The Baily Star

The BNP chief categorically sai

criminals would not have any place

Such elements must Leave BNP

Referring to opposition warning

and its front organisations right

to dislodge the present government within a year, she claimed, "The

BNP and along with its allies will be

in power at least for the next 15

Khaleda asked leaders and

activists of the JCD to build it as a

genuine student- based organisa-

tion' and emphasised regular hold-

ing of its annual conference so that

new leadership emerges each year.

devote themselves to study to make

themselves capable of facing the

challenges of the 21st century.

The BNP chief advised them

Speaking at the occasion, BNF

Secretary General Abdul Mannan

Bhuiyan said JCD would comprise

regular and genuine students only

Those who have completed studies

should move to Juba Dal and other

front organisations of the BNP, he

Shahabuddin Laltu, the gathering

was also addressed by, among

others, incumbent and former

New BDR chief

general officer commanding (GOC)

Meanwhile, Major General Abdul

In another change, Major

Cold wave accompanied by

The Met office yesterday

In the city, the temperature rose

yesterday due to a cloudy sky, with

the maximum at 23 and the mini-

mum at 12.1. The maximum tem-

perature on Tuesday was at 21.5

Monwar Ahmed, a CNG-run three-

He said the owners of these vehi-

recorded the lowest temperature at

8.5 degrees in Srimangal.

and the minimum at 11.9.

FROM PAGE 1

leaders of JCD, ministers and Mps.

Chaired by JCD Convenor

now," she warned.

years.

in her party or its front organisations

More listed criminals Mongla Port won't be behind bars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 62 people, including 14 listed criminals, were arrested by the joint forces in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday.

The joint forces of the army, the BDR and police recovered two revolvers, two shotguns, one Chinese rifle, one shutter gun and 168 bullets during the period.

The arrests pushed the number of people rounded up since the start of the anti-crime crackdown on October 17 to 10,617, including 2,329 listed criminals. The joint forces have so far seized 1,930 firearms and 29,239 rounds of ammunition

In Natore, three people were arrested by the joint forces in Shingra upazila Monday night.

Police said Samad, accused in a number of cases, was arrested with a foreign revolver from Toltolipara village.

Acting on his confessional statement, they arrested Ashraful and Emad from Sonaghat village. Our Madaripur correspondent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

while the rest two in Bhola.

night.

UÑB.

At least eight people were killed and

25 others injured in separate road

accidents in Natore and Bhola

districts yesterday and on Tuesday

Of them, six were killed in Natore

In Natore, six people were

killed and 25 others injured in a

road accident at Kadamchilan in

Lalpur upazila on Natore-Pabna

highway yesterday, according to

place at about 2:55 pm when a

Pabna-bound truck collided

head-on with a Rajshahi-bound

bus of Jony Paribahan, killing six

The dead identified as Arifur

on the spot and injury 25 others.

Rahman, 24, of Gabtoli in Bogra,

Kochi, 7, of Pangsha in Rajbari,

Shahadat, 30, of Kushtia, Afzal

Hossain, 46, Zallat, 40, and

Lokman, 35, of Rauta village in

Boraigram upazila of Natore

FROM PAGE 12

Police said the accident took

reports that a team of the joint forces arrested, Liakat Sheikh, a top terror

from East Sharmongal of Rajoir upazila. But his accomplices snatched him away and fled in a speedboat. Later, the joint forces arrested Alim Sheikh, an accomplice of the top terror. He was handed over to Rajoir thana police and sent to the court, shown arrested under section 54 of the

Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). The police headquarters in a

press release yesterday said they (police) have arrested 1,172 people, including seven identified criminals during their countrywide drive in the 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday. Police also recovered four firearms during the drive, the press

release added The Dhaka Metropolitan Police in a press release vesterday said they have arrested 316 people from different parts of the city during a special drive in the 24-hours ending yesterday morning.

The DMP also took action against 1200 vehicles for violating traffic laws. They seized 27 cars and arrested 32 people for failing to show driving licences and other relevant documents.

Road accidents kill

clinics.

road on Tuesday night.

