickly left the place.

FROM PAGE 16 price from middlemen

Representatives from the inance ministry, Planing Commission, Bangladesh Bank Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Agrani Bank, Uttara Bank, Rupali Bank, Pubali Bank and Export Promotion Bureau have been made its mem-

The second subcommittee headed by Jute Ministry Joint Secretary (administration) Golam Mustakim will deal with jute and jutegoods production.

Its members are the representatives from the agriculture ministry, Planing Commission, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, BADC, BJA, BJEA, BJMA and BJSA.

asked to prepare reports and recommendations on the basis of existing problems and submit those in three months to the advisory

On the government's delayed release of Tk 30 crore, the meeting was told that Tk 200 crore was in fact sought to procure raw jute.

for bank loans and got another Tk 30 crore as production stopped at 15 But BJMC had to buy raw jute at

nflated rate of Tk 1,000 a maund to feed the mills and keep at least some of those operational The meeting discussed an option

of giving subsidy to the jute sector, easing the lending process and export potentials of jute and jute-Textile and Jute Secretary Md

Abdur Rashid Sarker, Shipping Secretary Md Rafigul Islam Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Sved Ataur Rahman. BJMC Chairman AF Solaiman Chowdhury, among others, were

England

FROM PAGE 16

sweeping the Texaco Trophy at home in 1997.

Australia, meanwhile, have endured a miserable start to this tour with four defeats from six matches in all forms of the game.

But Lee, who missed Sunday's loss and the shock defeat by Bangladesh the previous day, is expected to overcome shoulder trouble to play.

Without Lee's express pace, Australia's aging attack has struggled to contain aggressive batting in the series so far.

Australia are also likely to recall all-rounder Andrew Symonds, who was suspended for the first two games after breaking a team cur-

England have injury concerns over captain Michael Vaughan, who strained his groin in Tuesday's win.

Mugger

FROM PAGE 16

When they (police) reached Shaheednagar, Anwar accomplices opened fire on the law enforcers, prompting them to retaliate.

Anwar was caught in the shootout as he tried to flee from police custody. He was taken to Gouripur Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Five policemen were also injured n the encounter. They are SI Fazlul Karim, ASI Abul Hasanat, constables Shamsul Alam, Belayet and

Police recovered one rifle and some bullets from the spot.

Govt plotting

FROM PAGE 16

but eyewash that aims to link AL eaders and workers to the carnage, "The government is now forcing

notorious criminal Arman to give statement accusing Awami League of the attack," the AL leader said. Replying to a question, Zillur said

the AL will never contest the next general elections under the current caretaker government system. "We'll force the government to reform the caretaker government

system and the Election Commission." he said. He said proper democratic atmosphere will prevail if three successive national elections were

neld in free and fair manner. On internal feud, Zillur said the AL is such a big political party that discord to some extent may emerge among its leaders and activists.

PM to attend Clinton

FROM PAGE 1
The Clinton Global Initiative will provide discussion and debate on some most pressing global challenges including The Escape from Poverty, Conflict and Reconciliation in the 21st Century, Climate Change and Enhancing Governance.

This nonpartisan conference will bring together a diverse and select group of current and former heads of state, business leaders, noted academicians, and key NGO representatives to participate in a series of dynamic interactive workshops.

The meeting will device strategy on the best methods to reduce poverty, use religion as a force for reconciliation and conflict resolution, implement new business strategies and technologies to combat climate change, and strengthen governance.

The aim of the September 15-17 meeting, inaugural meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative, is to develop an agenda for action that all the participants can help implement during the coming year.

