the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's

Court yesterday denied bail to

Alamgir after the defence lawyers

filed a petition against the rejection

Monem, managing director of

Abdul Monem Ltd, filed the case

against Alamgir with Gulshan

"They knocked at my room at

around 3:3 0am," Rokibul Hasan,

the only male member of the

family present in the house at the

climbed over the boundary wall

of the building to get to the first

two of the robbers pointed pistols

at my head and one held a knife at

my throat. Then they tied up my

telling him, "Do not shout. If you

shout, you will all be finished off.

eight members of the household,

including Rokibul's US expatriate

sister and niece visiting them,

asked them for the keys to all the

including gold ornaments, a

diamond ring, a diamond neck-

lace, US\$ 450 in cash, four cam-

eras and six mobile phone sets,

cutting open the collapsible gate

neighbours might be involved in

the incident as the robbers had

inside information about his

expatriate sister visiting them, and

also that his brother was not home

for India earlier that day, returned

home from the Benapole border

when he was informed of the rob

afternoon that they are yet to

arrest anyone in this connection.

His elder brother, who had left

Pallabi police said yesterday

About a month ago, a similar

robbery occurred in the area but

police could not make any break-

levels are almost always chosen from

In our story, it is Jamaat men who

high level Jamaat members (Rokon).

described how BCKS collected

money from people irrespective of

profession, despite BCKS's professed

status being meant only for farmers.

trying to buy the branches, provided

the contents on which The Daily Star

that prove BCKS has control of credit

programmes at branch levels and

that it decided to shut down and sell a

number of branches. The Daily Star

also has documents that prove BCKS

central oversaw the selling of

branches. The documents are also

supported by people The Daily Star

swindling by saying that funds were

never transferred to the central

office. The Daily Star did not mention

that any such money transfer took

take part in next elections. Regarding

the modality of the next elected gov

ernment, he said it might be formu

CA said he will take steps to perma

nently solve the Bhabadah water

logging problem and to complete all

half-constructed bridges and roads in

and Law Adviser Hasan Ariff were

also present at the dialogue, which

was presided over by Ashrafuzzaman

Khan, president of Keshabpur Press

the conference room of the deputy

commissioner's office, Khulna, the

CA said his government wants the

next elected government will estab-

lish sustainable democracy and

governance to fulfil people's expec-

including teachers, freedom fighters,

businessmen, journalists, NGO men.

farmers, workers and the elite, from

Responding to a demand for

the districts in Khulna division took

ensuring election free from the

influence of black money, the CA said

people will also have to raise their

voice and remain alert in this regard

expenditure will have a positive

impact on the effort for checking the

influence of black money during the

dwellers in the upcoming city corpo-

ration election would cast their vote

without fear to choose competent

and honest candidates and set an

that lasted for three hours from 2:30

The CA hoped that Khulna city-

He said the limit to election

alongside government's efforts.

part in the dialogue

slate.

People of different professions.

Addressed a regional dialogue in

LGRD Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal

Responding to local demands, the

lated through discussion.

We stand by our report.

BCKS defended the allegation of

report is based.

interviewed.

BCKS branch staffs, who were

The Daily Star has documents

The robbers then fled after

Rokibul suspects that some

They then looted the valuables

wardrobes in the house.

from the wardrobes.

of the building.

He quoted one of the robbers

The robbers after tying up all

hands behind my back" he said.

He suspects that the robbers

"As soon as I opened the door,

time, told The Daily Star.

two dates through two cheques.

On October 10 last year, Abdul

order of a lower court.

the ACC.

Robbers

FROM PAGE 16

floor balcony.

made of RCC [Reinforced Cement Concrete] pillars," said Humayun Kabir, son of the building owner Firoza Khatun.

months the demolish work of the five-storey building that belongs to Monoreja Akand, Abdul Hai added.

A total of 24 structures were acquired to construct the 2400foot-long and 60-foot wide road from Bijoy Sarani to Tejgaon, connecting the Old Airport Road at Bijoy Sarani and Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani at Nabisco intersection in Tejgaon, said a Rajuk official.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council in late August, 2007 approved the project for the road costing Tk 122 crore.

