League secretary Sharif Mamun Ahmed were arrested along with

Our Staff Correspondent in Khulna reported that the joint forces arrested four 'listed criminals" from the city. They are Najimuddin Babu, son of a former superintendent of police, Kazi Akteruzzaman, Erfan Ali and Shahidul Islam

In Pabna, 'listed criminals' Abdul Majid and Mohiuddin Bari were arrested from Ghugudaha village in Sathiya upazila along with two firearms and one Mamun was held from Debattor Bazar in Atgharia for falsely identifying himself as an

army man.
Our Magura correspondent reported that the joint forces raided the house of alleged outlaw Daud Mondal at Noahata village in Sripur

Tiger Jalil along with his two sons were arrested from his house at Haorkoraia in Rajnagar upazila and a pipe gun was recovered.

kidnapping, extortion and other crimes since 80s. He was handed

leader advocate Sheikh Mozahar Hossain Nantu was arrested from Kaliganj and party activists Rafiqul Islam and Bablu were held from Shyamnagar upazila. They were

trafficker Yunus Ali Fakir alias Dulal from Sadar upazila in Bagerhat district.

Mymensingh district Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Abdur

forces arrested alleged child trafficker Abdur Rahman along with his accomplices Wazuddin and Siddique. Siddique is a Union Parishad member candidate in Barobaria union.

country and recovered five firearms along with 62 bullets in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

The arrested also include 594

'wanted criminals' and 573 accused

in different cases. The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in a press release said they picked up 251 people from different parts of the city in the last 24 hours Of them, 27 are 'wanted criminals' and 53 are accused in different

Six to vie

FROM PAGE 12 rm questions papers.

Schools that fall in the category A are Government Laboratory High School, Mirpur Government High School, Motijheel Government High School, Khilgaon Government High School, Nawabpur High School, New Government Girls High School, Islamia High School and Mohammadpur Government High

Schools bracketed in category B are Motijheel government Girls High School, Dhaka Government Muslim High School, Banglabazar Government Muslim High School, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar High School, Government Science College (school section), Dhanmondi Girls High School and Armanitola Government Girls High School.

Schools in C category are Dhanmondi Government Boys High School, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar Government Girls High School, Qamrunnesa Government Girls High School (Dhanmondi), Collegiate School, Qamrunnesa Government Girls High School (Tikatuli). Ganobhaban Government High School and Tejgaon Government Girls High

government Vigarunnesa Noon School and Motijheel Ideal School & College took place last week.

The admission tests for class III and IX of Dhaka Residential Model School will be held on January 9 and 10 respectively.

doctors' advice

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday had a medical checkup at a city clinic following the advice of a five-member medical board.

She has been suffering from high fever for last two weeks.

The board comprising Dr. Mahmud Hasan, Dr. Shaila Khatun, Dr. Pran Gopal, Dr. Mohammad Abdullah and Dr. Mohammad Rizvi conducted a thorough checkup on Saturday and advised her complete Sheikh Hasina cancelled her

four-day tour to Chittagong from today where she was scheduled to attend the concluding session of the Institute of Engineers on January 7, said a press release.

Earlier she cancelled her yesterday's programme at Savar National Memorial where she was scheduled to place wreath along with the newly elected members of the Awami League's Central Working

Hasina's personal staff informed that she is at complete bed rest.

Bomb blast leaves two injured at Moulvibazar

UNB, Moulvibazar

A powerful bomb exploded in an under-construction building in the town at midnight on Saturday, leaving its two guards seriously

"Hundreds of people woke up from sleep in panic following the blast with a big bang in the building adjacent to the main post office on the central road," said a firsthand report.

The sound of the blast was heard even some three kilometres from the explosion site.

Sadar than a police rushed to the scene and rescued the guards --Shaheed Mia, 30, of Baliarbhag and Ilias Mollah, 25, of Habiganj.

They were hospitalised under police guard. The detainees would be interrogated on their recovery.

Police were yet to confirm whether it was a bomb or strong cocktail. "Everything will be clear after interrogating the guards,"

Boro

ickshaws are hitting the city streets tariff increase that has already badly affected the farmers using over one lakh electric pumps.

Now, both groups -- those who use diesel pumps and those using delayed to avoid hassles in CNG electric ones -- have to spend more Sources said conversion of The government has set the

paddy and wheat production target for 2002-03 at 28.077 million MT of which boro will contribute 13 million "After a bad aman, the fuel price

hike may have a bad impact on boro correspondent that he loses one to tion." said Dr Quazi Shahabuddin, a research director of the Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies

Domestic production slump would lead to more food import and will impact rice price and stock, Shahabuddin said Meanwhile, our northern region

correspondent Anwar Ali reported that growers have started storing diesel for boro cultivation.

