10 minutes' shock

doing that.

legislators Shagufta Yasmeen

Emily and Zahid Ahsan and

Jatiya Party lawmakers

Hafizuddin Ahmed, Mujib-

ul-Haque and Nasim Osman

and others stepped into the

middle of the near-tussle.

They tried to prevent a scuf-

from both sides, shouted

"dhor dhor" (grab him/her)

and some sexually expletives

in one of the rare raucous

scenes in the country's

Shahiduddin Chowdhury

Anee led several legislators

and charged towards a mem-

ber of the treasury bench

down, State Minister for

Cultural Affairs Promod

Mankin was given the floor to

take part in the discussion on

thanksgiving motion on the

speak after witnessing such

turmoil in the House. "I am

mentally exhausted after

witnessing the situation,'

ever, encouraged him to

speak saying, "You have to

have the courage to face any

thanksgiving motion ended

for the day, Awami League

lawmaker Tarana Halim took

the floor on a point of order

and launched a blistering

attack on the opposition

lawmakers for their unruly

opposition lawmakers at a

press briefing held the deputy

speaker responsible for not

taking steps to control the

Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the

Opposition Khaleda Zia and

most of the lawmakers who

sit in the front row were

Mohammadpur in the

Witnesses said a gang of

eight to 10 local criminals

swooped on Shovon with

sharp weapons, iron rods and

bamboo sticks in front of Pagla

mosque in the area around

6:30pm. Shovon was returning

home after a game of cricket at

The attackers, however,

Locals rushed Shovon to

Kishoreganj Sadar Adhunik

Hospital with fatal injuries in

his chest, back and abdomen.

He was later shifted to Zahurul

Islam Medical College

Hospital in Bajitpur where the

doctors declared him dead at

Islam Fakir said Shovon tried

Victim's uncle Shafiqul

Kishoreganj stadium.

escaped the scene.

8:30pm.

absent at that time.

University

Leader of the House

After the walkout, BNP-led

After the discussion on

The deputy speaker, how-

He initially declined to

After things had calmed

BNP lawmaker

national assembly.

before their walkout.

president's address.

Mankin said.

situation.'

behaviour.

situation.

capital.

A number of lawmakers,

FROM PAGE 1 last few sittings but yesterday it was an outburst.

With the efforts of a number of Jatiya Party lawmakers, who sit on the borderline of the opposition and treasury benches, and a few rulingparty lawmakers led by Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, the situation did not worsen.

The BNP-led opposition, however, stormed out of the House at 8:05pm saying Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque was not given the floor to speak during the chaotic situation.

The situation went wild when BNP lawmaker Shammi Akhtar, elected to a reserved seat for women, spat venom on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman while speaking on the thanksgiving motion on the president's address.

Shammi in her speech said none uttered "Innahlillah...." (a line from the holy Quran recited by the Muslims when they hear the news of someone's death) after the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "Even an Awami League leader living in London during that time said Alhamdulillah [praise to Allah], Bangladesh has got rid of a Pharaoh'," Shammi said sparking huge protest.

Before Shammi, Awami League lawmaker Zobeda Khatun taking part in the discussion had labelled Ziaur Rahman a "killer and betrayer".

After Shammi finished her speech amid huge protest by the treasury bench lawmakers, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid took the floor and said the words the BNP lawmaker used "cannot be uttered in a civilised society".

"As a Muslim, she destroyed the sanctity of the House by using those words," Shahid said. He urged the deputy speaker to expunge the words.

At the fag end of yesterday's sitting the deputy speaker said he would expunged all unparliamentary words from the house

proceedings. After Shahid concluded his speech, the opposition chief whip stood on his feet and sought the floor to speak. But the deputy speaker did not allow him to speak and gave the floor to Awami League lawmaker Ikbalur

Taking the floor, Rahim launched a verbal attack on opposition leader Khaleda Zia's family life after the country's independence. He said Ziaur Rahman refused to take back Khaleda Zia after

the country's independence. At this point, BNP lawmaker Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee leaped out of his chair rushed towards the borderline of the treasury bench. He was followed by AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Ashraf Uddin Nizan and

to stop drug peddling in his several others. area which enraged the local A number of ruling Awami criminals and resulted in his League lawmakers including early death. Shovon used to Joynal Abedin and Nazma live in Dhaka and visit home during vacations, he added. Akhtar had also left their A case was lodged with the chairs and rushed towards

GD can be

have access to the online facility,

Awami League introduced the

modern facility in police

stations as part of the imple-

mentation of its electoral

pledge of having a "Digital

stations under the DMP would

provide six types of services in

the first phase and other

police stations across the

gov.bd and click the link "Citi-

Shah Alam said 41 police

Sahara said the ruling

FROM PAGE 16

Bangladesh".

country in phases.

services.