"We are hoping to complete the construction work by November but it is dependent on the demolition of the buildings that are on the road," said managing director of Bhuiyan Engineering Ltd who got the work order for constructing the road.

"We started our work about a month ago and we are now setting up pipes for the drainage system of the road," he said.

The firm on March 25 received the Tk 3.80-crore work order to construct the road and it has to finish the job in six months from starting, said a Rajuk official.

Rajuk on June 24 gave a work order to the joint-venture firm of RP and Udayan to construct an overpass at Tejgaon Level Crossing with an estimated cost of Tk 39 crore, the official said.

The firm has started their job and will take six months to complete, he said.

Apart from the buildings which office and Rajuk, the demolition of sub-Saharan Africa.

Moreno-Ocampo is insistent:

"Bashir is the president. He is the

commander in chief. Those are not

just formal words. He used the whole

state apparatus, he used the army, he

enrolled the militia/Janjaweed. They

all report to him. They all obey him.

ICC's jurisdiction and refuses to

surrender two war crimes suspects

already named, warned that the

move could threaten peace efforts in

said the prosecutor's move to indict

Beshir "completely disregarded the

efforts undertaken by the govern-

ment, the regional powers and the

international community (on

would only encourage Darfur rebels

well as "complicate the engagement

moon said in an interview published

on Monday that he was "very wor-

ried" by the possibility of Beshir's

sequences for peacekeeping opera-

he told Le Figaro newspaper. "I'm

very worried, but nobody can evade

At his monthly press conference

in Downing Street, Brown urged

President of JMP Engineer Moslem

Uddin and Secretary General

Abdur Rob, who at first had

refused to talk, told The Daily Star

over telephone, "We are in big

from different businessman,

organisations including Jamaat-e-

Islami and spend the money on the

ers calls for respect," he said, add-

ing, "I along with many of our lead-

ers have respect for Jamaat leaders

who are more accountable than

supporter or an activist of Jamaat, I

must say, I have great respect for

to talk to The Daily Star over tele-

phone and invited the correspon-

dent was talking to Abdur Rob, he

handed the phone over to Moslem

Uddin saying, "Talk to our presi-

dent, he is right beside me." But

freedom fighter and the headquar-

ter commander of sector-8 in the

JMP constitution. But, Sector-8

Commander of Liberation War Col

(retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury said

Pabna Zila Muktijoddha Sangsad,

told The Daily Star that he does not

know any commander called

Moslem Uddin. "If there was a

commander by this name, I would

Rob is described as a freedom

fighter and camp commander of

the Liberation War who fought

under the command of Maj Gen

Asked about Dutta's comments,

Abdur Rob said it is unfortunate if

there was no camp commander night

In the JMP constitution, Abdur

certainly know him," he added.

named Abdur Rob under him.

someone denies fact.

Abdul Latif, commander of

Moslem Uddin is mentioned as a

Moslem refused to talk again.

that it is not true.

(retd) CR Dutta.

"If you ask me whether I am a

Engineer Moslem Uddin refused

When The Daily Star correspon-

"Honesty of many Jamaat lead-

welfare of freedom fighters.

other political party leaders."

Jamaat leaders," he said

dent to tea for discussion.

He said, "Yes, we take donations

Muhammad Iqbal refused to talk.

Khartoum to cooperate.

tions including the political process,"

"It would have very serious con-

United Nations chief Ban Ki-

between Sudan and the UN."

Ali al-Sadiq said the arrest call

A foreign ministry spokesman

Sudan's long-running conflict.

Khartoum, which rejects the

His control is absolute."

Darfur).

indictment

justice."

trouble.

ICC seeks arrest

other buildings is going on, the Rajuk official requesting not to be named said.

The demolition of the 22-storey Rangs Bhaban that started August The court has also stayed for six 3, 2007, is going on and floors above 11th floor have been demolished, said the official Thursday.

"We hope to complete the demolition work of Rangs Bhaban by December," he said.

Rajuk in the first week of November, 2007 demolished 44 illegal structures built on the land of the proposed road.

