# Cheated workers

cheated them should be tried first.

not true that the high commission

discourages workers from returning

tate workers with employment

troubles. We blacklisted a few recruit-

ing agencies for failure to maintain promises they made to workers," he

immigration at Kuala Lumpur

should have held the passport hold-

Amin. The injured are undergoing

Our Kushtia correspondent

reported that two people were

killed and 25 others injured in a

road accident on the Kushtia-

Bheramara highway in Baramile area

under Mirpur upazila of the district

Anwar, 28, son of Ishaq Ali, and Sumon,

19, son of Afzar Rahman of Panchagar

carrying at least 50 people from

Joypurhat to Biswa Zakir Manjil in

Faridpur fell into a ditch at about

4:45:am, leaving two people dead on

Kushtia General Hospital while the rest

were killed in a road accident at

Baratala on the Jhenidah-Narikelbaria

highway Thursday morning, reports

Sattar, 50, and his wife Shahar Banu, 40.

on the spot when a tractor hit the

motorbike at around at 9:30 am.

Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

They were identified as Abdus

Police and locals said the two died

The bodies were sent to Jhenidah

A decorator named Enam Uddin

A speeding truck hit Emon from

Enam, 40, was killed in a road accident

in Sylhet city in the early hours of yes-

terday, according to our staff corre-

behind while he was returning home at

Zatarpur from his shop at Mirabazar at

around 12:15 am. Emon died on the

to his family after post-mortem exami-

nation at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical

adds: One person was killed in a road

accident on Patuakhali-Dhaka road in

Telikhali area under sadar upazila at

28, of Kartikpasha village under Dumki

over by a Dasmina-bound bus from

Dhaka and killed on the spot. Police

seized the bus but its driver and

about 8.30am yesterday.

helpermanaged to flee.

Nasirabad area of the city.

the spot in a mob assault.

Thursday night.

yesterday.

from the capital.

remained unchanged.

upazila.

The victim's body was handed over

Our Patuakhali correspondent

The dead was identified as Sohel,

Police sources said Sohel was run

In the other incident, alleged

snatcher Omar Faruk, 25, died on

Locals said he had snatched

cellular phone from a trader at

Fakirchan in Fatikchhari upazila

Omar's accomplices -- Jeweland

floating 20 minutes after the acci-

dent. She was given first aid and

was waiting for her family mem-

bers to be rescued as of 9:45pm

6:30pm when the car skidded off

Pontoon-1 and sank in the river.

Rezaul was driving the car sending

since the car was under 40 feet of

water, they had to call for divers

Palm oil prices

rice went down by Tk 2-5 a kg in

wholesale and retail markets in the

city. The prices of coarse rice

Our correspondent in Chittagong

A kg of palm oil was selling

between Tk 100 and Tk 101 at whole-

sale markets of the capital yesterday.

Retailers were selling it between Tk

went up by Tk 5 a kg during the last

two days, reaching Tk 130 a kg at

some markets in the capital yester-

day. The price of free-range chickens

rose between Tk 20 and Tk 50.

Medium-size chickens were selling

between Tk 200 and Tk 250 yesterday.

ply for the price hike of free-range

onions rose by Tk 2 per kg during the

last two days. Onion was selling

between Tk 22 and Tk 25 a kg yester-

during the last two days. It went up

between Tk 10 and 20 a kg depending

climbed up by Tk 2 per kg in whole-

sale during the last two days. A kg of

locally-produced pulse was selling

between Tk85 and Tk90 in retail.

Traders blamed shortfall in sup-

The price of locally-produced

Fish prices continued to go up

Prices of locally-produced pulses

The price of battery chickens

decisions even after three days.

103 and Tk 104.

chickens.

The district administration said

his driver to buy food for them.

The accident happened around

Imrul -- with a Light Gun (LG).

Car plunges

Later, police arrested two of

Of the injured, ten were admitted to

In Jhenidah, two motorcyclists

the spot and 25 others injured.

They dead were identified as

The accident occurred when a bus

treatment at Rangpur Medical

Road crashes

ers. Khairuzzaman said.

