## Suicide bombers

Awal with them to arrest Murad and the others from the New Slum area in the district. Panchagarh District Senior Police Super Skeikh Nazmul Alam led

Murad told The Daily Star that he is the key planner of the operations to kill the judges in the district. "I had planned to kill the judges including District Judge Rashidul Hasan Patwari two times earlier but failed due to police vigilance at the court and at the judges' residential area," he said adding that a person named Rakib (alias) hailing from Dinajpur, who is the district leader of JMB, had instructed him to kill the judges.

"Awal met me in my residence Friday morning and gave me two packets containing bomb making materials. He asked me not to open the packets until further instruction. We had an hour long meeting and I took him to the bus terminal to see him off Friday afternoon," Murad said.

He said he had met Bangla Bhai and Abdur Rahman during his five-day stay in Bagmara upazila when he took part in operations against the Sarbaharas (different factions of underground armed left groups) there.

"A month and a half after the August 17 serial blast across the country, the IMB high command directed us to establish Islamic rule in the country by killing the judges and from then on we have been planning to kill the judges,'

He claimed himself as a former activist of the Debiganj unit of the ruling alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and said he joined the JMB in 2002 during the US attack on Afghanistan when one of his friend Jamil, also a former ICS member, asked him to join the outfit.

"At least 300 IMB cadres including myself were trained in operating AK-47s, 9mm pistols, and six shooters on Tistar Char (shoal on the Tista River) area under Haragas upazila in Rangpur. We used to stay in different mosques as members of Tablig Jamaat," he said.

"If the JMB high command had approved my plan to kill the district judge before the killing of the two judges in Jhalakathi then our suicide squad members would come to the district and kill the judge," he said. "I don't know whether anyone will come

The police have been interrogating Murad till filing of this report at 2:00pm. Panic gripped the people in the two district headquarters since the arrests of several JMB cadres in the last

Judges of the districts expressed fear for their lives. Additional police have been deployed on the court premises and the residential areas of the judges in both the districts.

Police Super of Panchagarh Shafiqul Islam told journalists that they have foiled JMB's plan to kill the judges, as they have been alert. "Security has been beefed up in the district and the police have been asked to stay alert," he said. "The plans of the IMB could not be executed as we have been alerted." SECURITY BEEFED UP INTANGAIL

Our Tangail correspondent reports that plainclothesmen of different intelligence agencies have been keeping strict watch on different mosques Tangail fearing possible bomb attacks by members of the Islamist suicide squads of the banned JMB and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh

The law enforcers deployed additional plainclothesmen around the mosques before the Juma prayers on Friday, intelligence sources said.

A suicide squad of the JMB killed two judges, Shohel Ahmed and Jagannath Pandey, in Jhalakathi on Monday.

After the incident the Tangail police beefed up security around the judge court, quarters of the judges, the district jail and at other strategic installations of the district headquarter. Several check posts have also been set

Earlier during the Ramadan, the JMB had threatened to blow up the district jail through leaflets circulated at the district headquarter mosque. AWALON REMAND

Our Dinajpur and Rajshahi correspondents report that the Thakurgaon police took six Islamist militants including Awal, the number three man of the seven-member Majlish-e-Sura which is the leading core of the JMB, to a 10-day remand. The police said they produced the militants to the court asking for a 15-day remand but the court granted 10 days. Awal, who used to look after the financial matters and the logistics of weapons procurement for the JMB, was scheduled to be handed over to the Joint Interrogation

# Charge sheet

The locals caught Akhtar minutes after the attack on October 18 and handed him over to police.

During interrogation, he admitted that he had taken the bombs from a small room of the Bhangatikor mosque rest house in the afternoon of October him on a rickshaw to the Kumarpara area of the city to carry out the attack. He had been in Sylhet since September 20 and had two known leaders there, but he declined to give more details in this regard. The bombs were concealed in a lunch box, he added.

He said that he was involved with the JMB since 2001 and was an activist of the Islami Chhatra Shibir since 1996.

Based on Akhtar's confessiona statement, police arrested Obayed from Bishnupur of Chandpur district on November 10 and brought him to Sylhet the next day. After a four-day remand, he was sent to jail on November 16.