An official of Rajuk said they received documents regarding 3.75 acres of land and structures built on the land of the road from the DC office on March 13 as the city planner gave the DC office Tk 42.83 crore on February 27 as estimated cost of the land and structures.

## Breakthrough

FROM PAGE 16

substance onto the surface of a hijacked cell.

Proteins are nature's building blocks. They are large molecules which will be under the pavement that are essential for the function of cells in the body.

Professor Alan Cowman, a member of the research team at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, said targeting those proteins could be a key to fighting malaria.

"We essentially block the virulence or the capacity of the parasite to cause disease," he said.

Malaria is preventable and curable, but can be fatal if not treated promptly.

The disease kills more than a million people each year. Many of are in the legal battle with the DC the victims are young children in

Sudan to cooperate with the

International Criminal Court. The

International Criminal Court has our

Union have already voiced their fears

over a possible indictment of Beshir,

while the Organisation of the Islamic

Conference warned of "grave ramifi-

nationals to limit unnecessary travel

and the United Nations has stepped

the ICC prosecutor's move could

made for an evacuation of diplo-

matic missions and aid agency

personnel and non-essential staff

were told to stay at home on Monday.

have died since the Darfur conflict

broke out in February 2003. The

Moreno-Ocampo said the prose-

cution had collected evidence show-

ing that al-Beshir's target groups,

some 2.5 million people in camps for

those displaced by war, were being

attacked with the aim of elimination.

attack them in the camps: rape,

methods to commit genocide today.

ethnic minority rebels took up arms

against the Arab-dominated regime

and state-backed Arab militias,

hunger, fear," the prosecutor said.

in front of our eyes.

"Three main weapons are used to

"They are the most effective

The conflict began when African

In the JMP constitution, Fazlul

Col (retd) Jafar Imam told a

Haq, another vice-president of JMP,

is described as sub-sector com-

Bangla newspaper Sunday that he

knows all commanders who fought

in greater Noakhali but he does not

know any commander named

assaulted by Islami Chhatra Shibir

activists at Diploma Engineers'

Institute in the city where Jamaat-

backed Jatiya Muktijoddha

Parishad was holding a representa-

came under attack as he in his

address demanded punishment to

the Jamaat men who were members

of Al-Badr and "Peace Committee"

Police are yet to arrest the Shibir

cadres who assaulted freedom

fighter Sheikh Mohammad Ali

Aman for demanding trial of Jamaat

leaders allegedly involved in war

The liberation war veteran filed

Police recorded the GD as a case

"We have requested the authori-

a general diary (GD) with Ramna

Police Station on Sunday for

assaulting and keeping him con-

at around 9:00pm on Sunday after

conducting primary investigation.

ties of a private television channel

to give us the video footage of the

incident to identify those who

assaulted the complainant," Aksad

Belal, sub-inspector of Ramna

Police Station and investigation

officer (IO) of the case, told The

after the complainant told them

that he would be able to recognise

the attackers if he sees them again.

He said they took the initiative

The IO said they started investi-

When asked, Dhaka

Metropolitan Police Commissioner

Naim Ahmed said the case is under

Daily Star last night.

investigation.

Dutta told The Daily Star that gating the incident since Sunday

crimes during the liberation war.

during the Liberation War.

The elderly freedom fighter

A freedom fighter on Friday was

mander of Noakhali area.

Fazlul Hag.

tives' conference.

NOARRESTYET

The UN says up to 300,000 people

Contingency plans have been

up its security levels amid fears that

sparkviolent retaliation,

to launch attacks on the people of Sudanese government puts the

"We call on the government of fighting for resources and power.

Top leader admits

Darfur and on UN peacekeepers, as death toll at 10,000.

Western embassies have advised

The Arab League and African

support for its activities," he said.

## Electioneering

FROM PAGE 1 Moni and Taibur yesterday started

their door-to-door campaigning. Advocate Enayet Ali, the former chairman of the then Khulna Municipality and a leader of AL' Khulna unit, was allotted 'rickshaw symbol. He will begin his campaign ing formally after holding a press conference at 11:30am today.

Symbols for candidates running for councillor posts in 31 wards and 10 reserved seats were also allotted vesterday.