Police said the accident took

place when a Charfashon-bound

night coach from Bhola hit the

motorbike of Helali, killing him

along with his co-rider Jahangir

flee the scene but police seized

the vehicle. The bodies were

handed over to the relatives of

the victims after autopsy. A case

this correspondent yesterday he

had repeatedly tried to contact

Shafiq on his mobile phone on

Saturadav but failed. "When I con-

The bus driver managed to

Jahangir, 30.

on the spot.

was filed.

Engr Shafiq murder

8 in Natore, Bhola

privatised, says minister

BSS, Bagerhat

Shipping Minister Colonel (retd) Akbar Hossain has rejected outright the speculation of disinvestment of Mongla Port and said the government would not privatise it so long it would make profit with quality service.

Referring to a study of the IIFC, the minister said, "A survey does not essentially reflect the decision of the government. Akbar said this while exchanging

views with the newly elected Mongla Port Dock Sramik Union. Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal and Employees Union at the port here yesterday The minister said the move-

ment of ships depends on importers and exporters and hence the government has nothing to do with it. The government has already decreased the port charges, but unfortunately the berthing of ships did not go up. He asked the workers and employees of the port to find

reasons why ships are not showing interest in using the port.

Pregnant woman FROM PAGE 1 her family managed only Tk 2.000.

However, the clinic staff yesterday charged Tk 5,000 which Amirun's The injured people were family could not afford. At this, Dipali admitted to Natore Sadar and others of the clinic beat up Hospital, Rajshahi Medical Amirun who fell sick.

College Hospital and different She was rushed to the Mitford Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared her dead yesterday morn-In Bhola, two people were ing. The body was sent to the hospikilled in a road accident at tal morque for autopsy. Kunierhat on Bhola-Charfashon

Amirun was scheduled to give birth to her fourth child. Our hospital The deceased were identified correspondent reports that another as Harun-ar-Rashid Helali, 45, woman died due to negligence of Ameer of Lalmohan upazila treatment at the same clinic last Jamaat and chairman candidate of Ramaganj union parishad, and

The duty officer of the Kotwali Police Station told The Daily Star that on information they went to the clinic and found the accused already had left the clinic. He also said they came to know that the victim died due to negligence of treatment.

The victim's husband yesterday filed a case.

11 bank staff FROM PAGE 12

department of the bank, who allegedly helped his relatives to withdraw the huge amount of money through cheques against current accounts of zero balance on different occasions during the six-and-a-half-year period.

UP polls

Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia releases a pigeon to inaugurate the 24th founding anniversary of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student front of the BNP, at the Ramna Park in the city yesterday.

NEWS

city roads throughout the night.

Besides army personnel, over 3000 police and BDR men and mounted police, along with dog squads, guarded 84 identified trouble spots to prevent any untoward incident. Special security measures were taken for the diplomatic zone. A police team led by the Deputy Commissioner (Protection) was deployed in the zone.

The city's Gulshan and Banani areas known as 'celebration points' were almost empty in the first hour. Few local people and foreigners were seen on the roads. They exchanged greetings with the law enforcers.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chodhury accompanied by the Inspector General of Police. (IGP) and some other high officials, was seen exchanging New Year's greetings with the law enforcers and journalists at the Gulshan-2 crossing at midnight.

FROM PAGE 12

Altaf visited different city areas from 11:00pm till small hours of vesterday to

Hasina apart, outgoing general

secretary Zillur Rahman, new

General Secretary Abdul Jalil and

central leaders Bir Bahadur, Col.

(retd) Faruk Khan, Sultan Md

Mansur Ahmed, Akhtaruzzaman,

Mirza Sultan Raja, Khairuzzaman

Chowdhury Liton and Fazle Rabbi

and the rural poor, who would be paid

in cash instead of food, would be hit

In terms of maunds, aman paddy

is selling at around Tk 330, which was

Farmers blame the funky weather

And local traders fear that prices

might go up a little more because of

'poor supply' and because of the off

season between January and mid-

kets is much lower this year and the

foggy weather has also slowed down

the rice drying process," Abdur

Rashid, a rice trader in Raishahi's

Shaheb Bazar area, said, "We could

not supply sufficient rice to our clients

from different parts of the country

"Growers' presence in the mar-

too much rain first and too little

thereon - for the poor harvest this

hard. The urban poor and the labour-

market sources.