During the remand, Obayed denied his complicity with the incident, claiming that he had never been to Sylhet However, he admitted that his brotherin-law hails from Sarishabari of Jamalpur, from where Akhtar hails.

Police will soon press charges agains Akhtar, Obayed and Delwar in the other case in connection with the bomb attack on the judge, an official informed. Delwar, who had rented the room in the mosque rest house, could not be arrested vet. Police hunted him in different areas of the country during the last one month.

A madrasa student and JMB activist Delwar hailing from Muktagachha of Mymensingh district, came to Sylhet a month before the attack and rented the said room, from which police recovered bomb making materials following

Judge killing

Chowdhury said the lawyers of the country are concerned at the killing of  $the \,two \,judges\,in\,Jhalakathi.$ 

He urged the people and lawyers to build up a united resistance to the

declaring a set of programmes.

The BNP-led ruling alliance, which has rejected the opposition's demands for reforms in the caretaker government system and the Election Commission before the next parliamentary polls, will decide its strategy, observing the outcome of the opposition's November 22 rally, sources in

between two JS sessions does not exceed 60 days.

The Business Advisory Committee will sit prior to the session to decide the duration of the session.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar last week hinted that the 19th session will

If the session witnesses 18 workdays, the political scenario will take a dramatic turn, observing whether the AL attends the session to save the membership of its chief Sheikh Hasina, which will be vacated as she  $did\,not\,attend\,parliamentary\,sessions$ for the last 72 consecutive days.

According to the constitution, a lawmaker will lose his/her membership if s/he remains absent from parliamentary sessions for 90 consec-

However, the AL policymakers are not worried about it at the moment. They are rather busy to make the grand rally a success, making hectic campaigns in the districts around the capital and urging people to join the

Meanwhile, many AL lawmakers have submitted a number of notices to the parliament secretariat, demanding discussions on different important issues, including the August 21 grenade attack, the brutal killings of two judges, Monga and the law and order situation.

The lawmakers of the second largest opposition party in parliament, Jativa Party (JP), have also submitted notices, demanding

"But I am sure that the ruling party will not hold any discussion on any burning issue," JP lawmaker GM Quader, who has submitted several notices for discussion, told The Daily

Star vesterday. Besides the regular question answer session, the House is expected to pass a number of bills at this sesDRAMA BLAST CASE

### Galib to be produced in court today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Asadullah Al Galib, chief of Ahle Hadith Andolan Bangladesh (Ahab), will be produced before Gaibandha Sessions Judge's Court today for the hearing in the Takierbazar drama stage bombing case.

Amid tight security Galib was transferred to Gaibandha from Bogra Friday night. He was put in Gaibandha jail with additional forces deployed in and around the jail.

A case was filed with the Palashbari Police Station against 22 people for the bombing of a drama stage at Takierbazar on December 20, 2004 that injured 15. Police later submitted charge sheet against six people relieving 16 others.

### Death threat to Sirajganj iournalist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A local journalist received death threat on Friday night from an unidentified miscreant that created panic among the journalists of the district.

The miscreant phoned Swapan Mirza. Enavetpur upazila correspondent of the Dhaka-based daily Dainik Amardesh and threatened to kill him with bombs. He was also warned not to inform police, saying if he does, all his family members will be killed by

The leaders of Sirajganj Press Club condemned the incident and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the miscreants.

A general diary was filed with the Enayetpur Police Station.

### 27th BCS test

the BCS exam. Find somebody else.'

On the other hand, condemnations and protests swept through the country yesterday against the question leak. A number of political social, cultural and student bodies demanded immediate cancellation of the examination and stern action against those involved in the leak.

Students of Dhaka University (DU) brought out a procession and staged demonstrations on the campus demanding cancellation of the

A combine of seven student organisations led by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri and Bangladesh Chhatra Union also took out processions and held rallies demanding resignation of the education minister. and the PSC chairman for their failure to bring the culprits to book.

Our Raishahi corresponden reports: Leaders of Rajshahi University (RU) BCL and Pragotishil Chhatra Jote brought out separate processions and held rallies demanding immediate cancellation of the examination and resignation of the PSC chairman and the education minister. Otherwise, they threat ened to launch tougher agitation.