RAJSHAHI City AL General Secretary AHM

Khairuzzaman Liton was allotted 'lock' symbol while city AL president Masudul Haque Dulu received 'rickshaw' symbol. Acting Rajshahl City Corporation

Mayor and BNP leader Rezaunnabi | filed. Dudu received 'cup' symbol, former district BNP general secretary advocate Enamul Haque received 'wall clock' symbol and city Jubo Dal president Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul received 'tiger' symbol.

Raihanur Rahman, city convener of Progressive Democratic Party, received 'pineapple' symbol, city Jatiya Party president Durul Huda received 'pen with ink pot' Jubo League leader Nasir Uddin Ahmed received 'chair' and district convener of Bikalpodhara Bangladesh Aktaruzzman Bablu received 'television'.

Bangladesh Samajtrantrik Dal district convener Ruhul Kuddus Tunu received 'umbrella', Amra Rajshahibashi convener Abdul Matin Khan received 'wheel', independent candidate Farman Al received 'swan', Abdul Khalek received 'ship', Abul Kalam Azad received 'table' and Siddikur Rahman received 'fish' as their election symbols.

Nagorik Committee candidate Liton and Jubo Dal leader Bulbul started their election campaign in Rajshahi city after receiving their

Liton's campaigners brought out a rickshaw procession in the city while making announcements over loudspeakers, reports our RU correspondent.

BARISAL AL-led 14-party combine formally started campaign for its mayoral candidate Shawkat Hossain Hiron, the convener of Barisal City Awami League, through holding a public rally at Alakanda, reported our Barisal correspondent.

Other mayoral candidates also began election campaign after getting the polls symbols yesterday. They also expressed satisfaction for getting the chance to conduct election campaign formally.

Hiron got television as election symbol while BNP leader Ebadul Haque Chan got ship, expelled BNP leader and former mayor Ahsan Habib Kamal got wall clock, Nagorik Parishad President Enayet Pir Khan got fish and Progressive Democratic Party leader Sharfuddin Ahmed Santu got umbrella. SYLHET

Many candidates could not start their campaign in Sylhet due to inclement weather, reported our staff correspondent from Sylhet.

However, some mayoral and councillor candidates began their door-to-door campaign in some

A committee titled 'Nagorik Parishad' was formed to conduct election campaign for incumbent mayor and 14-party alliance candi-

date Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran. Former poura chairman and BNP leader AFM Kamal started his campaign through holding a meeting in

the city's Shikhghat last night. Meanwhile, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh leader MA Mukit Khan also started his election campaign.

Kamran got pineapple as election symbol while MA Haque got fish. Kamal got TV, Mukit got umbrella Babrul Hossain Babul got rickshaw PDP leader Quazi Kamal got chair Jatiya Party (JP) leader Abdus Samad Nazrul got lock, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish (BKM) leader Syed Muhibur Rahman got wheel, JP leader Kunu Miah got bus, BKM leader Sirajul Islam Siraj got inkpot, Bangladesh Liberal Party leader Kutub Uddin Ahmed got tea cup, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Syed Habibur Rahman Hiron got spectacles, PDP leader Syed Ali Afsar got table, independent candidates Salah Uddin Rimon got clock, and Basher Uddin Ahmed got duck.

# Govt to relax

FROM PAGE 16

of teachers is graduation level for male candidates and SSC for females

The adviser also said that 10 residential schools will be set up in the three hill districts by the end of the current year to increase access to primary education for all ethnic

The survey revealed that around 42 per cent students in the area leave school for poverty, 20 per cent for linguistic problems and 12 per cent for poor road communication.

Barrister Devashish Roy, special assistant to the chief adviser on Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs, said many schools don't have enough teachers due to the complicated process of recruitment.

"The drop out rate cannot be reduced without expanding the system to impart lessons in indigenous languages," he said.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said while poverty is the main reason. behind the high dropout rate, indigenous children should be taught in their own language in the first phase of primary education, and then gradually be taught other languages like Bangla and English.

"This will help reduce the dropout rate," she said while moderating the discussion.