year

March

below Tk 300 a week ago.

supervise the activities of the law no lack of enthusiasm among them but enforcers. He asked the law enforcers they could not celebrate the New Year to discharge their duties properly. according to their plans owing to the

Students of Dhaka University gathered at the TSC and Shahbagh crossing before zero hour. They danced, sang and exploded a few crackers but the celebrations looked rather insipid. Outsiders could not enter the campus as the law enforcers had sealed off all the entrances at

were allowed to enter the campus. Celebrations in other places in the city followed a more or less similar pattern. Police, BDR and army personnel checked the vehicles. They

and locality-based parties where people welcomed the New Year dancing, singing and having feasts.

business. A large number of men and women joined the New Year's parties

in hotels Many city dwellers said there was

> prisons. The AL expressed concern at the arrest of opposition leaders and activists in connection with 'false cases' soon after their release on High Court orders.

The ALCWC urged the government to end human-rights violation and political persecution, release political detainees, stop patronising local criminals and international terrorists, permit rallies and demonstrations, execute the verdict of Bangabandhu Murder Case, expedite the trial of Jail Killing Case, stop distorting history, end crimes on Saifur Rahman Saved. uphold freedom press, lower prices of essentials, stop politicising the administration, stave off economic stagnancy, create congenial environment for investment and form an independent anti-corruption commission. In another resolution, the meet ing alleged that the government went for direct recruitment for public jobs bypassing the Public Service Commission and was politicising the administration. With two-stroke auto-rickshaws withdrawn from the city streets and many thoroughfares off-limits to rickshaws, the AL demanded alternative arrangements for commuters and job opportunities for unemployed rickshaw-pullers and autorickshaw drivers. It criticised the recent vandalism of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student chapter of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, at the Dhaka Medical College

Looking to the East

FROM PAGE 12

country at any cost," she said. Turning to student politics, she said there is a common public perception that student politics mean crime, toll extortion, capture of halls etc. But students must put an end to this and restore their past glory by ousting all undesirable elements from the student bodies.

Hundi charge

FROM PAGE 1 chairman, five directors, two officials of the bank and two other persons, according to banking sources.

The BB team found that they used to buy dollars form the market and send those to different accounts at a bank abroad through TTs (telephonic transfers).

This is a clear case of money laundering and we will take action as per aw," said a source at the central bank.

The BB will serve show cause notices under Section 46 of the Bank Companies Act on the bank chairman Naism Sikder, and five directors -- ZH Sikder, Shahidul Huq, Zahidul Huq, Mahbubul Hug Sikder and Salahuddin Ahmed. And they will have to send their reply in 15 days, sources said.

The two other persons found involved in the dubious transactions are Zainul Hug sikder and Momtazul Hug Sikder. Two officials of the bank Khandaker Mohiuddin and Qazi Mashiur Rahman - are also learnt to have been involved in it.

of the Rangpur division. The BB will deal with the case under Money Laundering Act and take actions Motin has been appointed military against officials of the bank branch secretary to the president, replacing involved in the transactions. Also the Major General Abu Ahmed, who Anti-corruption Bureau will be asked to goes into retirement. nvestigate the case.

The central bank investigation found General MU Ahmed has been made hat these people had filled up15 forged forex declaration forms (FMJ) on the GOC of the Chittagong Division. different dates and showed they had He was earlier the GOC of Ghatail. brought in \$8.9 lakh through Zia International Airport. They used to Cold waves deposit the dollars at foreign currency (FC) accounts.

FROM PAGE 12 And within a short span of time, thev Jangaldi village in Sadar Upazila in used to send those foreign currencies to Sherpur died from cold. the joint account of Zainul Hug and Shahidul Hug and an account of Nasim dense fog has gripped the north-Sikder at the Bank of America through eastern and southwestern regions

The BB team also found they had over the last 15 days. sent about four lakh dollars through four more TTs.