The grand event will coincide with and complement the Millennium Summit of the 60th session of the United Nation's General Assembly (UNGA). Khaleda Zia, who is also going to

attend the UNGA session, will join the Clinton Global Initiative as a sideline event and speak on poverty alleviation, official sources said. The event will bring together a

number world leaders and personalities, including President of France Jacques Chirac, King Abdullah II of Jordan, President of the Dominican Republic Leonel Fernandez Reyna, President of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanio. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Erdoð an, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Vice Premier of Israel Shimon Peres, Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger, President of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy Dr. Hernando de Soto, President of the Indian National Congress Party Sonia Gandhi, Chairman and CEO, News

Corporation Rupert Murdoch, Chairman and CEO, Time Warner Inc. Richard Parsons and Founder

and Managing Director of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh Dr. Muhammad Yunus. The conference will ask each

participant to make a specific commitment to take action in one of the areas to be discussed

Project cars

been using such jeeps or cars for long as well as personal purposes. There are instances that family

members of several ministers use the transports taken from the subordinate offices which is seriously hampering the normal activities of the offices concerned.

He said there are some ministers who have not yet returned the transports taken from their ministries' subordinated offices despite repeated reminders. However, some sensible senior ministers usually do not use additional transports unnecessarily, he said.

The official admitted that section of top bureaucrats, who wants additional vehicles besides those allotted by the government transport pool, usually pursue ministers to use extra jeep to justify their own use of jeeps from different

Bogged-down

FROM PAGE 1

sources added The airbus left Dhaka for Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport en route to Abu Dhabi at 7:30pm on Monday. But it failed to take off at 8:45pm from the airport.

The airbus could not fly even after midnight and the flight was ultimately cancelled. Biman authorities sent all the 226 passengers to three hotels at the port city at around

It caused tremendous sufferings to the stranded passengers, some of whom have already left for Abu

Thousands gather

Uttar Bangla Adibasi Lahunti Network, a combined organisation of some 17 aborigine bodies arranged the programme as part of month long arrangements in different northern districts to commemorate the Saontal's heroic struggle.

During the 1855-57 Saontal revolt, the British imperialist forces killed some two million people mostly Santals and farmers.

In the morning, a big procession of the indigenous people paraded a couple of villages. They gathered on Fazar Ali Mollah College field where discussions and cultural functions

They placed floral wreaths on the martyrs' monument built on the college ground to remember Saontal heroes including Shidhu Kanhu, Chand and Bhairab who scarified their lives for the cause of Saontals' rights

The discussions upheld the ethnic minority groups' demands for constitutional identity, compulsory primary education in their own languages, equal opportunity in jobs, protecting their cultural traditions, construction of a permanent memorial for the Saontal heroes, and establishment of a separate

Adibasi Unnayan Shanqstha (AUS) consultant William Nablet, a of Unicef Rajshahi representative Abdul Latif, ASED president Dubin Kisku, Executive Director of Adibasi Bikash Kendro Benjamin Hasda, AUS Project Coordinator Anjia Biswas, and other aborigine leaders and development workers spoke in the meeting chaired by AUS Executive Director Bhagbat Tudu. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdul Mannan attended the meeting as chief quest.

poems admiring the revolt heroes. 3 conditions

songs, dances and recitation of

Bureau of Revenue (NBR) headed by an advisor of the rank and status of a member who will report directly to the NBR chairman. It will also have to reconstitute the Board of Directors of Sonali Bank so that they meet Bangladesh Bank's requirements for board membership, and

ensure that minimum two members

have relevant banking experience. Bangladesh's track record of fulfilling the IMF conditions against the \$500 million PRGF loan has been reasonably steady until July last year during the release of the third instalment of the loan. The instalment was later approved following an IMF waiver and the country has already received three half-yearly instalments starting from

June 2003. But the IMF warned the government that in future it will not disburse further instalment unless all the

conditions are fulfilled. According to the resolution strategies for the nationalised commercial banks, bringing Agrani Bank to the point of divestment by the end of June 2006 will require appointment of a financial advisor by mid-December this year.

Due to this delay in concluding the fourth instalment, the fifth, sixth and seventh instalments under the PRGF arrangement will now be scheduled to take place by end-December 2005, end-June 2006 and end-December 2006.