FROM PAGE 16

early Thursday.

given first aid.

spondent

ourcorrespondent

College Hospital.

"We are rather trying to rehabili-

If the passports were fake, the

FROM PAGE 16 of a real Bangladeshi passport is deep

Zia International Airport police on Saturday filed a case against the fake passport holding returnee Bangladeshis, their recruiting agencies, manpower exporters, and cabin crew and management of GMG Airlines that flew the workers back to Dhaka.

"The names were also fakes on the forged passports, which compelled us to mention two names of each person in the case -- one mentioned on the passport and the original name," an immigration police official told The Daily Star on Sunday.

He said police previously found cases when travellers forged passports by replacing pictures, but this is the first case of full passport forgery, when entirely fake passports have been printed. "We are not yet sure whether the passports were printed in Bangladesh or Malaysia."

There is no proof of any previous journey by the passport holders on the fake passports, which suggests the passports were probably printed in Malaysia, as the returnee workers came directly from there, the immigration police official said.

Quoting the returnees, he said once the workers arrived in Malaysia, their employers confiscated their passports. And as they were later either not provided with jobs with pays and perks promised earlier or cheated otherwise, the workers were forced to escape from the workplaces.

Finding no other suitable job, the cheated and ill treated workers were forced to buy fake passports to return home, he added.

Asked why the names of the victims were included in the case, the immigration police said they do have sympathies for the abused workers, but had no alternative because according to the immigration and passport acts the workers had broken the law by carrying fake pass-

On whether the police will try to stretch its probe to Kuala Lumpur, he said they already took the matter to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. A high level inquiry should be carried out on the matter, the immigration police official said.

A Bangladeshi expert working in Malaysia, for an NGO working with migrant workers there, told The Daily Star that there are thousands of cases when workers are hired by Malaysian companies often through employment agents, but finally the workers do not get the jobs promised or are horrendously exploited at workplaces.

Many instances are there where workers are inhumanely forced to work very long hours in exchange for measiv wages and inadequate food, often prompting the workers to protest and leave the jobs. A several hundred workers recently returned from Malaysia due to such circum-

stances there. Although, Bangladesh High Commission there opened 'safe shelters' so the abused and cheated workers may stay there until their job related troubles are settled, according to media reports the 'shelters' are so crammed that many ill fated workers had to stay on riverbanks under the open sky in Kuala Lumpur.

"There is a nexus of recruiting agencies, their agents in Malaysia, and some officials of Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, who not only discourage the troubled workers from returning home, but also sometimes compel them to join whatever job is available or just to continue to remain in the foreign land without any sign of hope.," said a cheated worker who had returned home from Malaysia in January.

The syndicate's new enthusiasm in continuing to keep the ill fated workers in Malaysia by any means necessary, was prompted by a movement in Bangladesh against the ill practices there, which had been launched by a number of recently returned workers who are now realising compensations from their recruiting agencies, the returned worker said.

He also said cases against the returnee workers holding fake passports should be dropped, instead the manpower exporters, recruiting agencies, and the employers who

### Outlaws

the law enforcers were preparing to return to the police station after the market was closed.

Officials of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence The attackers first stabbed the policemen and then opened fire on (DGFI) fixed the wholesale and retail prices of palm oil Tuesday after them. The police tried to counter having a meeting with edible-oil but could not fire more than two traders in Chittagong. According to shots at the outnumbering miscrethe meeting decision, traders would ants, said a police official. have to sell palm oil at this rate until

An investigation was initiated to May 10. find out whether the criminals used police arms in the attack, he reports: Many wholesalers and retailers do not know the meeting added.

Anwar Zahid, circle assistant superintendent of police, said huge police force was deployed at almost all points in the district and Rajshahi city while raids were being conducted in search of the

criminals. On August 25, 2006, outlaws of Purbo Banglar Communist Party killed four policemen and looted four firearms and huge bullets from Chowbaria Hat in Naogaon. Among 21 accused in the case, 10 were sentenced to death last

# Trader killed

FROM PAGE 1 who was among the people who rushed Ferdous to the hospital, in this

Babul Hossain, maternal uncle of the deceased, said Ferdous used to supply sand, bricks, and cement to

real estate developers.