Kishoreganj Sadar Police their opponents. Station in this connection. Several legislators from Officer-in-Charge of the Awami League and BNP police station Mir Mosharraf brandished fists and showed Hossain said they were trying slapping gestures at each to nab the killers.

other. BNP lawmaker Indo-Bangla Shammi used a pencil as a make-belief gun and sprayed FROM PAGE 16

Bangladesh signed the agreement with India this January Seventeen secretaries of different ministries and divisions and a number of high Bangladeshi expatriates living in any foreign country will also government officials attended

> the meeting. Moshiur Rahman asked the secretaries to work in coordination and give feedbacks of their respective areas to move forward with the joint com-

> muniqué. "We have decided to fix a timeframe to implement all the major issues of the joint communiqué. We also decided to review the progress of implementation time to time, if possible every month,' Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder told The Daily

To get the service, a person Star last night. has to log in to www. police. "We also discussed with importance the use of \$1 billon to be given by India as zen's help request" for filing a per the joint communiqué. general diary. He or she can Most of the fund will go to click the desired links for other communication and shipping ministry for improvement of "Now those who only need rail and road networks and general diary numbers don't

river dredging," said a secrehave to go to police stations as tary of a ministry. police will send them the Some secretaries told the numbers after filing of general meeting that areas such as construction of railway lines from Indian Birol to Dinajpur, settlement of maritime boundary demarcation and outstanding land border issues would take time while

diary", he said. Shah Alam said people will enjoy the facility for filing general diaries on "not very urgent things" like snatching, loss or theft of certificates, ID cards and documents, or there is progress in electricity issues involving security supply to Dahagram and guards, servants, caretakers Angorpota and talks on border management and security. and tenants.

imaginary bullets at her a multipurpose shed, which is opponents. Her colleagues, used for indoor games. however, refrained her from Last year, some 2,500 BDR personnel were present at the At this point, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, Awami League

FROM PAGE 1

Darbar of Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed, who was brutally killed among 57 army officers during the 33-hour-long mutiny. "That day the soldiers left the Darbar Hall with the slogan

Border force

that started around 11:00am at

'Jago'," the BDR chief said, adding, if the soldiers would not leave the hall, it was not possible for any force to commit such heinous killings.

"The heinous killings and mutiny have belittled us before the nation," he added. "We are observing a cur-

tailed week this year showing respect to the martyrs killed during the Pilkhana mutiny and hatred towards those who committed the crime."

He also expressed gratitude to the prime minister for tackling the mutiny and violence in a democratic way. Though many people think

BDR is weak on the border, it is not so at all, he said. The DG said the Indian

Border Security Force has more outposts in short distance than BDR, adding that Bangladesh would also increase its outposts and reduce system loss.

Work is underway to set up 90 new outposts, he informed. Gen Mainul expressed

satisfaction as the BDR men from Dhaka and elsewhere are coming forward to give witnesses' deposition in the mutiny cases. He however expressed

frustration, as a large number of arms of the paramilitary force remain seized since the mutiny. If the arms are not in good shape, the force will have to buy new ones at a cost of huge sums of money.

The BDR officers and personnel, who performed exceptionally well in 2009, received awards on the occasion that concluded at 12:20pm.

However, some of the operations were suspended since the mutiny and prizes on those sections also remained suspended

At the beginning of yesterday's Darbar, Gen Mainul delivered an inaugural speech to the soldiers in presence of journalists. He later exclusively spoke to the soldiers after the prize giving ceremony where journalists were not allowed to

This was the second Darbar being held there after the mutiny. The first one was held on August 17 last year.

80,000 unfit

FROM PAGE 1

valid fitness certificates," the minister said.

In response to another query, the communications minister said Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) is incurring a loss every year though it has a fleet of 415 buses and 139 trucks.