Deployment FROM PAGE 12

Mohammadpur in the city, Dr Kamal said all governments until now have used the police as an instrument of political dividends. The present government after

The sky will be clear from today coming to power closed down many and the temperature may drop one factories and evicted slum dwellers to two degrees again without creating alternatives, he said.

He also urged the government to save educational institutions from New look violence. FROM PAGE 1

He called upon countrymen to Several passengers said the drivers unite against criminals and blackhave set Tk 40 as the minimum fare. money holders.

Gono Forum leaders Saifuddin wheeler driver, said he was charging Ahmed Manik, Samsuddoha, Tk5toTK10morefrompassengers. Shamsul Alam Dudu Abul Kasem Advocate Sagir Anwar, Habibur cles have increased the daily charges, Rahman, Mahbubul Alam Khan and from Tk 450 to Tk 550 Begum Jahanara, among others, spoke at the meeting presided over by

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) launched nine human-haulers yester day. The BRTC officials claimed that they have signed a memorandum with Nitol Motors. Under the contract the BRTC and Nitol will jointly commission about 200 human haulers, called Goti,

8:00pm.Only students and teachers even went for body search. In many places, there were indoors

The hotels, however, did brisk

AL call to stop HR violation

The meeting in a political resolu-

tion said that since launch of the

Operation Clean Heart on October

17 last year 'political persecution'

the arrests of party-men and intel-

lectuals and their maltreatment in

The meeting was highly critical of

took part in the discussion.

has notched up.

tight security measures adopted by the law enforcers. "This time people did not come out fearing harassment or even arrest," said a man at the Gulshan-2 crossing. Security was beefed up in the city and across the country on the 31st

PHOTO: STAR

night because of two past incidents weighing heavily in the law enforcers' calculations. First, the memory of the untoward incident on the Dhaka University campus, where a woman was harassed by revellers in the first hour of the year 2000, is still

fresh. Second, the bomb explosions in cinema halls in Mymensingh and Satkhira laid bare some glaring holes in the overall security system.

New Year revellers stay indoors FROM PAGE 12 army personnel who remained on the



Earlier, family members had filed a general diary (GD) with Ramna police Sunday noon. They came to know about recovery of Shafiq's body and identified it at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue in the afternoon. Then a murder case was filed.

his phone call, only saying that he

had bought the mobile phone

Sunday morning from Sadarghat.

He could not be contacted further.

Shafiq's body was handed over to his family following autopsy and he was buried at Jurain Graveyard on Monday.

A former official of the Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA), Shafiq was running a private business firm --Multimode Exploration Limited -- for the last several months. He left behind two sons aged 8 and 2, and his wife.

When contacted last night, the second officer at the Ramna Police Station said they are waiting for the autopsy report to begin an investigation. He, however, said they are trying to trace the person with Shafiq's mobile phone.

Meanwhile, Shafiq was the top bidder for the shore-based facilities project of the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS) under Spain-Bangladesh Financial Cooperation Programme. Spain is providing a grant of US\$ 9.5 million for the project

Dr Abdullahel Bari of Ananda Group, when contacted last night, said Shafiq had come to his his office at the Maghreb prayer time on Saturday and left at around 7:00

"Shafiq pressed my office staff to allow him to meet me. But they told him I was busy," Bari said. Shafiq's friend Goutam Mitra told

Bangladeshi shot dead by Indian miscreant

UNB, Sylhet

A Bangladeshi was shot dead by an Indian miscreant of Khasia tribe near Bisnakandi border of Goainghat upazila Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as M Sarafuddin, 38, of Bogaya village of the upazila

BDR sources said the miscreant Dhiren shot and seriously wounded Sarafuddin when he went to the nearby border pillar at noon for collecting firewood. He died on way home

BDR protested the incident to the Indian Border Security Force

tacted his office at 9:30 am on Sunday, an office attendant said he had gone to his village home in Chandpur. But his wife told me he was at his brother's residence at Jurain." Goutam said. But Shafig's brother said he had not come to his residence.