PCJ leaders alleged cadres of Iativatabadi Chhatra Dal (ICD) and Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS), the student wings of ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, jointly carried out the leak and distributed copies of the questions among their co-workers at every university dormitory. The RU PCJ demanded of the government to identify the culprits immediately and

award them exemplary punishment. An RU BCL team led by the unit General Secretary Ayeen Uddin also placed the demands to RU Vice Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain at his office. The team requested the VC to immediately inform the education minister about the question leak and to ask him to announce a fresh date

## Ershad's JP

favour" the four-party alliance candidate Jamaat leader Moulana Aftabuddin Mollah for the December 5 by-election in Dinajpur-1.

Sheel is now contesting the election as an independent candi-Intra-party conflicts in the belea-

guered IP have also surfaced in several districts including Bagura, Dinajpur, Barisal, and Thakurgaon while the leaders deserting the JP are reportedly mobilising support for creating yet another JP.

Several JP big wigs blamed Ershad for the recent troubles in the party.

"If he cannot still clear his position he will lose the bargaining power before the elections. Besides he will have to identify the bad elements in the party who are actually working for the interest of some

other party," said a party leader. However, Ershad, apparently unfazed by Prodhan's leaving, told the JP presidium members, "The party has got rid of a 'bad element'."

## Outdoor ad business | Gulshan Lake

was 'the most obvious nepotism' going

be it the DCC or a government agency that owns ad spot sought, they get quick approval offor setting up ad apparatus, others' adfirmsfiles remain put on ice.

and FY05) has earned only Tk 70 lakh against a target to the tune of Tk 30 crore

MONOPOLISATION was spawned by the Good Governance and Development Committee of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). project, the DCC on August 26 last year avenues including the medians, islands, and government organisations to beautify and maintain them for the next four years.

Advance AD was entrusted with the road sections from the Bijov Sarani Fountain to Agargaon Link Road beside Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre and from Jahangir Gate via Mohakhali rail crossing to Kakoli crossroads.

Arkay Group received the road section between Farm Gate and Bangla Motors, the road-island at Farm Gate, the roundabout at the eastern end of Manik Miah Avenue, Panthakunia Park beside Sonargaon Hotel and the road corner in front of Pharmadesh Laboratory premises in Teigaon.

allowed to display a small signboard of their own in their respective lots.

But the practices of Advance AD and Arkay Group have been quite contrary to the conditions set by the DCC Beautification Cell. Business insiders said, right from the start, the pair has been making a fast buck by using the roads and roadsides for displaying billboards, neon signs, megasigns, unipoles and digital display screens of giant business houses in exchange of

Bijoy Sarani Fountain to Agargaon Link Road under Advance AD are saturated

the ad spots with corrugated tin before setting up advertisement boards there, even along Bijoy Sarani, which distinguishes it from other ad houses. "If we see an ad board is being installed by fencing in the spot, we know Advance AD is doing the job, because no one would be allowed to erect a fence on footpaths or in the middle of a road except Advance AD," an adman remarked.

Arkay has been equally active in misusing its trust. It has been renting ad spaces at all the DCC lots assigned to it at cut-throat rates. A number of Unilever ads now occupy Panthakunja and surrounds the roundabout, while the citizens have been barred from entering the park since September last year, when its face-lifting completed. The case is the same for the road medians, the roundabout and roadsides of Manik Miah

Besides, Arkay installed a huge digital ad display board at Farm Gate. Though Arkay officials refused to disclose the rate, business insiders said, on an average, it charges a client Tk 10 lakh to 12 lakh a month for displaying its advertisement on the huge screen hung on the side of a cinema hall.

According to sources, Advance AD charges its clients Tk one lakh to as high as Tk 10 lakh a year for a billboard, depending on its size. In case of unipoles, it takes Tk 3 lakh to Tk 5 lakh based on its size and advantage of the

But, according to the Tax Schedule of 2002, the rate for billboards on private

property was only Tk 3 per square foot

and Tk 6 per sq ft on lands owned by the

DCC or the government. Even though

the government has restructured the

rates recently, fixing them at Tk 50 per sq

ft in case of private property and Tk 150

in case of DCC or government land, the

charges Advance AD make are really

The rates for neon signs have also

been increased from Tk30 to Tk75 per sq

ft in case of private property and from Tk

75 to Tk 150 in case of DCC or govern-

Business sources alleged, using their

political clout, Advance AD and Arkay

Group have been making the DCC and

other government agencies concerned,

like Roads and Highways, cancel exist

ing deals with other ad firms on outdoor

advertisements and then grab those

DCC evicted the admen and ad firms

from Airport Road about two years ago,

stating that no ad would be allowed

there from then on. But, later it handed

had a number of ads on Airport Road.