BTTB boss removed

Siemens, although it made the highest price offer of Tk 49.60 crore, as the bid winner brushing aside the lowest bidder Nortel which offered a price of Tk 33.80 crore.

Following reports in The Daily Star, the prime minister (PM) in April ordered actions against the six officials for the manipulation. At the same time, the government ordered re-tendering of the project.

Because of the role of the BTTB chairman, Bangladesh's access to the information superhighway is now being delayed by about six On April 10 in a letter to the

telecoms ministry, the Cabinet Division conveyed the prime minister's order to it and asked to inform the cabinet purchase committee about the actions taken against the guilty officials by May 15. The letter quoted the PM as asking the ministry to keep the

proceedings of the case.

If the PM's order is followed, four high officials of the BTTB and two defence officers will face departmental tribunal. The telecoms ministry, however,

Cabinet Division updated about the

did not take any steps in this regard and instead of punishing the culprits, it focused on the re-tendering of the project. On October 12, 2003, the BTTB nvited turnkey bids for an optical fibre link from Chittagong to Cox's

Bazar as well as upgrading the Dhaka-Chittagong optical fibre

link will ultimately link the country with the SEA-MÉ-WE4 submarine cable network. The cabinet purchase commit-

tee, headed by Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman scrutinised this deal before the PM's final approval. This committee criticised the BTTB for taking so

to explain to his cabinet colleagues about the wrong doings of the BTTB. The committee unanimously rejected the dubious deal and proposed to prosecute the officials responsible for such anomaly.

Dhaka FROM PAGE 16

Later, Myanmar Foreign Minister

the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

in Myanmar leading to Yangon is around 130km. Bangladesh has taken up the initiative to construct 43km roads in the first phase -Studios, but the launch itself was 23km on the Bangladesh side and 20km on the Myanmar side.

football field.

Dhaka, Delhi agree

cultural relations, said a joint press

statement issued yesterday.

Appreciating recent actions taken by Bangladesh in the border areas, the Indian side stressed the importance of continued action consular access and the need for

regular exchange of information.
The Bangladesh side also stressed the need for action against Bangladeshi miscreants and providing consular access.

Both the sides expressed satisfaction over the commencement of coordinated patrolling by the border forces of the two countries. The Bangladesh side agreed to examine the Indian proposal for coordinated patrolling on the riverine boundary

where feasible Regarding illegal cross border movement and activities, the Indian side reiterated its proposal for a high

They emphasised requirement for border fencing within and upto 150 yards of the international border. Bangladesh side stressed the need to conform to the 1975 border guidelines and avoid any action that may have adverse impact on the peace and stability in the border areas. Both sides agreed to facilitate

the India-Bangladesh border. The two sides looked forward to the early conclusion of the Treaty on Mutual Cooperation for Preventing Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances.

repair and development works along

strengthen measures to combat trafficking of women and children. India's proposal to appoint nodal officers to deal with this issue was noted by Bangladesh. Both the sides emphasised the

The two countries agreed to

need for early convening of the home secretary level talks to discuss the entire range of issues under their purview and carry forward the process of cooperation between the two countries in a constructive and positive manner. The two sides agreed to continue

boundary and decided to resume meetings of the Joint Boundary Working Groups to consider boundary-related issues in August 2005. Both the sides agreed to address the issues related to exchange of enclaves and territories in adverse

possessions as early as possible to

discussions to expedite completion of the demarcation of the land

mitigate the sufferings of people. Following discussion on sharing of the common rivers, in response to concerns raised by Bangladesh foreign secretary over the Indian River Linking Project, the Indian foreign secretary said India would not take any unilateral action, which would harm the interest of

Both the sides stressed the need for convening the Joint Rivers Commission in Dhaka at a mutually convenient time that can be pre-ceded by a meeting of the secretaries of Water Resources ministries.

faction at expanding economic and nmercial cooperation. The Indian side conveyed its sincerity to address Bangladesh's

concerns on the trade deficit, espe-

The two sides expressed satis-

Akbar FROM PAGE 16

"It is very unfortunate that the jour-

nalists always write against the BNP government that helps stimulate the profession, but don't write about the Baksal which destroyed the profes-

Solar-sail

FROM PAGE 16 is an inter-continental ballistic missile converted to deploy small

spacecraft into low earth orbit The ITAR-TASS news agency cited a senior source involved in the project as saying the spacecraft had probably come down somewhere near New Zealand.