When contacted, Bangladesh Sramik Dal, the labour wing of BNP. High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur M Khairuzzaman said it is

acting chairman appointed by the party's standing committee, said the election would not be meaningful without participation of the now detained heads of the two major political parties.

workers from Sylhet, he said, "They [Hasina and Khaleda] will have to be involved in the electoral process

He said people would not support any election similar to the one

Pro-reform faction leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Major (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, acting secretary general made by the standing committee, were among those present at the gathering at Saifur's Gulshan residence.

Referring to soaring prices of essentials, the former finance minister said it shows that an unelected government cannot do things that a government repre-

Club programme urged political parties and professional bodies to come forward to "rescue the coun-

Accusing the EC and military backed interim administration of hatching conspiracies, he said they are amending laws at will since they want to disqualify from the election the ones who always side with people.

"People won't accept any election under the present Election Commission and they will resist any foreign conspiracy linked to the upcoming election," he said.

BNP chairperson's Adviser Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah alleged that the caretaker government is working to protect interests of certain quarters.

President Nazrul Islam Khan, the others, by BNP Joint Secretary General Goyeshwar Chandra Roy and acting office secretary Rizvi

## 13 grenades

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Boalkhali Police Station Aminul Islam Sarker ground since the Liberation War.

know about any Liberation War battles that took place in Sheikhpara or its adjoining areas.

"I have no idea how the ammo got there and I do not know if we would have to face any sufferings for them," said Sekandar, a resident Sheikhpara, fearing harassment.

Police Tofail Ahmed of Patiya Circle told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon that the search for more hidden arms and ammo is on.

## Storms kill 3

FROM PAGE 1 According to local sources, the storm caused partial damage to Boro paddy on 3,000 hectares of land in the two upazilas and uprooted many trees and electric

reported that one person was killed and 15 others were injured in the season's first nor'wester that lashed seven unions of three upzilas of the district early yester-

the affected areas. They are undergoing treatment at upazila health complex.

The storm damaged tin-roofed schools and houses and Boro paddy in the affected Mollar Char, Kamajani, Jigabari, Alger char, Char Dakatia, Patadhoya, Alger char, Chowmohon, Harichandi, Bhatoyapara, Kapasia, Ujan Burail and Porar char.

and jute plants on about 4000 hectares of land were damaged and at least 500 houses were collapsed by nor'wester in Kounia, Pirgachha and Rangpur Sadar upazilas on Thursday night, according to our

said Boro paddy on about 600 hectares, maize on 300 hectares and jute on 200 hectors of land at Kandi, Tambulpur and sadar unions under Pirgachha upazila was damaged.

Other affected unions are Kursha under Kounia upazila, Tampat under Rangpur Sadar upazila and Chowla under pirgachha upazila.

officer (UNO) said Kandi and Pirgachha are the worst affected unions where at least 500 families have been rendered homeless by the storm.

Our Mymensingh correspondent adds: Nor'wester damaged some 500 houses in Iswarganj and Haluaghat upazilas early yesterday. One person named Romon, 22,

son of Izzat Ali of Neejgram village under Sharisha Union in Iswarganj upazila was electrocuted during the storm. Iswarganj police said Roman came in touch of snapped live

electric wire while he was working in his Boro field at around 8:00am.

# Ensure fair wages

FROM PAGE 1 a three-day May Day fair at the

same venue. He expressed his firm expectation that the country would be able to attain an accountable, and sustainable state system with the support and active cooperation of civil-military administration and the countrymen.

He urged all to work together to establish a progressive, welfare and meaningful democratic state to materialise the dream of the great Liberation War. A total of 44 institutions are

participating in the three-day May Day Fair 2008, arranged to add productive festivity to the May Day celebrations.