He said different measures have been taken to transform the BRTC into a profitable venture.

A hill town

FROM PAGE 16 Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station sources said about 20,000 people were shown accused in the six cases.

Joint forces have so far arrested 124 people in connection with arson, looting, riots and murder. Of them 51 people were released later, as

they were found innocent. Police produced 73 people before a Khagrachhari court. The court granted bails to 21 people while the rest 52 were sent to Khagrachhari district

Mohammad Jalal Mia, brother of Anwar Hossen, who was killed in the violence, filed the first murder case accusing

34 indigenous people. Mohammad Hossen Sarker, a villager from Shantiniketon area, filed the second case for some 3,000 to 4,000 unknown

arson and looting accusing indigenous people o Khabongpuriya and its adjacent areas. Karunamoy Chakma of

South Mohazonpara area under Sadar upazila in Khagrachhari district also filed an arson and looting case accusing 5,000 to 6,000 Bangalees of Bazar and its adjoining areas.

Sub-inspector Mohammad Dulal Mia field a case against 8,000 to 10,000 people belonging to both indigenous and Bangalee people for riots and making nuisance in the hill town. Of them 60 people were identified while the others were unnamed accused.

Headmistress of Khagrachhari Government High School Sreela Talukder filed a case for arson in school areas accusing some 40 to 50 unknown criminals while Sub-inspector Mohammad Mofizul Islam filed a looting case accusing three Bangalees.

People of Khagrachhari municipality areas have fled their homes in fear of arrest. When asked

Khagrachhar Superintendent of Police Abu Kalam Siddique said they would arrest the perpetrators.

He, however, denied the allegation of harassing innocent people in the name of arresting the culprits.

Nightingale Medical

NEWS

FROM PAGE 16 which implies that the 50seated Nightingale medical college had to run a 250-bed hospital but the authorities did not follow it, sources said.

"For the sake of ensuring quality medical education, we have cancelled approval of the college and took initiative to migrate its 165 students," Shefayet Ullah said.

A five-member committee headed by director of medical education was formed on February 24 to take decision about migration of the students.

The committee members will sit at the DGHS on March 10 for taking immediate action regarding transfer of the students. The other members of the

committee are dean of faculty of medical education of Dhaka University, registrar of BMDC, president and vice-president of Private Medical College Association.

On September 16, 2008 the

ministry suspended students admission, as the college did not follow the terms and condi-

tions to run the college. Raisuddin Sujan, a third year student of the medical college, told The Daily Star, "We are happy to hear that the government has decided to migrate us to other private medical colleges.'

He demanded return of their tuition fees amounting to Tk 8-10 lakh saying, "We have already lost one academic year." Shujan urged the govern-

ment to ask the private medical colleges where they will be transferred not to take any admission fee. "If Nightingale medical

college returns our admission fees, we will give it to the new medical college," he said.

The Nightingale college authorities did not allow the investigation team of DGHS on February 13 to investigate the college activities, sources said.

Muhith missing

FROM PAGE 1

reopening of jute mills shut down earlier.

GEF, a multi-donor trust fund, finances government environmental projects having trans-boundary environmental impacts. It funds projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants -- through World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and different UN organs like UNDP, UNEP, and FAO.

Pulak Chatterjee, executive director of the World Bank also a GEF council member from South Asia, and Bangladesh State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud addressed the meeting as well. Economic Relations Division Secretary of Bangladesh Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan chaired the inaugural cere-

Muhith said the process of GEF fund disbursement is time consuming. "We have to reform it in order to tackle the problem of climate change," he added.

He said loss of biodiversity, and the scourge of poverty also adversely affect the environmental balance, requiring attention and fund for amelioration

He however added that GEF has also done some good work over the years.

Muhith said the South Asian Constituency meeting, ahead of the next GEF council in June this year, will pave the way towards strengthening endeavours for resolving trans-boundary environmental issues.

Dr Hasan Mahmud also said the process of GEF fund disbursement is still a lengthy one. "Access to funds should be flexible, so that we are bene-

fited," he said. Since the issue of climate change has taken precedence in the global environmental discourse, other issues like rapid urbanisation and industrialisation are not getting adequate

attention, he pointed out. He said now it is time for channelling some funds to other environmental

programmes as well. When asked about the Bangladesh finance minister's comments, World Bank

ers have been created during Executive Director Pulak the last one year, she added.