A monitoring station in the Czech

republic that had been due to track

Cosmos 1's progress also said it had received no signals from the spacecraft. "We haven't picked up anything... we can't evaluate its chances at all," said Jiri Simunek, a

specialist at the Czech Academy of

Science's Panska Ves observation centre, said. The US organisation overseeing the project, the Planetary Society had yet to concede failure, saying that monitoring stations in Russia's Far East and Majuro in the Marshall Islands had picked up signals from

Cosmos 1. "We feel reasonably confident that what we saw was a real signal.. what this means is that we are probably in orbit, but it's not the orbit that we thought it was," the Planetary Society, which is based in Pasadena, California, said on its Internet site.

meant to reach Earth once the craft reached orbit about an hour after its launch at 19:46 GMT on Monday With the project, scientists had hoped to prove that rays of light could provide a limitless energy propulsion source for space voy-

Signals from Cosmos 1 were

Built by Russia's Lavochkin Association and the Russian Academy of Science's Space Research Institute, Cosmos carried eight triangular sails made of tough, reflective and ultra-thin Mylar, one-fifth the thickness of a plastic trash bag. Although the spacecraft weighed

only 100 kilograms (220 pounds), its

sails were together supposed to

form an enormous mirror 30 meters (100 feet) in diameter that would àbsorb enough energy to propel it at increasingly high speed.

The joint US-Russian project cost four million dollars (3.3 million euros)in private funds, with the bulk of funding coming from US Cosmos

funded by the Russian government. Nasa has begun designing its own solar spaceship capable of carrying 240 kilograms (531 pounds), with a sail the size of a cially through the removal of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers and reiterated the importance of measures like free trade agreements as

well as border trade and establish-

ment of border markets. They agreed on signing the revised Trade Agreement at an early date and said the bilateral Joint Working Group on trade, para-tariff and non-tariff barriers and on customs should meet by August 2005.

The text of the Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement, acceptable to both the countries, is ready for signature at a suitable occasion, the two sides observed with satisfaction.

Discussing issues relating to improved connectivity in the region, the two sides agreed to explore the possibility of commencing Dhaka-Guwahati, Dhaka-Shillong and Dhaka-Siliguri bus services. Bangladesh side also requested

India to facilitate a Dhaka-

Kathmandu bus service. Issues

relating to improvement of road and

rail connectivity between the two countries were also discussed. The Indian side invited Bangladesh delegation to visit in July '05 to continue discussions on the extension of a US\$150 million Line of Credit for infrastructure

projects. Bangladesh and India discussed matters relating to the tri-nation gas pipeline and agreed to carry forward further discussions in this regard.

The two sides agreed to increase cooperation in the fields of agriculture and science and technology. The Indian side offered increased training slots in India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme, including at its Institute for Training of Highway

The two sides expressed satisfaction that a draft cultural exchange programme had been agreed upon and could be signed shortly.

They stressed the importance of high level exchanges, including

visits by parliamentary delegations. They exchanged views on regional and international issues, Affairs E Ahamed. including India's candidature for

permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council.

The Indian foreign secretary mentioned that the Indian prime minister was looking forward to attending the forthcoming 13th Saarc summit to be held in Dhaka.