The CA also unwrapped the cover of multimedia documentation titled 'Made in Bangladesh' prepared by BGMEA and the labour and employment ministry to project country's world-class products in the outer world.

Labour and Employment Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal, Director of ILO area office Dhaka Panudda Boonpala, President of Bangladesh Employers Federation Kamran T Rahman as representative of the owners, Umme Salma Parveen as representative of workers, and Labour Director Shyamol Kanti Ghosh also spoke at the function presided over by Mahfujul Huq acting secretary to the labour and employment ministry.

Workers and owners, chiefs of the three services, distinguished personalities and senior civil and military officials were present at the function.

The CA observed that in a labour-intensive populous country like Bangladesh improvement of the nation's fate is largely interlinked with change of fortune of the working-class people. So the government is giving highest priority to ensuring basic rights of the working people in all spheres.

He said it is impracticable to keep the wheels of development moving without ensuring the just interests and welfare of those who are putting direct contribution to production and development.

"So the government is working to expand the scope of labour welfare as major precondition for advancement of industrialisation," he told the function.

On readymade garment industry, the highest export earner for the country, the CA noted that recent incidents of labour unrest and chaos in the sector gave rise to question in the external world about the image of the country and owners' attitude to workers.

In this context, the head of the interim government categorically said there should be no scope for excuses in full implementation of the tripartite agreement among the government, owners and workers. He said the government is mak-

ing all-out efforts to ensure "decent

# Diarrhoea

FROM PAGE 16

The lone diarrhoea-specialised hospital of the capital ICDDR, B experienced on Wednesday this year's highest number of patients in one day, 701. It dropped to 659 Thursday. ICDDR, B sources say that diarrhoea outbreaks are common twice a year--once between March and May and the other between August and mid-October.

They said the number of patients admitted to the hospital dropped yesterday in comparison to Thursday's rush. However, it treated more patients yesterday than it did on the same day the week before.

According to the control room of DGHS, 19,421 people had treatment in the hospital last week and nine died. At least 61,510 had treatment last month and 37 people died of diarrhoea since January 1, 2008.

# FROM PAGE 16

work" environment at workplaces and make them child labour and discrimination-free apart from ensuring health and security of the

The CA said the government is giving compliance issue in garment sector highest priority and he directed the labour ministry to be more active and responsible in ensuring compliance properly at each factory.

He noted that a healthy worker community is big national wealth of the country and one of the main focal points to attract local and foreign investment. This labour force will have to be involved in the mainstream of development.

Terming workers and owners as complementary to each other, he said it is essential to maintain mutual respect and cordiality between the workers and owners by any means for development of

He said the matter of maintaining peace and stability at industrial enterprises and labour unrest should be seen and analysed with positive attitude and "all should come out from the culture of exchanging blames".

On behalf of government, businessmen, industrialists and workers, the CA requested all concerned to carry out responsibility main taining discipline, honesty, sincer ity and intimacy in everybody's respective sphere to further smoothen the path of advances in the competitive world.

On trade union, he said the role of effective, strong and welldisciplined trade union organisation is undeniable in establishing permanent peace and good indus-

trial relations. trade unions to take wisely more realistic activities evaluating national and international situation for the country's industrialisation and attaining the rights of

Mentioning the country's timeworthy Labour Law and close monitoring of its implementation, he said one's right can not be ensured only by formulating laws, and rules and regulations or by the single effort of the government--it needs confidence and respect to law by all concerned and commitment of all for its application.

## Ramna blast

FROM PAGE 1 three were blasted.

The police later recovered the unexploded bomb.

in a three-day remand starting from CID Inspector Abu Hena Mohammad Yusuf, who is also the

investigating officer of the case, expressed hope that there will be more development in the case today. Suman will be produced before the court today, he told The Daily Star.

one of whom remained unidentified. Police had suspected this person to be one of the attackers. Suman confessed to the CID that

Ten persons were killed in the blasts,

Sujan who hailed from Faridpur. Suman also disclosed that Jewel is brother of David of Narayanganj who is an accused in the case filed for the August 21 grenade attacks on an Awami League rally in 2004.