Chatterjee said all donors have Bangladesh is seeking funds for their priorities and strategies for 12 different projects including providing funds, adding that the demand for environmental fund is billions of dollars in the region.

"Both the recipients and the donor countries will have to set priorities, as all areas cannot be covered under the fund," he

As the fund is small, GEF is focusing on small projects, and on two or three areas like biodiversity and climate change, he added saying, "We will supplement already ongoing projects."

GEF will place the proposals of the South Asian countries to its council in June.

PM pledges

In a written reply to a question she said an amount of Tk 328.52 crore was allocated under the education budget for the first time this year for free distribution of books to students of primary, higher secondary, Ebtedai, Dakhil, technical and vocational education.

History in the textbooks has been corrected. The historical speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and proclamation of independence are included in the textbooks, she added.

The PM said her government is going to formulate MPO policy, which will be implemented shortly.

She said the government has taken initiative to set up one technical school in each upazila to turn out skilled manpower with technical knowledge. This will help ease the unemployment problem.

In this connection, she mentioned that in the last one year government has appointed 495 teachers in government secondary schools.

To ease the pressure of admission of students, she said double shifts have been introduced in 82 government schools. For this, 82 posts of additional assistant headmasters and 1,920 assistant teachers have been created.

In government colleges, 207 additional posts of teach

PM irked

She regretted that the government is holding regular ECNEC meeting and finalising various development projects but the projects are not being implemented in line with the expec-

"It seems that there are weaknesses in formulating and implementing development projects. Such things cannot continue anymore," she stated.

Official figures show 35 percent of the Tk 30,500 crore original Annual Development Programme for the current 2009-10 fiscal year could be implemented in seven months to January.

Hasina said all government officials must work with a sense and feeling of responsibility and accountability towards the people.

She further deplored that some of the government officials lack pro-people mentality though there are many others who give their best in the efforts for bringing prosperity in people's life through implementing the government schemes.

"It cannot be that we only go on enjoying fruits of the hard labour of the masses like farmers and labourers--we have many things to give back to those who through their round-the-clock work have

function was also addressed by Adviser to the PM HT Imam, kept our economy vibrant and Planning Ministry Secretary strong," she said. Md Habib Ullah Majumder Hasina disclosed that she and NAPD Director-General Dr

came to know that directors of MAKamal.

many development projects do not even go to field level to monitor the progress on projects and programmes.

She urged the authorities concerned to be more attentive and caring in formulating and implementing projects and programmes, keeping in mind greater public interest. The premier also reaffirmed

her government's strong commitment towards turning Bangladesh into a high-tech modern country in line with the Vision 2021. In this regard, she called

had grabbed state power by

extra-constitutional means" by

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

allow the people of Bangladesh

to reach their cherished devel-

opment goals," she said.

"Military dictators did not

With Planning Minister Air

leaders in 1975.

upon the government officials to take measures to build up a skilled workforce in IT in the country to attain the targets laid down in the Vision 2021. The PM observed Bangladesh could not attain development at an optimum

Meanwhile, the parliamenlevel as "anti-democracy forces tary standing committee on religious affairs ministry rejected a proposal for sendkilling Father of the Nation ing hajj pilgrims to Makkah by Rahaman and four national ships. A number of private ship-

ping companies recently sent the proposal to the shipping ministry. With a positive gesture, the shipping ministry forwarded the proposal to the Vice-Marshal (Retd) AK Khandaker in the chair, the religious affairs ministry, said a press release from the parliament secretariat.

It said, "The committee unanimously decided to reject the proposal."

CID seeks FROM PAGE 16

into the country. After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Shahdat Hossain fixed March

24 for hearing on the petition. The case was filed with Sutrapur Police Station in May

The other five are BD Foods officials Mohammad Mainuddin and Abu Bakar Siddique, former employee Nazmul Haider Bhuiyan Bulbul, Kazi Zafar Reza of Rainbow Enterprise and Abul Bashar of Green Heaven Enterprise.