Appreciating the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to him and his delegation during their stay in India, the Bangladesh foreign secretary invited his Indian counter part to visit Dhaka for the next round of the foreign secretary level meeting, which the latter accepted with

Bangladesh also welcomed the proposed visit by the Indian Minister Commerce and Industry to

Both the sides made commitment to constructively work for further promotion of bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefits of the two

neighbouring peoples. Bangladesh High Commissione (designate) to India Liaquat Ali Chowdhury, Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh Masud Bin Momen, Director-General (South Asia) of foreign ministry`Fazlul Kárim, Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry Mohammad Mohsin, Joint Secretary of the Commerce Ministry Elias Ahmed and government officials accompanied the Bangladesh

foreign secretary during the talks. The Indian foreign secretary was assisted by High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Veena Sikri, Joint Secretary (BSM) Neelam Deo and senior officials of various ministries and departments of the Indian government.

Representatives from the State

Governments of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and West Bengal During his 3-day stay in New elhi, Hemayetuddin called on Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil Minister for Commerce and Industry Kamal Nath, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Mani Shankar Aiyar and State Minister for External

46 Talibans killed

FROM PAGE 16 'Forty-six Taliban were killed and we have their dead bodies with us." he said, adding that 23 guerrillas had been captured.

Khan said the guerrillas were

from the group that had taken over Mian Nishin, about 400 km southwest of Kabul, and been chased out by Afghan troops on Tuesday. Moore said US Tankbuster" aircraft, British Harrier

nelicopters had taken part in Tuesday's offensive. "Coalition warplanes and attack helicopters hammered enemy

jets and US AH-64 Apache attack

positions throughout the evening, "Initial battle damage assess-ments estimate approximately 40 enemy killed in the fighting," she said, adding that the air strikes were launched after US-led ground forces came under attack from small-arms and rocket-propelled

grenades.

She said one soldier from the Afghan National Army had been killed and five US troops wounded. four police officers had been killed and three wounded Taliban spokesman Abdul Latif Hakimi said there had been bomb-

had been captured. Hundreds of people have died in a surge in militant violence in recent months, raising concerns about the elections, the next big step in Afghanistan's difficult path to stabil-

ing in the area but that the guerrillas

had suffered no casualties and none

Elsewhere overnight, govern-

Taliban-linked commander, Saaduddin Yaqoubzada, in the western province of Farah, district chief Mohammad Salim said

ment forces clashed with those of a

Galib FROM PAGE 16 case under the Explosives

Earlier, Galib had been shifted to Bogra from Naogaon Jail amid tight security on June 20. The case was filed against Galib Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh JMJB) Chief Abdur Rahman, JMJB

bomb squad members Shafiqullah

Joynal and his wife Monwara.

Substance Control Act on July 30

Additional District and Sessions Judge-1 and Special Tribunal Courtjudge Iftekhar Rasul Siddiqui rejected the bail petition when Galib was produced before the court. In the petition, Galib's lawyers claimed that the allegations brough

by the police against Galib are intentional and that the police alleged Galib of carrying explosives as they failed to identify the real carriers. Additional Public Prosecutor (APP) Azgar Ali informed the court that Galib, Shafikullah, Joynal and Abdur Rahman (absconding) held a

secret meeting at the Panchlaish Mosque of Ğabtoli upazila on January 12. On January 14, a rickshaw-van driver was killed in a bomb blast during a local cultural show at Lakkhikola village under Shahjahanpur upazila in Bogra

Shafikullah confessed of Joynal's

link with the blast, the APP noted.

Two Interpol men

last year.

ever, declined to comment on the Assassins killed 23 people including AL women affairs secretary Ivy Rahman and maimed about 200 people by hurling several grenades at an AL meeting on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21

Department (CID) of police, how-

Special Superintendent Ruhul Amin s supervising it. The investigators had failed to detect the motive and people behind the attack even 10 months into the

Police (CID) Abdur Rashid has been

tasked with the probe and CID

Assistant Superintendent of

(Rab) arrested Arman, one of 23 most wanted criminals, on June 3, the government said he revealed 'crucial clues' to the carnage. Police arrested Mokhlesur and George following his interrogation and the government hinted the

August 21 grenade attack mystery

might be resolved soon.