After the DCC had issued the order, I

withdrew the billboards. When my firm

and a few others, who had also been

evicted, tried to get permission from

Bangladesh Railway and the Dhaka

Cantonment authorities to set up

billboards on their lands as an alterna-

tive, we failed. But Advance AD did get

to Uttara, Advance AD has installed

unipoles and billboards, breaking the

road dividers, in violation of the DCC

advertisement guidelines, which pro-

hibits setting up any billboard on road

medians. It also has installed unipole

ads on Bangladesh Railway land along

sion to install advertisements on the

road median of Manik Miah Avenue

which no company ever did. Driving out

another house, it is now in the process of

setting up a digital billboard on

It charges extremely high rates for

displaying billboards along the road

from ZIA to Uttara. It takes Tk 10 lakh to

Tk 15 lakh a vear per billboard, meaning

its annual income from this route alone

Advance AD, however claimed, "We

have installed the billboards with per-

mission of the respective authorities. It's

not true that Advance AD is using power

for doing business, rather, it's doing

business according to the general rules

Advance AD Chairman Arafat Rahman,

one of his employees conveyed his

reluctance to talk on the issue.

ing the DCC in this regard.

When The Daily Star tried to contact

However, Arkay Group Director

Mizanur Rahman did talk. He said over

telephone that they have been doing

business legally and suggested contact-

Executive Officer and Beautification Cell

Convenor M Saifuddin Ahmed for his

comments on the issue. He said, "We

will look into the matter, so that in future

advertisements of other organisations

are not installed on (beautified) road

chaired by the then DCC chief executive

officer maintained that billboards had

mushroomed in the city and needed to

be brought under control. The meeting

decided to remove the billboards and

other outdoor advertisements from

DCC land and not to renew the ad

The DCC in the last two fiscal years

On July 19, 2003, after expiry of the

(FY04 and FY05) has earned only Tk 70

lakh against its target of some Tk 30 crore

contracts with admen, the DCC disman-

tled the advertisements expressly to

beautify the city by reducing 'vision

pollution'. They then decided to allow

installed. But, now the city sky has once

again become cluttered with a huge

number of unapproved billboards,

unipoles, neon signs and other ads,

only a small number of billboards to be

contracts expiring on June 30, 2003.

from the ad sector.

thanks to whom?

Earlier, on July 15, 2003, a meeting

The Daily Star contacted DCC Chief

Mizanur Rahman, an official of

Panthapath too.

is around Tk30 crore.

and regulations.

The firm also has received permis-

the rail-tracks parallel to Airport Road.

From Zia International Airport (ZIA)

A victim of that eviction said, "I also

the route over to Advance AD.

It was why, some firms alleged, the

EVICTION & CAPTURE

their old-style housing settlement intact, the government in 1991 declared Batera Mouza derequisitioned. However, the decision is yet to see any gazette notification.

"According to the official map, the de-requisitioned area of Batera Mouza extends over the lake, where private owners have bought, sold and resold hundreds of acres of land over the years. Many of them also have taken large loans from banks by mortgaging the lake areas in their possession," Islam told The Daily Star.

"All we can do now to stop developers from filling up the lake is to file cases under the Wetland Protection Act," he said, adding hundreds of such cases are now pending with the

Commissioner of DCC Ward 18 Mohammad Anwar Hossain said the site marked by a signboard reading Gulshan Lakeview Housing Project he is filling is a private land far away from the lake. "This is not the lake. You see that tall Mariam Tower -- it is built in the lake. But we are far behind that building.'

Throughout yesterday workers were seen dumping earth and rubbish into the lake on the northern side of Manarat Link Road. Rafiqul Islam, a resident of Shahjadpur, said the biggest mistakes of the government were not to demarcate the lake and readjust the boundary of Batera

Emdadul Islam said considering the massive value of the lakebed, Rajuk thought it would be impossible for the government to acquire it. So, in 2001, Rajuk proposed to acquire a forty-foot-wide strip of land along the lake on the Shahjadpur side to build a walkway and demarcate the waterbody in order to save it from grabbers. But the project proposal is still gathering dust at the Planning Commission.