However, the minister said they They usually need to keep their land irrigated from the soil preparation stage to the tillering stage. During this time, the lands need to be soaked under a certain level of water for at least 75 days. In the last boro season, the

farmers irrigated over 3.2 million hectares of boro land, over two lakh hectares of wheat land and nearly three lakh hectares of lands for other seasonal crops.

Commercial drape

liveable character of the residential areas'

But the residents of these areas termed the move as 'a trick' to make illegal money. Referring to a survey conducted by the Public Works Department (PWD) they said there are nearly 327 unauthorised commercial structures in Dhanmondi

Over the years, unplanned commercialisation took place in these areas right under the noses of concerned departments including Rajuk and PWD, in spite of continuous newspaper reports and written and verbal complaints from the residents

ated the process declaring four roads in Dhanmondi as 'feasible for non-residential use' as the Dhaka Improvement Trust (DIT) initially had not earmarked any land for shopping complexes and commer-

cial establishments. Following this, the Rajuk started providing approval for commercial and non-residential use of residential plots in other areas including Gulshan, Uttara and Banani. Meanwhile, protesting the move

Dhanmondi Poribesh Unnavan Jote, in a statement, demanded the eviction of all illegal commercial structures within the framework of the Dhaka Metropolitan Master Plan (DMDP). It also demanded disciplinary actions against those responsible for setting up such unauthorised structures. They also threatened to form a social movement against the

gling of gasoline to India.

Bangladesh. Mosharraf, however, failed to produce any specific data on smug-

ment issued last night.

people due to acceleration in the rate of inflation," it said in a state-

DCC faces Bhuiyan heat Shahriar detained over mosquito menace

Committee formed to clear garbage, clean water bodies in 15 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a four-member high-powered committee to deal with the mosquito menace in the city.

The committee has been assigned the job of clearing garbage, and cleaning the water bodies in the city within the next 15 days. The committee, headed by

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, will monitor and supervise the mosquito elimination drive and give necessary directives in order to clean the entire capital city. The order was issued and the committee formed, at a review

meeting of the Dhaka City Corporation held at the conference room of the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives, with Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair. Chief Executive Officer of the

DCC AZM Shafiqul Islam has been made member-secretary of the new committee, while state and deputy ministers for LGRD and cooperatives, Ziaul Haq Zia and Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu are mem-Sources said the LGRD minister

DCC's mosquito elimination and cleanliness drive, and the mayor sought adequate funds, logistics and manpower for the drive. However, the LGRD minister ordered the DCC and other agencies concerned to clean ponds,

expressed dissatisfaction over

water bodies and drains, and immediately go for a massive mosquito elimination programme. "I want to see highly positive results within the next 15 days. Begin the anti- mosquito drive right now because the mosquito situation has taken a serious turn in the city,' he told the meeting, which was attended by officials of both the

ministry and the DCC. The mayor informed the meeting that he was pursuing the ministries of environment and health to get permission for aerial spray.

He also said he was hoping that

30 hurt as villagers clash in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 30 people were injured, eight of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at village Mirzapur in sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Local people said two rival groups one led by Bazlur Rahman and the other by Hashem Master clashed over establishing their supremacy at the village.

Seriously injured persons identified as Abu Hasan 37, Baharul 21, Lutfunnesa 36, Abu Taleb 40, rad 25. Ataur Rahman 20. Khatun 30 and Bazlur Rahman were admitted to Magura sadar

Of them Abu Hasan was later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deterio-

This is the second fuel price-hike

since the present government came

to power a year and three months

Earlier on December 27, 2001.

just over two months after it

assumed office, the Bangladesh

Nationalist Party-led coalition

effected an increase of around ten

the steepest rise in the new struc-

ture, up 17.86 per cent to Tk 33 per

litre. Diesel ranks second at Tk 20

per litre, a 17.65 per cent rise from

Tk 17. Octane will now be sold at Tk

35 per litre, up 16.67 per cent from

to Tk 24 per litre from Tk 21.15 and

furnace oil 11.11 per cent to Tk 10

due to high price of petroleum on the

international market as well as in

India," State Minister for Petroleum

and Mineral Resources AKM

Mosharraf Hossain said while

detailing the new rates at a press

Prices on the local market are

"Such price variations cause

much lower than on the international

market and even in India, he told

huge loss to the state-run oil agency

and encourage smuggling of petro-

newsmen at the energy ministry.

conference yesterday afternoon.