Among others, Zabarang Executive Director Mathura Tripura, Manusher Jonno Foundation Director Shamim Imam, Dhaka University professors Sadeka Halim and Mejbah Kamal and Associate Professor Dr Shourav Sikder took part in the discussion.

# Prof Rafiqul

FROM PAGE 1 the bail petition of detained AL state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in a Tk 1-crore extor-

tion case. CASEAGAINSTRAFIQ ACC Assistant Director Mohammad Aminur Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of

Dhaka showing 23 people as prose-

cution witnesses. The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against Rafiq's wife and son and the order to attach their properties as they are absconding since the case was

In the charge sheet, the IO said the charges brought against the three were primarily proved and they should be brought under trial. On November 16 last year, ACC

Deputy Director Monzur Morshed filed the case against them with Dhanmondi Police Station. In the case statement, the complainant said Prof Rafiqul Islam

submitted his wealth statements to

the commission through jail authorities on July 25 last year. In the statements, Rafiq showed his wealth worth Tk 74,38,804 but the IO found that he has wealth worth Tk 1,00 31,548 beyond known sources of his income and concealed to the commission

wealth information of Tk 53,52,743. Rafiq's wife and son were accused of abetting him acquire the illegal wealth.

**CASE AGAINST SELIM** Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani yesterday allowed the ACC to interrogate Selim after ACC Assistant Director Niru Shamsunnahar submitted a petition in this regard.

The court directed the IO to interrogate the accused on July 20 at the jail gate.

On April 23 this year, ACC Deputy Director Abdul Karim filed the case against Selim with Ramna Police Station in connection with accumulating wealth worth Tk 3,38,73,140 through illegal means and concealing wealth information to the commission.

The complainant in the case said Selim concealed information of wealth worth over Tk 22.39 lakh in his wealth statement submitted to the ACC and amassed wealth worth over Tk 3.38 crore illegally.

Selim submitted his wealth statement on July 22, 2007, declaring wealth worth Tk 5, 13, 98,000. **CASE AGAINST ALAMGIR** Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of through in that incident either.

Rejoinder

It said legal actions for the misappro-

priation are under process while one

case filed in 2006 is still pending. It

said BCKS is trying to realise the

embezzled money through arbitra-

received two copies of the same

rejoinder that were carrying signa-

tures of two separate persons claim-

ing to be BCKS public relations

BCKS's central office at two places in

Dhaka. The web address given has

Our story was based on documents

and mainly interviews of a number of

senior BCKS officials, dissident ones

evident as acting Jamaat Ameer

Maulana Abul Kalam Muhammad

Yousuf is its head since Liberation

War period while local Jamaat unit

presidents are regularly made BCKS

advisers. BCKS presidents at branch

and acceptable election, the CA said

preparation for holding the polls is

now at the final stage as the voter list

with photographs of about 80 million

request to stop student politics by

enacting laws, the CA said people will

derive the fruits of Representation of

People Order (RPO) Ordinance which

will prohibit front organisations of

political parties in the educational

A meeting of the Council of

Advisers on Sunday approved in

principle the RPO Ordinance 2008,

which is likely to be finally approved

will help the EC to exercise the elec-

tion rules and regulations independ

nation in last May when he men-

tioned about necessity of a consensus

on some areas like balance of power,

sus can be reached on those areas

then the objectives of caretaker gov-

efforts to establish democracy and

good governance on a strong footing

to build a corruption-free knowledge-

The government is carrying out

People from different professions

including teachers, businessmen,

farmers, journalists, UP representa-

tives, women and writers took part in

lems and their solution and national

The also raised the question of

The local problems mentioned

the dialogue and spoke on local prob-

rising prices of essentials and short-

include permanent solution of water

The CA said the present govern-

ment is a non-political caretaker

government, which is not opponent

to any political party and it is behaving

No adviser of this government will

equally with all political parties.

logging at Bhabadah and construc-

tion of roads and bridges in the area.

ernment will be successful.

based enlightened society.

politics and election.

age in fertiliser supply.

stopping hartals, he said if a consen-

He further said the RPO Ordinance

Referring to his address to the

by the end of this month.

Responding to a participant's

citizens is almost complete.

CA urges people

Jamaat's link with BCKS is clearly

and responsible Jamaat leaders.

not been found.