Office-bearers of Gulshan Society vesterday expressed their concern at the lake filling. Mohammad Anwarul Alam, general secretary of the society, said the lake must be demarcated immediately, adding, "We have been appealing to the government to do that time and again to save the lake."

### **Journalists**

Goutam Das, Faridpur bureau chief of Dainik Samakal, was strangled in his office on Wednesday night.

Journalists' leaders in Dhaka yesterday strongly protested the killing of Gautam Das and gave a three-day ultimatum to the government to arrest the killers.

Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUI) at a rally on the Jatiya Press Club premises threatened to go for a tougher action programme against the government if it failed to arrest the culprits involved in the murder by the deadline. Bitterly criticising the government

for its failure to ensure the security of the journalists, the apex body of the journalist unions and the DUJ also announced a three-day programme protesting the killing.

The programmes include holding of a protest rally at Faridpur and wearing black badges

Addressing the rally on the Jatiya Press Club premises, BFUJ President Igbal Sobhan Chowdhury demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Goutam Das

The rally was addressed, among others, by BFUJ Secretary General Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and DUJ President Altaf Mahmud.

Later, the journalists took out a procession in the city

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) yesterday strongly protested and condemned the killing

Expressing grave concern over the deterioration of law and order, the business body, in a statement, also demanded arrest of and exemplary punishment to the killers.

## Road crashes

Begum, 64, her grandson Shahidul Islam, 30, and the rickshaw-puller Fazley Haque Mollah, 35, dead on the spot. The three hailed from Kalagachia village of Amtali upazila.

police after giving him a beating. The bodies were sent to a local hospital morgue for autopsy. Meanwhile, a motorcyclist died

explained, saying, "I certified him on following an accident at Kanhor in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh On the militants' anti-outlaw district, our Mymensingh corresponoperations in Bagmara last year, he dent reports. Jahangir Alam, 42, was critically

### failed to recognise them. But special Hasina condemns

Hasina in her statement urged all to launch a united movement to oust the alliance government for what she said was its failure to ensure the security of journalists.

# Hajj agencies

state minister Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin from the civil aviation ministry amidst a growing hajj flight fare fiasco.

ing 'Muallim Fees' and ticket booking that it kept suspended since November

Government but Haab yesterday appealed to the religious affairs ministry to persuade the Saudi authorities to extend the time limit by five days. Haab General Secretary Jinnur Ahmed Chowdhury Dipu told The Daily Star yesterday that the question of getting enough flights for ferrying

the pilgrims still remained unresolved

as the hajj agencies agreed to ask all

non-ballotee pilgrims to pay a fare of \$100 each more than the ballotee Area Manager of Saudi Arabian Airlines, which had traditionally been equally sharing with Biman in flying Bangladeshi pilgrims each year, is on a

visit to Jeddah and Saudia's view could

### Criminals hurl bomb at cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two criminals hurled a bomb at policemen around 7:15pm near Daulatpur bus stop in Khulna city

The bomb exploded a few yards from on duty Sergeant Faisal Ahmed and Constable Kamal of Traffic Division of Khulna Metropolitan Police. None was hurt in the explosion.

Evewitnesses said the criminals hurled the bomb from the motorbike they used for fleeing from the scene. Meanwhile, panic-struck shopkeepers closed their shops and the transport services were suspended following the attack. Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the police cordoned the area off to collect evidence.

## Rape victim dies

FROM PAGE 16 her house on November 8 night and

gang-raped her at a village school. The rapists kept Tahura and her husband Babar Ali confined in their house for two days. Tahura had a miscarriage on November 10.

Meanwhile, the rapists lodged an

extortion case against Babar's brother and other relatives on November 10 to refrain them from filing any case against them On the same day, Babar somehow freed himself and went to the Kotwali

complaint about the abduction and rape of his wife, but the police did not make any entry of it. A sub-inspector of police, however. went with Babar and rescued Tahura. He

later admitted the victim to Jessore 250-

Police Station and submitted a written

bed Hospital in a critical condition. Two days later, the gang abducted both Tahura and her husband from the hospital and took them to the police station. They forced Babar to take back his written complaint.