Book fair FROM PAGE 12

Dhaka Book Fair at Sher-e-Bangla National Parade Square yesterday afternoon. "Books for prosperity" is the

theme of this year's book fair, which has attracted 151 publishers and organisations from home and abroad, including Japan Foundation, Islamic Republic of Iran, Indian Guild. World Book Centre and Midas.

This year's book fair also marked the birth centenary of celebrated poet Jasimuddin. The prime minister urged writers,

litterateurs, academics and scholars contribute towards building a to treasure of scientific and technological books in Bangla, the dearth of which is currently hindering dissemination of knowledge including modern technical know-how.

presented a crest and books to two eminent personalities -- SMA Faiz. Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, and Prof. Zinnatunnesa Tahmida, Chairman of the Public Service Commission

Present Books to Your near and

PDB clarifies FROM PAGE 1

It says the PDB sought an allocation of Tk 37 crore to pay CD/VAT to release the materials and bring them to the project site for inspection. It has paid about Tk 6 crore to Mongla customs authorities.

"At this point, PDB neither accepted the materials nor rejected those". The materials could be accepted only after inspection by a

mmittee The PDB says the present fivemember inspection committee has two mechanical engineers. The

PDB requested inclusion of two more mechanical engineers in it to make their work easier.

promulaated during the eighth parliamentary election in October 2001. Also, the election observers will be under legal cover like in the general election.

So far, Bangladesh Manobadhiker Samannaya Parisad, Bangladesh Manabadhiker Commission, Democracy Watch, Massline Media Center, Nari Progoti Shangha, Broti, ASA, Odhiker, FEMA, Service Civil International, International Society for Fair Election Monitoring, SEAF, Jatiya Nirbachan Parjabekhok Parisad, Muktijoddha Kalyan Kendro, Nari Jagoroni Sangstha, Action on Disability and Development, Human and Environment Development Association, Banchte Shekha. Khan Foundation, Liberty Movement, RDRS, Bangladesh Manabadhiker Bastobayan

Sangstha, National Democratic Alliance and Asia Foundation sought accreditation from the EC.

Poor aman signals cruel time ahead At yesterday's function, she FROM PAGE 1 This year's target for private sector

import is one million tonnes and She unveiled the plaque inscribed

dear ones" at the entrance of the book fair. She went round a number of stalls and observed some of the publications

for the Ghorashal Power Plant from the Chittagong and Mongla ports.

already 800,000 tonnes have been ers would also feel the heat. brought in. More will come during the On the flip side, the farmers would February-March period, which is benefit from higher prices of proexpected to push up the total import duces and be encouraged to use figure to around 1.5 million tonnes. proper inputs.

Meantime, the government began Aman rice varieties Swarna and procurement from yesterday with the BR-11 are now selling at Tk 1,150 stock down to 700,000 tonnes from and Tk 1,100 respectively per 84one million tonnes. The government kilogram sack on local markets. deems a stock of 850,000 tonnes as Only ten days back, the same a satisfactory security level. The varieties were sold at Tk 1,100 and Tk procurement might push the prices 1,050 respectively, according to

further up. On the other hand, the finance ministry's rigid position on converting food distribution in kind to cash in the food for work (FFW) programme would also have some bearing on the

future market price. Already, 200,000 tonnes of foodgrain have been reduced from the FFW within the broad policy

framework of switching over from kind to cash. Wheat production is also looking

down this year and wheat price in the international market is also quite high. The landed price is close to Tk

12.5 per ka. which is auite hiah. Moreover, because of a tightened border, flow from India would also be slow. These factors together would lead to a price-hike in the short term PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina accompanied by the members of the new AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) lays a wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

JCD body FROM PAGE 12

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Amanullah Aman MP said other names of the committee would be declared later on

In December 2001, the BNP dissolved activities of JCD following widespread allegations of criminal activities by its leaders and activists. In September last year, the BNP formed a central convening committee with Sahabuddin Laltu as its Convenor to rejuvenate JCD units across the

country. Meanwhile, the newly formed central committee yesterday made Amirul Islam Khan Alim and Hasan Mamun President and General Secretary respectively of the Dhaka

University unit of JCD. A press release sent by new JCD President said names of the other members of DU unit committee would be declared later on.