Suman is also an accused in the August 21 grenade attack case. According to CID sources, Suman confessed that Sujan was killed in the

blasts as he could not plant the bombs and escape the area in time. Suman disclosed that Huji leaders Mufti Hannan, Abu Taher, Maulana Tajuddin and Abdur Rouf planned the attacks and were present near Ramna

Batamul. Suman also disclosed that they had visited the spot the day before Pahela Baishakh

Earlier, detained Huji boss Mufti Hannan in his confessional statement said Suman carried the bombs to Ramna Batamul.

# Washington

FROM PAGE 1

beyond. To varying degrees, US cooperation with regional partners on counterterrorism issues continued to increase, but much is left to be accomplished," the report

The report mentioned that Bangladesh continued to arrest dozens of alleged members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), the banned Islamist extremist group responsible for a wave of bombings and suicide attacks in late 2005, and recovered bombmaking materials and weapons from their hideouts.

"The arrests, combined with the execution in March of six senior IMB leaders, appeared to have depleted the membership of the organisation. Although there was speculation that JMB remnants might try to reorganise to launch a new wave of attacks, no such terror campaign unfolded," it added.

The report noted that the caretaker government pledged to pass a series of amendments that would strengthen Bangladesh's Anti-Money Laundering Act and a draft Anti-Terrorism Act, but failed to do so by the end of the year. The legislation would help

Bangladesh enter Egmont, the international body of financial intelligence units that plays a critical role in fighting terror financing, it added. a strong stance against corruption and arrested many leading politi-

US and Bangladeshi law enforcement agencies cooperated well on several cases related to domestic and international terrorism. The US continued to fund antiterrorism assistance programmes for the Bangladeshi security forces. Bangladesh also continued cooperation with the US to strengthen control of its borders and land, sea, and air ports of entry. The report mentioned that on

May 1, three small bombs went off at railway stations in the major cities of Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet. Authorities found a message signed by Zadid al Qaeda at each of the sites threatening nongovernmental agencies if they did not leave Bangladesh within 10 days. The deadline passed without incident and it remained unclear who was responsible for the

It said neighbouring India continued to allege that the United Liberation Front of Assam (Ulfa) and other anti-India insurgency groups operated from Bangladesh with the knowledge of senior

India also blamed the terrorist group Harkatul Jihad Al Islami Bangladesh for bomb attacks in the city of Hyderabad in May and The caretaker government took August. Bangladesh strongly denied these allegations. The absence of counterterrorism

Agriculture production support task force will work to ensure easy availability of farm inputs needed

to produce rice focussing on price and distribution of fertiliser, diesel, hybrid seed and irrigation, he said. "Country's food security cannot

be ensured unless it attains selfsufficiency in production of rice," the renowned economist observed.

Wahiduddin blamed an international syndicate for rice price hike in global market.

Institute of Media & Communication Studies organised the two-day workshop on food security for journalists, held at Chhayanat Bhaban. Experts deliberated on various aspects of this vital issue at two working sessions on the day.

Prof Dr MA Sattar Mandol of Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh, spoke on 'Food Security: Way to make it sustain in Bangladesh' and Dr Fahmida Akter Khatun on 'Global Warming & Crop Cultivation Method:

Bangladesh Perspective'. Khandaker Ibrahim Khaled, former deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, deliberated on 'Subsidy & Bank loan policy to Agriculture: Is it farmer friendly?'

### 18 killed

FROM PAGE 16 and the Zaidis, a Shia offshoot, but are usually identified by the sect of their

prayerleader. The rebels are Zaidis. On Tuesday, seven soldiers were killed and 20 wounded when their convoy was ambushed by rebels in

The renewed violence comes despite recent efforts to implement a peace deal between the government and the rebels brokered by Qatar in June The agreement, under which the

insurgents would lay down their arms, was revived during a meeting between thetwosidesinDohainFebruary. Qatari mediators were still in the

capital Sanaa on Friday. Yemeni authorities have rushed military reinforcements to Saada in the pastfewdays.