The police still made no effort to arrest any of the perpetrators. They, however, forced the rapists to take Tahura back to the hospital.

The gang abducted the victim again from the hospital on November 15 but returned her at night as her health deteriorated.

Tahura died at the hospital at 6:00am

the next day. Meanwhile, Resident Medical Officer Shakhawat Hossain Rono conducted a probe yesterday into Tahura's absence from the hospital and reported that the victim had not left the hospital.

A well-placed source alleged that the police are not taking action against the rapists as the culprits have links with the ruling party. Local Awami League in a statement

claimed Babar to be its activist and alleged that BNP cadres raped and killed The victim's family sources said they

But Area Manager of Qatar Airways in Bangladesh, Shamshad Ahsan said the representatives of foreign airliners would meet today to take stock of the latest situation arising out of Biman's slashing hajj flight fare from \$1150 to \$1050 within a span of just four days.

Meanwhile, newly appointed State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir is scheduled to sit with the ministry officials and Biman authorities today separately to identify the problems and chalk out programmes to address

"My first priority will be to identify the burning problems and take immediate steps to solve those. However nothing can be solved overnight. But I will try sincerely and I know if all of us try, problems can be solved," he told a local news agency yesterday

### Kashmiris cross to Pak side to search for quake survivors

AFP, Tithwal

Rivals India and Pakistan opened their frontier in earthquake-hit Kashmir yesterday to allow people to cross on foot for the first time in nearly six decades and search for relatives.

Grandmother Begun Jan became

### Car bombs

the town where the mosques were attacked, played down reports that several people linked to the bombings had been arrested, saying there were no

contractors. All told, Friday's violence left 83 people dead and more than 100 wounded, one of the bloodiest days for Iraqin recent months.

organised between Iraqi government aders and opposition figures. Addressing U.S. troops in Osan, South Korea during a tour of Asia, Bush

victory and rejecting critics' calls for a timetable for the withdrawal of 135,000 US troops. He quoted a top US commander in Iraq as saying that a deadline for pullout would be "a recipe for disaster", and

achieved the victory that our brave

### Cops want

Naogaon, Natore and Joypurhat. and "common people" were fighting

# **US** House votes

FROM PAGE 16

Democrats appear unpatriotic if they

move, Democrats voted against immediate withdrawal but condemned the administration policy.

families are shouldering this burden,' Murtha said in a speech that received several standing ovations.

Republicans unleashed vitriolic attacks on Democrats who backed Murtha.

insurgents and terrorists. While the acrimonious debate

played out in Congress, Bush had attacked critics while on a visit to a US military base in South Korea they urge us to set a date for withdrawal

"One of our top commanders in Iraq,

the first of 24 people to cross from the Indian to the Pakistan-controlled side of the disputed Himalayan region to search for surviving relatives of the October 8 quake that killed more than

strongleads in the case. The Khanagin blasts followed two suicide car-bomb attacks on a Baghdad

In Cairo, several dozen leaders from across Iraq's political and sectarian spectrum met to discuss the country's elentless insurgency and a way forward in talks sponsored by the Arab League. It was the highest level gathering so far

sober judgment of our military com-"We will fight the terrorists in Iraq, we will stay in the fight until we have

ruling party leaders including a minister and a mayor, and officials in the police and civil administration provided them assistance during their operations in Raishahi.

After the JMJB led by Bangla Bhai started open campaign and violent operations "against the outlaws" on April 2 last year, the two ministers and several police and administrative officials claimed repeatedly that there were no militants in the area

"The burden of war has not been shared equally and the military and their

Representative Joseph Wilson accused Democrats of "waving the white flag of surrender" against Iraqi

Bush said at the Osan US Air Force Base. Maior General William Webster, savs that setting a deadline for our withdrawal from Iraq would be 'a recipe for disaster'. General Webster is right," said

 $Bush's\,spokesman\,from\,South\,Korea$ 

added that "victory in Iraq is key to prevailing in the war on terrorism and aying the foundation of peace for our children and grandchildren. "We will succeed in Iraq by hunting

build the foundations for a lasting democracy in the heart of a dangerous region of the world," he added. "When victory is achieved our troops will return home with the honour they deserve.' The administration has stepped up attacks on Iraq war critics over the past week. Bush's opinion poll ratings have slumped to an all time low because of