OURREPLY

FROM PAGE 1

institutions

The forwarding letters show

Meanwhile, The Daily Star

Proclamation FROM PAGE 1

> Mohsen Rashid, Nahid Sultana Juthi and Md Abdul Mannan Khan jointly filed the writ petition as public interest litigation (PIL) seeking issuance of a rule upon the government to explain why the proclamation of the state of emergency and the ordinance, rules and orders concerned should not be declared

illegal and unconstitutional. Police Station accusing him of The HC bench of Justice extorting Tk 1 crore from him on Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mashuque Hosain Ahmed Alamgir, arrested February 4 last year, was earlier sentenced to 13 yesterday heard part of the petition years' imprisonment for amassing and adjourned the hearing. They wealth through illegal means and fixed today for next hearing of the concealing wealth information to petition.

The law secretary, establishment secretary and home secretary have been made respondents in the petition.

It was stated in the writ petition that the president declared emergency in the country on January 11 last year with a malafide intention and collateral purpose to extend his rule beyond 90 days while holding the office as de facto chief adviser purportedly under Article 141 A (1) of the constitution expressing his "satisfaction" that a "grave emergency exists" in which the "security and economic life of Bangladesh is threatened by internal distur-

It also said the state of emergency was promulgated on January 11, 2007, without lawful authority as the president had no constitutional authority to promulgate

"The precondition prescribed in clause (1) of Article 141 of the constitution that a grave emergency exists in which the security and economic life of Bangladesh is threatened by internal disturbance has been totally absent," it said.

"The blanket suspension of the fundamental rights without specification thereof is in direct conflict with Article 141 C of the constitution and the fundamental rights so suspended have no nexus with the "objects" of the proclamation of emergency and is also in direct conflict with the "dominant objects" of the caretaker government to hold free, fair and credible national elections under the mandate of the

Advocate MI Farooqui and advocate Ruhul Quddus Babu moved for the petitioners, while assistant attorney general (AAG) Mahfuza Begum Neela stood for the government.

constitution," the petition said.

## ACC to press

FROM PAGE 1

Court in Dhaka: He however would not say exactly when the charge sheet against Koko, son of detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, would be submitted.

The case against Koko was filed with Ramna Police Station on April 23 under sections 26(2), 27(1) of the Anti-corruption Commission Act-

Col Hanif said the commission would also submit charge sheet against Firoza Banu, wife of former MP Ali Reza from Jessore-3, for hiding information of her wealth worth over Tk 4 lakh and acquiring assets worth around Tk 19 lakh beyond her known sources of

The ACC has also decided to submit charge sheets against nine others, including Chhatak Pourasava Chairman Majnu Mia, Nalchity Pourasava Chairman Taslimuddin and customs officer of Osmani Airport Mohammad Selim, in three separate cases.

Meanwhile, the ACC also asked eight people to submit their wealth statement to the commission.

They are Abu Jafar Chowdhury. chairman of Dhaka Mercantile Cooperative Bank Limited, Mohammad Kamruzzaman, member of Water Development Board, Nurul Haque, deputy assistant engineer of RHD, Fakrul Alam Talukder, additional chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department, and engineers Jamilur Rahman Pramanik, Arifur Rahman Zinnah and MA Moktadir Belal.

# Tarique, Babar

FROM PAGE 1 dismissal of the case is pending at the High Court, charges should not be framed now.

Opposing the defence prayer, the prosecution said the HC did not give any order against charge framing.

On hearing both the sides, the court asked the prosecution to read out the charges to the accused. Detailing the charges, prosecu-

tion lawyer Syed Shamim said the accused had a meeting at Shah Alam's Bailey Road residence. There, the Bashundhara boss made a bargain with Babar and Tarique that he would give them Tk 50 crore so his son Sanvir did not have to face murder charges.