The rebels have been fighting to restore the Zaidi imamate, which was overthrownina 1962 republican coup in Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries. The insurgents are known as Huthis

after their late commander, Hussein Badr Eddin al-Huthi, who was killed by the army in September 2004. Hussein was succeeded as field commander by Abdul Malak, his brother.

The rebels reject President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime as illegitimate, although Salehhimselfis a Zaidi. The Zaidis are a minority in mainly

Sunni Yemen but form the majority in Yemen, an Arabian peninsula country with a tribal structure, has been

repeatedly hit by violence in recent Two attacks in Sanaa in March and April targeted US interests and were claimed by the local wing of al-Qaeda. A

schoolgirl and policeman were killed in one of the attacks. On Wednesday, two car bombs exploded inside the compound of customs headquarters in Sanaa, but

## Over 50 BCL

therewere no casualties.

FROM PAGE 1

on the CU Railway Station premises Wednesday afternoon violating the EPR. They also chanted provocative slogans, the OC said.

Sources said BCL brought out the procession protesting against Islami Chhatra Shibir activists' alleged painting over of their graffiti at the station and the CU shuttle train.

They claimed the Shibir men erased "71" on a wall of the station and the carriages of the shuttle train and wrote "75".

# High demand

**FROM PAGE 1** I do when I have to waste so much time for fuel," said taxi driver Rahim

"I have to pay Tk 700 to the taxi owner and run my four-member family with the remaining money Moreover, the prices of essentials have gone beyond our reach.'

Earlier, it took at best 45 minutes to refuel, but now it takes at least three to four hours, he said. Some CNG-run three-wheelers

drivers allege most of the refuelling stations give privilege to the larger and expensive vehicles, which consume more gas. Entrepreneurs say if the government gives easy loan to add CNG refuelling facilities to the existing

petrol pumps, the problem will reduce significantly. Nazmul Haque, president of Bangladesh Petrol Pump Owners' Association, said they would soon submit a proposal to the ministry

concerned in this regard. As there is shortage of land, the government may allow setting up CNG stations in the limited space with a condition of two nozzles only for light vehicles, he added.

The government should find out

ways for leasing out more land or

allow the private entrepreneurs to set up stations in the existing pumps to ease the pressure, the entrepreneurs According to RPGCL, around 47.86 million million cubic feet

(mmcf) gas is currently being used in the 229 stations across the country and around Tk 390 crore is being saved every month for using CNG.

### 6 children

FROM PAGE 1 Benapole by a train.

Port police rescued the children as they cried out for help when taken to check post area. But the traffickers managed to flee, the OC Police are now verifying infor-

children.

# Prof Wahiduddin | AL rejects

FROM PAGE 1

He was briefing journalists after a party presidium meeting at the Gulshan residence of its acting President Zillur Rahman.

Ashraful said if the EC continues to engage itself in the activities that are out of its jurisdiction, the electoral roadmap will obviously be hampered.

He also alleged that the EC has failed to work as per its promises made during its dialogues with

Awami League. "The EC had promised that it would delimit not more than 50 seats. But now we're seeing some-

thingelse," he said. Referring to the proposal of a presidium member, Ashraful said it would not accept the presence of any

# Dumped bodies

FROM PAGE 1

The boys, who read in class I in an NGO-run school at Nayatola, had been missing since Tuesday morning and their fathers filed two general diaries (GD) with Ramna police on Tuesday

Atiqul Islam, deputy commissioner murder was yet to be ascertained. "An investigation has been initiated to find

outthekillers," hesaid. Ramna police told The Daily Star that the Detective Branch has been

They said the criminals killed the boys and dumped the bodies in the abandoned tin-shed house. Neighbours of the house smelt bad

The police entered the house breaking its lock and recovered the bodies. A window of the house was found broken, which the police believe was used by

Morgue sources said the bodies bore stab injuries in the chest, abdomen and ntheback

A neighbour at Meerertek said Jewel

returned from school at 11:00am and later called out Biplab for playing. Golam Kibria, son-in-law of the owner of the abandoned house, told The Daily Star that the house has been abandoned for about three years. "We have not visited the house recently and did not hear any sound or smell bad

tating cyclone Sidr, which smashed into the southern coast, killing more A murder case was filed with Ramna policeThursdaynightbyJewel'sfather. than 3,000 people.