Jet fuel price rose 13.48 per cent

"The price hike was inevitable

The price of petrol has marked

per cent.

Tk 30.

per litre from Tk 9.

the necessary equipment for destroying mosquitoes would soon arrive from abroad.

In this context, the LGRD minister asked the mayor to start mosguito elimination with the stock of insecticides and machines that the DCC has at its disposal at present. The mayor agreed to begin the drive immediately.

DCC officials, however, said the stock of insecticides was inade-

They said the DCC had delayed floating of tender and issuance of the purchase order for procuring insecticides from abroad. At least a month's time is needed to procure the insecticides from outside the

The mayor informed the meeting that it would not be possible to eliminate mosquitoes without destroying the breeding grounds outside the capital

Talking to reporters, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Ziaul Haq Zia said that from now on the ministry would supervise and monitor DCC activities and give necessary guidelines for making all its drives successful.

Commenting on the high-powered committee, the state minister said several subcommittees would soon be formed to handle the problem effectively.

He said the ministry would regularly monitor and supervise the activities of the DCC. The state minister did not share the mayor's view that the DCC did not have adequate staff to launch the drive. I would prefer cutting down the size of the staff by 50 per cent," the state

remain as park: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At last the 'Lalmath' at Pallabi in the city remains as a park without being converted into residential plots.

petition for appeal against a judgement of the High Court in this regard. Earlier in 1996, the government had planned to convert the 'Lalmath'

(situated between Road-3 and Road-4 at Block-A in Section 12 of Mirpur housing estate) into residential plots. Challenging the government plan, a group of residents of Pallabi filed a public interest litigation with

the High Court. The court declared the plan illegal and of no legal effect. The government then filed the leave petition for appeal against the

Additional Attorney General moved the leave petition for the government while advocates Muhammad Mohsen Rashid and M G Bhuiyan represented the respon-

and you cannot fight this with admin-

Rifles (BDR) was doing to check

every year, the BPC will still incur a

Mosharraf also pointed out that

loss of around Tk 1.000 crore."

such smuggling.

Sources said that a decision has been taken to float tender to hand over garbage disposal of two zones of the city (Uttara, Gulshan, Baridhara and Banani) to private operators.

They said the tender would be floated this month and it would be treated as a pilot project. While reviewing the progress of

the DCC projects being implemented, the meeting expressed serious dissatisfaction, as there has apparently been no progress in most of the projects launched in 1998 and 1999. Sources said construction of a

10-storied building at a cost of Tk 13 crore to provide training and rehabilitation to rootless children at Syedabad began in 1998, but so far only one floor of the building has en completed. Only six percent of a Taka 255

crore-environment project, taken up 1999, has been completed.

The LGRD minister directed the DCC and other concerned authorities to complete the projects by March. He also ordered construction of modern public toilets in different parts of the city.

DCC shops FROM PAGE 12

his reservations about the 10 per cent ceiling on the mayor's quota.

He contended that all the past mayors had allotted shops by issuing statutory regulatory order (SRO), as there was no such policy.

Khoka argued that there are thousands of unemployed freedom fighters who are living in misery for long. Besides, many others who have made positive contributions in society were ignored by successive He said the DCC could provide

them with shops to help them make a living and for that 25 per cent of the city corporation shops should be allotted from the mayor's quota Finally, the meeting accepted the mayor's proposal. Under the new policy, there will

be a 10-member shop allotment committee headed by the chief executive officer of city corporation. This committee will approve the allotment of shops Other members of the committee

are three DCC ward commissioners (two male and one female), deputy secretary (municipality) of the LGRD ministry, secretary of the city corporation, chief engineer, chief revenue officer, deputy revenue officer and estate officer of the city corporation. The new policy stipulates that

shops would have to start business within six months of allotment and possession. Prior permission for transfer of ownership and regular deposit of certain fees with the public exchequer are also required.

The court declared his detention

The High Court had given a similar order for Shahriar on Saturday. But the home ministry, in an order dated December 29, said that the authorities were satisfied in giving Shahriar Kabir 90 days detention from January 10 under the Special Powers Act, to prevent him from conducting 'harmful activities'.