On August 20, 2006, Babar received Tk 21 crore and sent Abu Sufian to Hawa Bhaban to give Tarique Tk I crore from the amount. Sufian handed over the money to Tarique's personal secretary Apu. This is how Shah Alam

attempted to hush up the murder and his sons managed to flee the country with assistance from Tarique and Babar. Both Babar and Abu Sufian

"Examples will also have to be created also in three other city corpopleaded innocent when the proseration polls," he said, as the interim cution asked if they are guilty or not. regime wants a fresh start on a clean Tarique's lawyer Sanaullah said his client too is innocent. Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman moderated the dialogue

After the hearing, the court announced the date for witness testimony.

# 9 US troops, dozens

FROM PAGE 16

for the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force.

"The troops in the combat outpost fought back hard to make sure the insurgents did not overrun the place."

Hours of fighting, including air strikes, prevented the militants from taking over the base, with rebel casualties in the "high double figures", said Finney.

Between 400 and 500 militants from various anti-government factions including Taliban, al-Qaeda and the Hezb-i-Islami faction were involved, a senior Afghan defence ministry official said on condition of anonymity

"They attacked the newly established base there and reached even its walls. At one point they had entered the base," he said, citing

information from the ground. "I don't know if the soldiers died inside the base or outside but the enemy had reached the walls."

Troops were able to push them back with ground fighting and attack helicopters. "Reports we got from the area

suggest that about 40 enemy were killed and around the same number of them were wounded," he said.

Isaf's Finney said between 100 and 150 Afghan and international troops had moved into the outpost, near the village of Wanat, less than a week earlier.

Finney would not give the nationalities of the Isaf troops killed in the attack, but a Western official confirmed on condition of anonymity that they were all US nationals.

Americans form the bulk of the nearly 70,000 international troops in Afghanistan to help the fragile government fight back an insurgency led by the hardline Taliban, who were ousted in a US-led invasion in late 2001. The attack in Kunar, which

adjoins Pakistan -- where Afghan officials say insurgents are based, was one of the deadliest incidents for

#### Vote to power FROM PAGE 16

Candidates', was addressed by former adviser to a caretaker government also Shujon's Executive Member ASM Shahjahan as the

chief guest. Shujan Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumder was the key Mayoral candidate also local Nagorik Parishad President Enayet Pir Khan, Business Editor of the Daily Prothom Alo Shawkat Hossain Masum, local councillor

candidates Saiful Ahsan Azim and Imran Hossain Rupam also spoke among others. Criticising the Election Commission (EC) the speakers said earlier the commission had said this time around criminals and black money holders would not be able to compete in the elections, but such

Earlier, Shujan organised an election olympiad in Barisal Club participated by around 400 students.

people have again become candi-

#### Nobel Committee

FROM PAGE 16 visits to the field sites of Grameen

Bank and observing the activities of the bank members. Prof Ole Danbolt Mjos, who expressed his interest to visit Bangladesh during the prize celebra-

tions in 2006, will attend the opening as the guest of honour, while Bente Erichsen will be present as a special Nobel Peace Center organised an exhibition in Oslo portraying the work of Prof Muhammad Yunus and

the Grameen Bank after he and the bank received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in December 2006. The exhibition, which remained open for a year, was part of the events to cele-

## bers of the Rab, police and locals revolver and two pipe guns.

the democracy. As I am going back

to Washington to talk at the end of this week, that's why I wanted to see how things are going," he said.

brate the Nobel Peace Prize.

are in a very good shape. I think the rules are pretty much done. The official lists have to be printed. They are moving forward as they are expected to do...."

think this question is for the people of Bangladesh to answer. They will decide whether they (people) think this is a level playing field or

election commission is acting in a good faith, and the government is trying to talk to the parties. "So these are very positive aspects." The American ambassador

hoped that the political parties would play a role as the parties are needed to represent the wishes of the people of Bangladesh. "They need to be willing to bring the steps forward."

the country wants to see the holding of successful elections, particularly to the parliament in December.

everything is in a stage and we are

party leaders demanded lifting of the state of emergency by this month saying that no election could be free and fair under the emergency rules. AL leaders Tofail Ahmed. Suranjit Sen Gupta, Begum Matia

Chowdhury,

Juba League South city unit President Mohiuddin Mahi. Advocate Kamrul Islam and Juba League leader Mizanur Rahman.