# Bush seeks \$770m

odour,"hesaid.

In the United States, rising food costs have piled on top of other woes battering the world's richest economy, including skyrocketing gasoline prices and a jump in housing foreclosures amid amortgage crisis.

On Thursday experts told a Congressional panel that US consum ers are being hammered by record fuel costs and the steepest food price spikes in 17 years, sparking "recession diets" of less fresh meat and fish and more

low-cost pasta and canned foods. More Americans are also being pushed to to seek help at food banks, they said.

"At home, we are working to ensure that the neediest among us can cope with the rising food prices," Bush said, citing gradual increases in government aid since he took office in 2001 and

The new monies are in a 70-billion-

emergency bumps this year.

dollar spending measure that includes funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and was sent to Congress on Thursday. Bush said the United States was on track to spend nearly five billion dollars in 2008 and 2009 to battle global hun-

ger, and stressed that other wealthy

countries needed to step up their contributions to the fight He also emphasised the importance of concluding the so-called Doha Round of global free trade talks -- which have stalled amid disputes over com modities -- saying that lowering barri-

ers would make food cheaper. Bush also pressed countries to

remove any barriers to crops produced through biotechnology, saying: "These crops are safe, they're resistant to drought and disease, and they hold the

promise of producing more food for His remarks came two days after UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon ordered a top level task force to take on the global crisis caused by rising food prices and urged key producer nations to end export bans, during a meeting in Bern, Switzerland of the heads of 27 key

FROM PAGE 16 her brother Nazrul Islam said she told him that she was raped on the night of April 25 by six people, includ-

roommate's son. He filed a case with

Miah, 30, in this connection.

FROM PAGE 16

The US military gave a lower casualty toll, however, of 31 dead and 52 wounded, including children.

the battle against al-Qaeda in Iraq, which the US military says has been increasingly using women as suicide bombers. Explosive belts are easier to conceal under female clothing and women are often not treated with the

Two suicide bombings staged by women last week in Diyala killed a dozen people.

US commander, said last week that al-Qaeda in Iraq was trying to regroup after suffering a devastating blow last year when thousands of Sunni tribesmen turned against the terrorist group blamed for most of Iraq's car bombings and suicide attacks.

Thursday's suicide attacks came

raised to at least 4,064 the number of US military personnel who have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

About the government stand against the AL's hunger strike programme scheduled for May 5, Ashraful said they have not yet sought permission from the govern-

The issue of 'third party' arises as

AL presidium member Suranjit Sen

Gupta Wednesday proposed military

presence during the AL-government

said the party presidium meeting

also decided to formally ask Suranjit

to explain why he proposed army

The AL acting general secretary

with the government.

presence.

AL will apply to the government today for permission to stage the hunger strike programme in the capital. "We'll not do anything, violating the emergency rules. AL hopes the government will permit it to observe the programme."

AL presidium members Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Motia

Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak and Amir Hossain Amu were present at the meeting.

# Nargis finally

Our Chittagong office reports: All out preparations were made to face the situation if cyclone Nargis had hit. The meteorological department had asked the authorities to hoist maritime signal No. 4 for Chittagong

District administration along with other authorities and organisations were ready to rehabilitate people in 526 cyclone shelters in the coastal areas of the district.

"Over 3,000 volunteers of

Cyclone Preparedness Programme and 1,500 members of ansar and VDP were kept on alert for evacuation and rehabilitation activities," said Chittagong Deputy Commissioner Ashraf Shameem. Around 280 medical teams were

also kept prepared for any possible situation, he added. The district administration, Chittagong City Corporation and

Chittagong Port Authority also set

No sign of high tide or tidal surge was noticed in Teknaf, but St Martin's Island could not be contacted, reports our Chittagong The country is still picking up the

pieces after last November's devas-

up separate control rooms.

more people.