Iraq and other domestic problems

Opponents of the US presence in Iraq

down the terrorists, training Iraqi forces

and supporting the Iraqi people as they

w make up a large majority in polls. The White House was stunned by the move from Murtha, a lawmaker who had previously been praised by Vice President Dick Chenev and others for his support.

military affairs, said Thursday: "Our military has done everything that has been asked of them, the US cannot accomplish anything further in Iraq militarily. He added: "It's time to bring them

### Abdul Hamid told The Daily Star. Meanwhile, the ruling BNP is also planning to hold a grand rally early next month, instead of confining its utive days. activities inside the parliament,

the ruling parties said. in the afternoon today will be a short one as it sits only to meet the constitutional obligation so that the gap

not have more than 10 workdays.

The current JS session beginning

discussions on different issues.

nettled admen said. As the PM's son owns Advance AD, nobody dares to raise any question about what they alleged

Whomever the two firms approach

while similar applications of although They also usually don't have to pay the rent for the ad spot straight away, the businessmen alleged, adding the rent too is but a token amount. That is why the DCC in the last two fiscal years (FY04

from the ad sector.

INNERWORKINGS

The project of Dhaka City beautification Following the PMO's approval of the handed over the major city roads and roundabouts, roadsides etc to 65 private

At the contract awarding ceremony the DCC mayor and his staff categorically warned that none of the bodies commissioned to beautify and maintain specific road areas would be allowed to use them for any commercial purposes including displaying ads. They were

The road and roadsides from the

The firm of Arafat usually fences in

Govt did mistake government did a mistake by not

timely taking into account the activi-

ties of militants based in Rajshahi

"The alliance government is now fully aware of their activities and the militants will be defeated at any cost." Asked about continuous newspaper reports on militancy since 2000, he said, "The government should have

He also said, "Abdur Rahmar

[Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh

chief] and Bangla Bhai [operations

commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata,

acted against militants long ago.'

said it is generally held.

Bangladesh] are agents of another country. They are on a mission in Bangladesh to destroy the image of Asked which country is backing militants in Bangladesh, he however

Commenting on the recent state-

ment of BNP lawmaker Abu Hena on

militancy, Minu said he [Hena] has

actions are on way to eliminate the acted against the party's code of "The BNP is a big party, it may have differences of opinions. Hena's opinion cannot be similar to that of others, especially when the govern-

Minu, also BNP organising secretary, however, said his party will take

ment has gone tough against the

stern actions against insiders if any-

one found to have been involved in

prompting the militants.

The mayor was blamed for supporting militant linchpin Asadullah Al Galib, as he had said the latter was not linked to militants. Galib was known to him as a faculty of Rajshahi University, he

mple belief as I do to all citizens."

said they took an opportunity of people's weakness. "People wanted to resist the outlaws. Seizing this opportunity, the militants started working openly among the commoners.

'Some of our party leaders also

He ruled out the possibility of any links between the militants and BNF lawmakers as well as ruling coalition Bangladesh Federal Union of

of journalist Goutam Das.

Locals caught the bus driver, Dulal Khan, and handed him over to the

injured when he lost control over the motorbike and crashed, police said. He was rushed to MMCH where the attending doctors declared him dead.

board on Friday, a day after axing of

Haab yesterday resumed deposit-

As per previous schedules, today (November 20) is the last date for depositing 'Muallim Fees' to the Saudi

local government official in Khanaqin,

hotel popular with journalists and

was unremitting in defense of the war in Irag, saving troops would stay until

said that as long as he was president, our strategy in Iraq will be driven by the

### troops have fought for," said a leather jacket-clad Bush.

FROM PAGE 16

## to free the area from the outlaws.

voted for the measure. Furious at what they considered a Republican ploy to divert Murtha's

"In Washington there are some who say that the sacrifice is too great, and before we have completed our mission. Those who are in the fight know better,

Murtha, who voted for the Iraq war in 2002 and is considered hawkish on

Murtha's initiative was not publicly

backed by the Democratic leadership but many party lawmakers supported

# JS session begins