But after Rapid Action Battalion

The government on June 13 in a letter asked the Interpol Headquarters at Lyon in France to dispatch officials to assist Bangladeshi investigators following the 'disclosures' made by the two arrestees. Beauchemin, Grey and Vu

arrived at Zia International Airport (ZIA) by a Thai Airways flight No. TG-321 at 11:54am. Assistant Inspector General of Police (Interpol) Anwar Kamal received the experts, who went to

the US embassy in Baridhara. Sources said they sat with CID officials including the investigators at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. CID officials, meanwhile, kept

officials and FBI agent.

declined to say where the three were staying. Sources said the Interpol and FBI agents will not probe the incident but just assist local investigators in their investigation.

and FBI members. He even

State Minister for Home

Lutfozzaman Babar on June 15

admitted the government had

invited Interpol, but denied inviting The largest international police organisation in the world formed in 1923 to facilitate cross-border criminal police cooperation, Interpol sent two agents eight days after the grenade attack. They were Jeffry Evles, an expert on public safety and terrorism affairs, and

Jacqueline Pullums, a US analyst of

civilian terrorism.

After they returned to Lyon, Interpol specialist on public safety and security Marash Vucilaj and an expert on terrorism Chinese Xin Hu arrived on September 1. FBI forensic expert Gibson Wilson also flew in the same day. Trung Vu flew in on February 9, two days after the US ambassador

had met the prime minister in

response to the government's

request for FBI assistance to probe the Habiganj grenade attack. AL lawmaker and former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and four others were killed and about 70 injured in the Habiganj attack on

January 27. Two Interpol officials -- Japanese Hiroshi Sumi and US Marc Beauchemin -- flew in on January 31

as an advanced team to assess the expertise and logistics required for proper investigations into the mum about the visit of the Interpol August 21 attack, grenade attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Contacted after their arrival, CID ASP Abdur Rashid declined to say Choudhury in Sylhet and the anything about the mode and juris-Habiganj carnage.

100 JCD men

nearby business houses and markets have to pay toll to JCD leaders regularly, sources alleged.

also denied making money by collecting toll and such other ways arrested Golam Ohab Liton and College, for mugging Tk 12 lakh from the manager of a Jewellery at Baitul Mokarram market on Sunday

Mirpur-1 area. Police arrested Ali a

A group of JCD leaders allegedly sheltered by a ward commissione of the city corporation collect toll from local traders. Sources said a group of JCD

couple of months ago for extortion

bid at a local business house,

ties. "Those who were involved in such activities have been expelled from the organisation," he said. He

College unit JCD President Riaz, former general secretary Mohammad Ali and former sports

TEJGAON COLLEGE

men led by Elim, Dhanmondi thana unit JCD president, control toll

JAGANNATH COLLEGE Shahed, Dipu and Harun were A former JCD leader is responsible for all toll collection in the adjacent

They allegedly take handsome sion to it. Zahid however denied that JCD

college student union and made

MIRPUR BANGLA COLLEGE Rubel and Omar **JCD VERSION** secretary Zafor lead separate groups for snatching, collecting toll and other criminal activities in

collection in New Model Degree College areas in Sukrabad.

UNB, Chuadanga

Tension mounted in the area following the death of the BNP

Two bodies

The meeting has formed a subcommittee headed by Jute Ministry Joint Secretary (policy) Golam Mostafa to deal with financial problems in the sector as a whole and in the BJMC-run mills in particular.

The subcommittees have been

The ministry and BJMC pleaded

A bow and arrow competition

ransmission link. The optical fibre

much time to process the deal. The telecoms minister has failed

Nyan Win came to Bangladesh in February this year and laid the foundation of a bridge at Taunbro on The distance from Bangladesh border to the existing union highway

The direct road link between Dhaka and Yangon is also necessary for establishing road communications with Thailand and China.

was also arranged to mark the struggle.
Later, aborigines performed a cultural function that included