NAM flats for MPs

FROM PAGE 1

As for the decision to put some manpower under revenue budget following implementation of the ADP projects. Saifur said. "The committee has been assigned to sort out the essential manpower and suggest how the (transfer of) essential manpower can be approved." Elaborating, the finance minister said some technical personnel like doctors and nurses and other technical hands are essential while some non-technical people also required to run the government. 'These people acquire a degree of experience during the development phase and it would be a wastage if their experiences and expertise were not utilised once the develop-

> ment phase is complete. However, he admitted that the financial cost for the proposed manpower transfer would weigh heavily on the government.

Earlier, in January 2002, the cabinet committee decided not to absorb any manpower working in any development project once the project is complete.

A working paper, which was prepared by the finance ministry and placed at the meeting, observed that many institutions like hospitals, educational and training

within this month. Moreover, 400 more buses will hit the road soon, the official claimed

Remarkable changes were seen on the eight-kilometre stretch of the Mirpur Road after the road was made off-limits to rickshaws.

The whole stretch was totally free from traffic jams and chaos Motorists respected the electronic signals and were seen stopping at the right places and using horns

Local people said the government should urgently solve the public transport crisis. People totally dependent upon public transports had to bear the brunt as they were left with no choice but to walk to work during peak hours.

institutions and other new techno

ogy-oriented projects start function-

ing with people working in develop-

It also noted that it was impera-

He, however, blamed some of the

areas in Rajshahi where there is the irrigation facilities are poor and the growers who planted seedlings in

Poor aman harvest in certain in the northern region.

At least 122,640 tonnes of rice and 70,000 tonnes of paddy are expected to be collected at a rate of Tk 1,280 per guintal of rice and Tk 840 per quintal of paddy from 16

The high paddy and rice prices, he said, would encourage Boro cultivation on more areas in the upcoming And so, the AED has marked out

57.100 hectares for Boro cultivation illages in the upcoming season. Rezaul expects the targeted area

insects", Karim said

to cross the 60,000-hectare mark eventually. In the immediate-past Boro season, 2.09 lakh metric tonnes of

rice was produced from 55,265 hectares in Rajshahi

areas will not affect the gross production figures of the district, Rezaul said. "Raishahi has fared better in hinted at a production shortfall of aman production than other districts "I will not claim this year's produc-

northern districts

tive to transfer the manpower to revenue budget for smooth functioning of those institutions. "But it has to be ensured that more than necessary and unnecessary manpower is not absorbed in the revenue budget," the working paper said So far, 1969 staff including 292

ment projects.

officials under 23 development projects are waiting for a final approval to be put under revenue budget after scrutiny by the establishment and finance ministries, according to sources.

The finance minister's attention was drawn to press reports about planned changes in budgeting. He said no decision is there to formulate three yearly budget. Rather, he said, the government plans to introduce a three-year rolling plan, an alternative to five-year development plan, for efficient adjustment of

development projects. The rolling plan and yearly national budget will be formulated in line with the PRSP (poverty reduction strategy paper), he said

out Natore, Bogra, Dinajpur and Rangpur. Daud Ali, a 65-year-old farmer of late Paramandapur, cultivated aman

(BR-11 variety) on 10 bighas and returned eight maunds per bigha this year against a standard of 10 maunds. season

including Dhaka, Chittagong,

The situation is the same through-

Comilla, Barisal and Jessore.

Jovnal, Faruk, Abdul Awal, Muntai and Abdur Rahim Mandal of Paramandapur and Amnura villages witnessed similar shortfall.

Arman Ali, a marginal farmer of Paramandapur who cultivated aman paddy on 10 bighas, said scarcity of water and untimely rainfall hindered output.

In Berabari of Mohonpur, aman rice grower Abdur Rashid got an

average production of six maunds from seven bighas Rezaul Karim, deputy director of the Agriculture Extension

Department (AED) in Rajshahi

tion as a good one but it will be satis-

factory as it was last year despite the

fact that there was no reasonable

causes for the poor production and

there was no remarkable incidents of

natural calamities and attack of

about ten per cent in the district.