DCC launches road

main thoroughfares and develor

nearly 25 kilometres of footpath in

different parts of the city by

The mayor directed the con-

He also instructed the chief

The mayor said at present the

Roads and Highways Department

(RHD) is implementing a separate

project of Tk 200 crore under the

DUTP to improve the city's main

New PSC member

Former Chief Engineer of Roads

and Highways Department M Abdur Rouf took oath yesterday as

member of Bangladesh Public

Chowdhury administered the oath

in a simple ceremony attended by

the chairman, members and other

officials of PSC, an official handout

256 Bangladeshi

The repatriation process has been

stretched to three days to facilitate

one day is not enough to send back

prisoners. If a lapse occurs on

either side then the repatriation

process is prolonged. So that is why

three days have been kept in hand," a top official of the Deputy

between representatives of both Indian and Bangladesh govern-

ments in New Delhi about the

repatriation of the fishermen for

from the coastal areas of Khulna,

Most of the 256 fishermen are

Discussions had been on

High Commission said.

ometime now

"In the past we had noticed that

Chief Justice Mainur Reza

Service Commission (PSC).

tractors to maintain quality of works and meet the deadline.

engineer to involve the executives

tion of the project.

thoroughfares.

takes oath

UNB, Dhaka

FROM PAGE 12

the journey.

at different zonal offices to have a

repair work today



At least 100 patients are getting treatment every day. If needed,

to Dhaka for cataract operation",

an operation room, one patholo-

gist, one X-ray technician and a clerk. Visiting doctors give volun-

tary service, particularly during

Yves Marre, a Frenchman,

onceived the idea of the floating ospital. He sailed an old barge

The Friendship, along with

Lever Brothers, its major

from France to Bangladesh and

donated it to Friendship, a non-

Lever Brothers Bangladesh Ltd.

turned it into a floating hospital in

donor, will also bear operational

expenses of the hospital for three

years, sources at the hospital said.

for Roumari in Kurigramm next

month after completing an

Extended Programme of

Immunisation (EPI).

The ship will leave Kholarbari

government organisation.

"Today, five patients were sent

The hospital has two doctors,

petter treatment, he said.

health camps

Bangladesh.

The Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital moors at Kholarbari Char on the Jamuna to treat rural people.

A caring touch for the rural poor

ABDUL KADER, back from

Teenagers Kamala and Morsheda said they had successful cleft-lip

Sideway standing 70 year-old old Yunus Ali said he came to the floating hospital for treatment of

"I have come from Char Bhahadurabad knowing about free treatment", poor Ali said on board the Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital, anchored at Kholarbari Char on the Jamuna, 48 kilometres off Jamalpur town.

About 200 people were waiting for treatment of various diseases, including minor operation, if necessary

The ship-mounted hospital takes Tk five from each patient as 'visiting charge' and Tk three for

The hospital is providing treatment and health education to people in remote riverine areas where such facilities are lacking due to poor accessibility.

It is at Kholarbari Char since December 10 after visiting Lakhir Char, Char Dakatia and Char Churkaibari, Nagarbari and Pachakhola since it started its service in March last year.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed

said, "We should have invited

Suranjit Sengupta to the meeting.

from a national daily and referred

to other newspapers which reported that the PSC's decision

came in the wake of a cabinet

This correspondent was among some newsmen from Dhaka who visited the hospital on

During the one-year period, it provided services to around 36,000 people, out of which 18,000 were treated for various diseases. The rest were given primary knowledge on healthcare, family planning, mother and childcare, safe motherhood, nutrition, immunisation and sanitation, said its Executive Director Runa

"Our intention is to help the underprivileged people in remote areas who are deprived of healthcare and health education," she said.

It also organises a two-day health camp once a month, when specialist doctors provide volun-

Around 1000 people were iven free treatment during the ebruary 27-28 health camp at Kholarbari Char.

Hospital sources said health camps are organised to treat as many patients as possible in a when specialist doctors come from the capital.

"None returns without treatthe founders of the hospital.

Transport Project (DUTP). "We will complete the project within the stipulated time at any cost," said City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was speaking as chief guest at a contract signing ceremony between the DCC and the contrac-

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)

launches a nine-month long road

repair and footpath developmen

work today at a cost of around Tk 50

crore under the Dhaka Urban

tors at the Nagar Bhaban. Financed by the World Bank (WB), the DCC will repair some

Hotline

FROM PAGE 12

tion with the Grameen Phone.

The hotline numbers are 0171 595203 for investigation cell, 0171 800400 for legal cell, 0171-800401 for shelter home, 0171-800406 for trafficking cell, 0171-800402 for Rajshahi division, 0171-800403 for Khulna division, 0171-800404 for Sathkira, 0171-800405 for Jessore, 0171-800407 for Lalmonirhat and 0171-800404 for Benapole.

The BNWLA organisation staff will answer all questions of the callers related to violence, he added.

The victims will be provided with information pertaining to obtaining security, reaching local law enforcing agencies together with phone counselling for trauma victims and several other services.