They along with Badruddoza obtained bails from the High Court earlier on different dates. Zafar and Bashar after

being arrested on May 7 and

12 of 2006 gave confessional statements before magistrates. The two confessed that they were involved with smuggling heroin to the UK following Badruddoza's directive. Badruddoza was arrested on May 14 the same year after

Nazmul and his accomplice Mokhlesur Rahman Nayan, a cargo handler, confessed to a magistrate that they had smuggled 22.5kg of heroin to the UK on instructions from Badruddoza. He was also shown arrested

in a case filed in connection with the 22.5kg-heroin smuggling case filed with Motijheel Police Station in May the same

Later, Badruddoza was remanded for 17 days on different dates. He was granted bail from the HC on July 9, 2006.

Law to protect FROM PAGE 1

establish good governance in

the country. Shafique mentioned that many people now do not dare to inform the authorities about cases of bribery, misdeeds and other offences in different offices. The meeting was attended

by among others State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam, Law Commission Chairman Justice MA Rashid and its member Prof Shah Alam, senior lawyer Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Asian Development Bank's Country Director Paul J Heytens.

Earlier in the day, briefing the media at his office Qamrul Islam brushed aside BNP leader Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir's allegation that the government is influencing court in dealing with cases against Senior Vice Chairman

of BNP Tarique Rahman. Arrest warrant against Tarique was properly issued by a trial court since his lawyers had not submitted to it the High Court orders staying the proceedings against him, he said.

Meanwhile, the warrant issued on Monday was with-

drawn on Tuesday. Qamrul said the BNP-led government in the past, and not the present government, had influenced the judiciary in handling cases.

5,000 NGOs

FROM PAGE 1

Talukder, also a BNP lawmaker, said the subcommittee would oversee whether there is anomaly in selecting NGOs and spending

of the fund. About the increasing pirate attacks in the Sundarbans, the parliamentary body has decided to ask the home ministry to launch a joint operation of police and Rab to protect fishermen and forest officials of the area.

It has also recommended scrapping licence and closure of all brickfields, which were set up without following rules and adding to pollution.

The watchdog also asked the foreign ministry to encourage more Indians in voting for the Sundarbans so that the largest mangrove forest becomes one of the world's new seven wonders.

toldAFP.

Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan. "He was a key supplier of suicide bomb jackets and explo-

Suicide blasts kill 33 ahead of Iraqi polls

AFP, Baquba

Three powerful co-ordinated suicide attacks in the central Iraq city of Baquba killed at least 33 people and wounded 55 yesterday, just days before nationwide parliamentary elections.

The blasts, the deadliest to

hit the country in nearly a month, spurred police to clamp an immediate curfew on the city, 60km north of Baghdad and one of Iraq's biggest. The attacks came despite heightened security across the country ahead of

Sunday's vote and after the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, threatened to disrupt the election by "military means. Two near-simultaneous suicide vehicle bombs ripped through the provincial housing department's offices and

a nearby traffic intersection at around 9:30 am (0630 GMT), while a man later blew himself up at Baquba's main hospital where victims were being treated. "The three bombings killed 33 people," a security official from Baquba opera-

tions command said, speak-

ing on condition of anonym-

The (third) suicide bomber tried to blow himself up against the police chief when he came to see the wounded in the hospital."

Police chief Major General Abdul Hussein al-Shimmari escaped unharmed but members of his personal security team, including police Colonel Nabil Ibrahim, were wounded. Diyala provincial health chief Dr. Ali al-Timimi was also injured.

An advisor to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, Ali al-Mussawi, said "terrorists' were bent on disrupting Sunday's vote. "They want to cause con-

fusion and stop the people from voting because the elections are a big threat to terrorists," he told AFP. "They have put all their efforts into jeopardising the

elections. The first vehicle in Wednesday's attacks crashed through the entrance to the provincial housing department's compound, which sits next to a police station, before exploding.

Moments later at a nearby

traffic intersection, a suicide

bomber triggered the explo-

sives packed into his vehicle,

creating a powerful blast. The

hospital bombing occurred a

short time later.

US and Iraqi security forces have cordoned off the hospital, an AFP journalist at the scene said.

Wednesday's attack was the deadliest to hit the country since February 5, when 41 Shia pilgrims were killed on the last day of a religious mourning ceremony on the outskirts of the holy city of Karbala.

HSC exam

FROM PAGE 16

The Daily Star office yesterday and said the students of humanities group will face problems as exams of five subjects will be held from April 18 to April 22 without any break.