# international forces in Afghanistan

Meanwhile, a roadside bomb tore through a civilian pick-up truck in eastern Afghanistan on Monday killing seven people, a government

spokesman said. "The bomb was perhaps planted to target military vehicles," Paktika province spokesman Ghamai Khan Mohammadyar told AFP, accusing Taliban-linked insurgents of planting the homemade device.

"It struck a civilian car and killed seven people, all civilians," he said.

The blast was the latest attack in a spike of violence in Afghanistan, including an assault on a military outpost Sunday that killed nine US soldiers and wounded 15.

Monday's bomb "was the work of the enemies of our country," Mohammadyar added, in a reference to the Taliban, the group powering an insurgency against the Afghan government and almost 70,000 international troops based here.

# 65,631 MT

FROM PAGE 16 in New Delhi is keeping a constant contact with the Indian government in this regard.

India had promised to export 5 lakh tones of rice to Bangladesh through five state-owned trading agencies. Later a state-to-state agreement was signed between the two countries.

### 2 killed

FROM PAGE 16 infamous Rozen Bahini and they had been dodging arrest for a long time as there are numerous criminal cases including murder cases filed against

However, family members claimed that Sentu and Rezaul, who were friends with each other, were innocent and a local criminal might have persuaded Rab to kill them.

Rezaul's father Mohammad Ali said there is no case against his son who was a salesman at a Punjabi store at Jatrabari.

Sentu's uncle Sirajul Islam said there was only one case filed against his nephew for extortion and the case was filed by local criminal Aminul with Jatrabari Police Station. His family members said Sentu came home two years ago after

spending five years in South Korea and started a clothing store named Dilruba Garments at Kaliganj in Keraniganj. The Rab in a press release claimed that Sentu and Rezaul were dreaded criminals and locals were so afraid of them that did not dare to file any case against them. A team of Rab 10 arrested the two close accomplices of gang leader

Rozen, from Jatrabari's Banshpotti 'area, the Rab press release said adding that Rozen Bahini used to extort money from residents of Demra, Jatrabari and Shyampur areas and the gang members were known for sending shrouds and bullets to those who refused to comply with their demand.

At around 3:30 in the morning yesterday, the Rab went to Shaheed Moktar Hossain Road of Shyampur along with Sentu and Rezaul after the two had confessed that members of the Rozen Bahini used to gather in the area before committing a crime, the Rab statement said. Soon after the Rab reached the

area, they came under heavy fire from criminals hiding around, the statement claimed adding that the crime busters then returned fire, ensuing a 30-minute-long gunfight when Sentu and Rezaul were apparently shot and killed while fleeing their custody. After the gunfight was over, mem-

searched the area and found Sentu and Rezaul's dead bodies along with seven bullets and three firearms -- a Two Rab members -- Sub-

inspector Mobarak Ali and Navek Siddigur Rahman -- sustained injuries during the operation, the Rab claimed in the press release.

US envoy said, "Actually we are

doing a little bit, and up to now,

we've found a very good result. I

think it is, probably, the best vot-

ATM Shamsul Huda led the com-

mission at the meeting, where

election commissioners M Sohul

Hussain and Brigadier General

(retd) M Sakhawat Hossain were

call, Sohul Hussain told the

reporters that the ambassador

wanted to know about the prepa-

ration of the Election Commission

national election within three

months and hand over power to an

elected government. But instead of

doing that the government is

engaged in holding elections to the

local bodies, which is not its

elections before the parliamentary

polls will not be acceptable to

people. He was also critical of the

government for its move to ban

Sajeda Chowdhury and other

Amir Hossain Amu said upazila

to hold the elections.

Zillur

FROM PAGE 16

responsibility.

student politics.

Terming the meeting courtesy

Chief Election Commissioner

ers' list of Bangladesh."

# Holding credible

"It sounds like this that things

Asked about the caretaker government's success in bringing the political parties to the dialogue as still some major parties are out of the dialogue, he said, "I

He said it looks like this that the

He observed that everybody in

Describing the elections as very much important, he said: "We want to do what we can to make a credible election; we hope that

observing the elections." Asked whether the United States would conduct any survey to verify the accuracy of the

recently completed voter list, the among others, were present