Shahriar's previous detention order expires on January 10. But since the High Court has declared that order illegal, the new order should also be considered illegal. According to lawyer Amir-ul-Islam, as the fresh detention order was a continuation of the previous one, it would not be effective. On the other hand, home minis-

try officials themselves did not appear to be sure why the ministry-being fully aware of the High Court order-- issued the fresh (backdated) detention order. They said that the order was actually issued yester-Talking to the Daily Star, Barrister

Amir-ul-Islam said last night. "The behaviour of the government clearly goes against the rule of law and human rights. Furthermore, it is ignoring and violating the High Court order."

A High Court Division bench of

Justice Hamidul Hag and Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury yesterday asked the government to free

Muntasir Mamun within 24 hours. The government lawyers failed to satisfy the court as to why Muntasir was detained.

Shahriar and Muntasir were arrested on December 8 under Section 54 and were placed on police remand. Later, they were sent to jail under a month's detention order. Shahriar has been implicated in a sedition case. However, both of them obtained bail from the High

Shahriar is now in Chittagong jail and Muntasir in Dinajpur jail. They have not been released, as the ailers concerned have not received the court orders so far, sources said.

Eminent lawyer and politician Dr. Kamal Hossain told BBC last night that the way the government was using the SPA violated the constitution. He also raised questions about the legality of the SPA.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, however, has said that since there is a law, it would be enforced. "It is now being applied for special reasons,' he said-- adding that the government was considering repealing the law, without specifying when it

Hossain, regional controller of food

(RCF) in Raishahi, explained that

the procurement drive has just

begun and "we have to wait one or

two weeks more to get a satisfactory

About the stock position, he said

there is nothing to be worried as the

government handles only 15 to 20

per cent of the total demand for food

against Jatyatabadi Chhatara Dal

(JCD) cadre Mokammel Hayat

Khan Muki and 14 others in the

The 14 others are Tagar, Mukul

Mohammad Dulal, Masum Billah,

Shooter Nuru, Shaikh Solaiman

alias Babul, Hafiz, Nurul Islam alias

Sagar, Zakir Hossain Patwari

Munna, Tajul Islam Pulak, Aminul

Islam, Ahsanul Kari, Shariff Imam

Sonv murder case on Saturday.

ალის murder

FROM PAGE 12

Aman drive

8.800 tonnes respectively were collected. In case of paddy, there was no collection in three districts --Natore, Thakurgaon and Lalmonirhat

"Why should we go to government granaries when we are getting higher prices at wholesale markets. Besides, our stock of rice has already decreased as the harvest of aman paddy ended by mid-

views for their little interest in supplying aman paddy to government aranaries. Rekat Ali, a miller in

Chapainawabgani, said this season the procurement drive began a month later than previous year's. "And this season, our stock position is such that we cannot meet the parts of the country," he added. Quality Aman rice varieties

kets. Only two weeks back, prices of the same varieties of rice were up to Tk 1100 and Tk 1050 respectively,

350 per maund (40kg) and the price was below Tk 300 two weeks ago.

Local rice traders also apprehended that the prices might rise further due to 'poor supply' of rice from growers as against the

Shaheb Bazar area in Rajshahi City attributed the price rise of rice to less production of aman this season and disruption in paddy and rice processing due to foggy weather. Meanwhile, sources said stock

satisfactory. There is a stock of 1.70 lakh tonnes of rice and 54,000 tonnes of wheat in the granaries. When contacted, AZM Mansur

between two factions of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dai (JCD) on June 8 las **BUET Security Officer Golam**

engaged in gunbattle. The two factionsone led by Muki

and the other by Tagar--locked in the gunfight on the day over establishing dominance on the campus and tender manipulation. Three sawn-off rifles, some car-

tridges and bloodstained clothes of the victim were recovered from the

City scrambles

FROM PAGE 1 confirmed by yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, all 187 private filling stations in the city and its periphery

station in the city that remained open until late yesterday evening, with hundreds queuing up for fuel near the Hotel Sheraton intersection belonged to the state.

Staffers of the filling station said they would keep on supplying at the previous rate until they ran out of

Filling station owners were

playing on the situation and started hoarding their stocks yesterday

ation blamed the government for creating confusion. Some association leaders reasoned out that they had stopped supplying firstly because they had not received any supply from the government depot throughout the day.

hike would be. We also feared that our workers might rush into fighting with customers over the price," said Kazi Nurul Amin, general secretary of the Dhaka Division's Petrol Pump Owners Association. A filling station worker said. "The

government should have kept the decision under wraps and announced it during the 10.00pm BTV news bulletin, or it should have been announced on a public holi-The worker said petrol was being

smuggled to India. The hike would check the rising trend, he thinks.