Even examinations of two subjects will be held in a day within the timetable, they said, adding that it would be huge pressure on the students to attend the five exams held in five consecutive days. "The dates of other exams

are also close, but there is no gap in the five exams. We won't have time for revision for the next exam after sitting for two exams in a day," said an examinee of Dhaka Residential Model College Our Correspondent from Thakurgaon adds: HSC

examinees of different educa-

tional institutions in the district

submitted a memorandum to

the deputy commissioner demanding a change in the exam routine. In the memo, the students called for a change in the routine considering pressure on

Bangladesh Inter-Education Board Coordination Subcommittee in a press release said the authorities concerned planned to complete the HSC Examinations by one month and 11 days so that the classes in the colleges are not disrupted

"But the decision of changing the schedule slightly has been taken so that the examinees take proper preparations," said the release signed by Prof Fahima Khatun, chairman

of the subcommittee. The rescheduled timetable would be posted on the website of Dhaka Education Board (www.dhakaeducationboard.g ov.bd) today, it said, adding that the new exam routine would also be published in the

national dailies in due time.

sives to Islamabad and other

cities of Pakistan," the army said.

explosives for "21 suicide vehi-

cles" to northwest district Swat,

where Pakistan launched an

offensive last year to quell a

Taliban insurgency, southwest-

ern Baluchistan province and

Abdullah, had been a Taliban

commander in the northwestern

district of Nowshera, where he

had been involved in missile and

rocket assaults and a car suicide

attack on an army mosque last

people and wounded at least 90

others after a car packed with

explosives ploughed into the

wall of a mosque in the garrison

town of Nowshera, bringing

pressure to eliminate Taliban

and al-Qaeda-linked militants

who pose a domestic threat and

who infiltrate Afghanistan to

attack Western forces fighting an

been killed in suicide and bomb

attacks across Pakistan since July

2007 -- a deadly campaign

blamed on Islamist militants

opposed to the government's

alliance with the United States.

parliament

Ukraine

More than 3,000 people have

eight-yearwar.

Pakistan is under huge US

down the roof of the building.

The bombing killed four

The military said Tufail, alias

other cities.

He was accused of supplying

Taliban attack Pak school, concert

AFP, Peshawar

Afghanistan.

Taliban militants blew up a boys' school and assailants threw grenades into a music event, killing a student, in separate incidents in north and southwest Pakistan, officials said

yesterday. The boys' school attack took place overnight in the Spin Oabar area of Khyber, a lawless district that straddles the main supply line for Nato troops fighting the Taliban in

"All four rooms of the government boys' primary school were completely destroyed. Taliban are responsible," Khyber's top administrative official Shafirillal Khan told AFP, adding that no one was hurt as the school was closed for the night. Islamists opposed to co-

education and advocating

Sharia law have destroyed hun-

dreds of schools, mostly for girls, in northwest Pakistan in recent years -- including 16 last month. In the southwestern province of Baluchistan, unknown attackers hurled three grenades into a cultural show at an engineering university in Khuzdar district, some 300km south of the provin-

cial capital Quetta. One student was killed and 13 wounded, district police chief Nazir Ahmad Kurd told AFP.

"This was an attack on a cultural show while students were enjoying music," he said. Earlier Pakistan's military said Wednesday that a supplier of suicide jackets and explosives who operated a key inter-city

gun battle with soldiers. commanders named Muhammad Tufail alias Abdullah and Muhammad Iqbal were killed by security forces in an exchange of fire," the military announced overnight in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

The gun battle happened late Monday on the outskirts of Peshawar, a military spokesman The military said Iqbal

belonged to Pakistan's Tehreeke-Taliban faction in the lawless district of Khyber, which straddles the main supply line for Nato troops fighting against the

Rada had been needed to back the no-confidence motion. Despite her election defeat, Tymoshenko had until now clung onto power.

ousts PM network had been killed during a "Two important terrorist Ukraine's parliament Wednesday passed a noconfidence motion forcing

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to resign, in a move that will bolster the powers of new President Viktor Yanukovych. A majority of 243 deputies voted for the no-confidence motion brought by the Regions Party, led by

Yanukovych, who defeated Tymoshenko in presidential elections last month. At least 226 out of the 450 deputies in the Verkhovna