## international agencies.

Girl commits

Adabar Police Station accusing six people.

Mizanur Rahman, 40, and Kiran Sub-inspector Ruhul Amin Munshi of Adabar Police Station, also the investigation officer of the case, said the arrestees told police that they did not rape Nurjahan. They said they got Nurjahan and Rajib married after finding out about their "illicit relationship" on April 22. They told police that Nurjahan took poison after Rajib's family refused to

US soldiers also find themselves

facing intensified fighting with Shia

extremists, particularly in Baghdad's

forces in Sadr City. Iraq's government

has sent a delegation of five Shia

politicians to Iran carrying docu-

ments and other material they claim

indicates Tehran is supplying weap-

ons and training for Shia militiamen

"The national assembly will

approve a resolution the same day

followed by the issuance of notifi-

cation of the restoration of judges

sacked unconstitutionally on

Judges purged by Musharraf to

militia stronghold of Sadr City.

accept their marriage.

# Suicide bombings

The two explosions tore through the stalls and stores that lined the area. Al-Rubaie said at least 35 people were

Diyala has been a flashpoint in

same suspicion as men.

hours after a bomb-rigged parked car exploded in the capital when a US patrol went by in a crowded area, killing a US soldier and at least nine Iraqis. The attack also wounded 26 Iraqis and two American soldiers. The soldier's death in the attack

protect his disputed presidency will return to their posts "with dignity, respect and honour," a leader of Pakistan's new government said Friday. Former prime minister Nawaz

Sharif's forecast followed two days of talks aimed at settling differences within the ruling coalition over how to bring back the judges.

January.

connection.

He, however, could not say what could be the motive behind the killing.

Delwar

FROM PAGE 1 mark May Day and the 29th found ing anniversary of Jatiyatabadi

The same day M Saifur Rahman,

Speaking to BNP leaders and

to make the polls meaningful."

held on February 15, 1996.

senting people can do. Delwar in his speech at the Press

try from the present crises".

Presided over by BNP Joint Secretary General and Sramik Dal discussion was addressed, among

said the grenades were old and could have been kept under the Local Union Parishad (UP) member Abu Taleb said he does not

Assistant Superintendent of

Our Gaibandha correspondent

The dead, Golam Mostafa, 25, of village Purbo Batikamari under sader upazila was struck by lightning during the storm. Besides, 15 others, including seven children, were injured in house collapse in

In Rangpur, Boro paddy, maize

correspondent. District administration sources

Pirgachha upazila nirbahi

cians and businessmen on graft charges. The US launched a \$20

industry-factory, trade and commerce and increased production.

He called upon the leaders of

The CID was interrogating Suman

the unidentified victim was Huji man

governance efforts, necessary foundations for counterterrorism activity.

Bangladeshi government officials.

mation received from the rescued cooperation between India and Bangladesh fuelled mutual allegamillion five-year anti-corruption tions that each country facilitated programme in Bangladesh to terrorism inside the borders of the further transparency and good other. court for safe custody.

The children will be handed over to their parents or relatives, if available, or they will be sent to

# 'third party' during formal dialogue

underRamna Police Station.

None was arrested in this connecof Ramna zone of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the reason behind the

tasked with the investigation.

odour and saw the dead bodies through windows. They informed the police of

They sent the dead bodies to Dhaka Medical College Morgue.

outsiders to enter the house.

ingher landlord Ratan Miah, 52. He said the gang on April 27 forced her sister to marry Rajib, her

Adabar police arrested Ratan,

killed and 65 were wounded, includ-Twelve people were wounded in ing the bride and groom. overnight clashes in Sadr City, police and health officials said. The US military charges that Iranian-backed special forces are leading the attacks against US-led

who are fighting US and Iraqi troops. Judges to be Lt Gen Lloyd J Austin III, the No 2 coalition partner Asif Ali Zardari.

November 3," he said.

and Cox's Bazar on Thursday noon.