Janatar Mancha FROM PAGE 1 of Education Abu Alam Shahid

women's affairs ministry and incumbent member of the public service commission Sirajuddin Ahmed senior assistant secretary (now OSD in the establishment ministry) Rabiul Alam Mohammad Obaidu Muktadir Chowdhury, former DIG of Police Prokriti Ranjan Chanda (PR Chanda) and former president of Secretariat Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad Syed Mohiuddin.

Fifteen people were shown as

then officer-in-charge (OC) of Ramna thana filed the sedition case with the CMM's Court on April 8 last year accusing Dr Alamgir and six others. Later, the investigation officer (IO) of the case included the name

of Chanda in the charge sheet as

March 1996 and instigated the government officials and employees to join the agitation against the All the eight accused are now on

firearms.

upazila on Saturday night and arrested him along with a pistol. A case was filed against him under the Arms Act and he was produced before court. In Moulvibazar, alleged criminal

Jalil was allegedly involved in over to police. In Satkhira, Awami League

handed over to police. The joint forces picked up alleged outlaw Abdul Zabbar Fakirhat upazila and alleged woman

Rouf Akhand Ratan, accused in some criminal cases including that for extortion, was arrested from the In Trishal in the district, join

The police headquarters in press release last night said police picked up 1,181 people including eight 'identified criminals' from across the

with the Nordic Development Fund

able to set up more than six new

stations this year in the city." said a

top official of the RPGCL preferring

sion station of RPGCL said they

have so far converted about 2000

petrol-run vehicles. The figure could

be much more than 5000 had there

been adequate number of fuel

stations. It is now converting two to

three vehicles everyday, against a

capacity of at least eight, they

for a private car and Tk37,107 for

they are very much interested to

convert their vehicles into CNG-run

ones because per cubic meter of

CNG costs Tk7.45 against Tk30 for

one litre of octane while the mileage

But they are not showing much

interest due to shortage of fuel

microbus and pickup van.

The conversion cost is Tk30,674

Some owners of vehicles said

Sources at the lone CNG conver-

"But most probably we will not be

(NDF) shortly.

anonymity.

added.

stations and are using octane.

wheelers from January 1. Conversion of government owned vehicles are also being

vehicles will be started in the middle of this month and are expected to be completed in next three months Jasim Uddin, a driver of CNG-run taxicab, who was in a queue at a

FROM PAGE 12 As regards taxicabs, he said, about 4,000 taxicabs are now plying the

chicles take in the city. Experts say any increase in the

tons of fuel including crude and

refined are imported every year.

Last year, the BPC imported 33 lakh

metric tons of fuel worth around Tk

3,500 crore. This year, it will import

35 lakh metric tons costing around

would earn an additional Tk 890

crore this year because of the price

Sources said the government

CNG to avoid long queue at the fuel

Price hike theory

India because of 'low' fuel price.

have to be smuggled in huge container lorries. There are no instances of any such lorries seized while smuggling fuel," said a Petroleum sector expert. On the other hand, the argument that the border with India is porous and impossible to guard is also

with India are a few. There is no way of smuggling huge quantity of fuel through any other routes. The existing roads are easy to check.

fuel price over two times higher than the purchase rate. But the BPC sells the same at a price lower than the taxed price," said a BPC source

pay huge taxes.

In addition, as the government takes away all the cash from the BPC, the corporation has been running in severe cash crunch for the last three years.

BPC sources said the BPC's accumulated loss in the last three years since 2001 amounted to Tk 3.100 average 35 lakh met

fuel stations.

two hours everyday to refuel his

Four-stroke

city roads and their number would

Moreover, many drivers of CNGrun auto-rickshaw are also not using figure of three-wheelers would lead to a huge traffic jam in the city.

old argument for price hike -- that petroleum products are smuggled to

"There is no proof of such smug

gling. Surely, petroleum products

invalid. Lorries have to move on roads and such roads having links

Under the present policy, the government is the sole importer of petroleum products. It also fixes the petroleum price and the BPC has to

"Various duty and taxes make

Because of this policy the BPC incurs losses.

Bureau of Manpower and ployment Training. Our Chittagong office quoting forging visas.

Acid haul FROM PAGE 1

Tk 4.000 crore.

supplied by the gang for long might have been used by criminals for making explosives and other criminal activities like throwing acid on women and children, they said. A case was files with Sutrapul police under the Acid Control Act. In another drive in Mogbazar on Saturday night, a CID team raided

the residence of a fake manpower

exporter and recovered 26 forged

CID police said they are investigat-

ing the matter. The acid illegally

Bangladeshi passports, some visas and seals of different government offices and embassies. The alleged fake manpower exporter -- Harunur Rashid Khan -- has been arrested. The seals include those of the

Police said primary investigation revealed that Harun was involved in illegal manpower export for long by A case was filed with Ramna

The admission tests of non-

CNG conversion

due to ban on two stroke three

More and more CNG-run auto-

nearly 500 government owned

no way be more than 10,000.

would conduct a survey to find out how much space different types of

FROM PAGE 1

In 1996 the Rajuk officially initi-

leum out of the country. The price increase, however, has been kept at a minimum with a view to minimising its impact on the consumers.' The state minister believes the orice revision will help check smuggling to India and other countries where gasoline is costlier than in

"Price differential of a product

Lalmath to

The Supreme Court on Saturday dismissed the government's leave

High Court judgement.

Fuel price yanked up further as businessmen and producperceived to encourage smuggling ers are already burdened with high

> The BPC has Tk 3,100 crore in smuggling and low prices in neighlosses over the years due to the bouring countries, saying "it does not match with the national developprice difference between local and international markets, he said. "Although the price increase will ensure an additional Tk 890 crore

the BPC loss rose to such a level, as there had been no price-hike for around two years till December The price revision, meanwhile, looks set to burden the common people, already reeling under steep rise in living cost in the last one year. A survey of Consumers Association

of Bangladesh (CAAB), the cost of

living shot up by 8.52 per cent in the

year that just went by.

The price hike, especially of diesel and furnace oil, will tell on agriculture, industry and export, sources said. Also, the transport owners will cite the price revision as reason to increase fare of different passenger vehicles. They are learnt to have been lobbying with the communications minister over the last few days for the price hike.

vesterday expressed concern over the decision to raise fuel prices. "Fuel prices hike would not only affect transport, agriculture, industry and export sectors but also increase sufferings of the common

The Dhaka Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (DCCI)

The DCCI also urged the government not to increase the fuel prices

cost of business prompted by istrative measures." Mosharraf said enhanced prices of other utilities such as power, water and gas. when asked what the Bangladesh It also refuted the government

rationale that the hike was due to

ment strategy on the one hand and individual business plan on the The DCCI felt the necessity of strict surveillance and improved role of law enforcing agencies and

border forces and close monitoring

of fuel dealership to stop leakage.

UP polls

5,061 for the office of members and

Commission sources The election authorities validated a total of 20,4378 out of 2.12.239 nomination papers submitted for the posts of chairman, general member and female mem-

According to the EC officials,

1,952 for reserved posts for the

female members were found

invalid, according to the Election

24.089 had filed for the chairman posts while 1,46,617 for the posts of general members. The number of nomination papers filed for the female reserved seat was 41,533. Rural Bangladesh has worn a festive look as lively election cam-

paign gripped the entire country ahead of the forthcoming Union Parisad polls beginning later this month and running through mid-

December", said Abdur Rashid a miller (rice mill owner) in Rajshahi Growers also expressed similar

demand of our clients from different Swarna and BR-11 -- are now selling at Tk 1150 and Tk 1100 respectively per 84 kg sack in local mar-

according to sources in local rice Aman paddy now sells at up to Tk

demand from various parts of the country and because January to mid-March is not a paddy growing Rice trader Abdur Rashid of

position in government granaries in the northern region is also not

shut to thousands of fuel-seekers Interestingly, the only filling

One such staffer said that there was no question of closing the filling station or charging people more, as it did not receive any formal order.

The filling station owners' associ-

"We were not sure how much the

In the charge-sheet, 17 people were shown as prosecution wit-Of the accused, nine including Tagar were arrested earlier while the rest including prime accused Muki have been absconding since

and Mahabub Kaisar

Mukul and Sagar gave confessional statements before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on different dates. Sony, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), was killed on the BUET campus during a gunfight

the murder. Among them, Tagar,

Kuddus Khan filed a murder case with Lalbagh Police Station saving that Sony died during crossfire when the JCD factions were

Khan, former joint secretary in the

prosecution witnesses in the charge Mohammad Saifur Rahman, the

investigation revealed his involve In the case, it has been alleged that the accused had erected a Janatar Mancha (people's dais) in front of the Jativa Press Club in

then BNP government.