The mobile phones bearing the ten numbers will be given to the organisation members at its various offices and three Grameen phone operators are to work round the clock by turn in the hotline service.

Ferdous Ara, joint Secretary for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs said her ministry is planing to set up such a hotline

Addressing the press conference, Intikhab Ahmed, general manager of Grameen Phone said the company would try to make it toll free for the callers calling to these particular numbers. "Right now Grameen Phone

does not have the technical support to make it charge free", he said.

given to any of these officials, PSC

sources said. "Who kept the key to

the vault is one issue that should be

investigated first," a source com-

Meanwhile, many have alleged --

because of persistent denial on the

part of the PSC-- that the question

leakage had actually exposed a

conspiracy to recruit 'friends, rela-

tives and political activists' through

fresh date for the cancelled test

through holding a meeting of the

coaching centres might have been

involved in the scandal and also that

they sold the question papers to BCS

examinees. But the PSC said, "Al-

though there was no evidence of

leakage of questions, the PSC

decided to cancel the test to remove

Former PSC Chairman Prof.

Mustafa Chowdhury told The Daily

Star yesterday, "There is no doubt

that question papers were leaked. The PSC should have paid due atten-

tion to the allegations and adopted

the necessary measures. But as the

PSC remained indifferent, the gov-

"The government could request

the PSC to take a certain step. But the

PSC's image has been tarnished by

the direct intervention of the govern-

Prof. Serajul Islam Chowdhury

said, "How can the PSC say that there

was no evidence of leakage without

ernment intervened."

ment," he added.

any confusion and controversy.'

commission members, sources said.

The PSC is preparing to fix up a

Evidences show that some city

cheating.

BCS: No enquiry

BCL observes strike to protest **BCS** test scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding immediate resignation of the chairman of Public Service Commission (PSC), opposition Awami League's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) observed student strike at all educational institutions across the country

They also demanded punitive action against the culprits involved in the leaking out of questions of the 24th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) preliminary test.

Meanwhile, some activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) beat up a BCL leader near the Central Library of Dhaka University (DU). The victim was identified as Mohammad Abu Abbas Bhuiya, joint secretary of AF Rahman hall

Academic activities of DU were hampered and administrative activities partially held because of the strike. All scheduled examinations were postponed.

BCL also brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus. Addressing the rally BCL leaders demanded proper investigation into the question leakage scam.

They declared that the PSC chairman's office will be cordoned off on March 8 and March 11. A memorandum will be submitted to the president demanding resignation of the

Ambulances FROM PAGE 12

hospital.

"The distribution of the ambulances irrespective of party affiliation proves Khaleda's firmness to ensure nealth for all," said the opposition lawmaker.

Kader Siddiqui of Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League recalled with gratitude the assurance of the Prime Minister in the parliament session of providing two ambulances for his area.

He hailed it as a "great step" and hoped that the prime minister would set similar examples in all spheres of national life

Mahbubur Rahman of the main opposition Awami League thanked the prime minister and said it would benefit the people of the coastal

Maulana Abdus Sobhan of Jamaat-e-Islami, Tajul Islam of the Jatiya Party and Mahbubur Rahman of BNP also spoke.

The function was also addressed by Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister Amanullah Aman and Secretary M Fazlur Rahman, Vice-chancellor of BSMMU and President of BMA Dr MA Hadi and Secretary General of BMA Dr AZM Zahir Hossain, DG, Health, Dr M Mizanur Rahman and Director of the Central Medical Store Brig General Abul Kalam Azad.

Ministers, MPs, PM's political Advisers, civil surgeons and senior civil and military officials attended

2 'robbers'

procession in the afternoon and demanded increase of police patrol in the area. Sources said residents of the area are scared following the Police said they have already

taken the initiative to combat crime in the locality. They have also introduced community police, following a series of robbery in the area.

Sub-inspector Shah Alam filed a case with Shyampur police station in

Vajpayee govt FROM PAGE 12

Indira-Mujib accord," said Chatterjee.

The issue has been raised before in Parliament. When the BIP ruled Delhi, CPM MP Hanan Mollah had led a campaign against the police harassment of Bengali-speaking

"The BJP government then had almost started a 'cleansing' operation," said a CPMMP.

Das Munshi clarified that his party was not against identifying and pushing back illegal migrants. But that does not mean innocent people speaking Bengali should be harassed, he said.

UN resolution

FROM PAGE 12 document," he said.

The United States, Britain and Spain have rejected the Canadian approach, although some diplomats would not rule out a variation of Ottawa's proposal for a future compromise

A resolution needs a minimum of nine votes for adoption in the 15-member council and no veto from its permanent members -the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China.

Virtually certain to vote against the resolution or abstain are France, Russia, China, Germany and Syria.

The undecided members include Chile, Mexico, Pakistan, Angola, Guinea and Cameroon. Both Angola and Pakistan are said to be leaning toward the US stance, which has four definite votes, should no viable alternative or amendment be presented.

Washington's strategy is to get the minimum nine votes and then dare France, Russia, or China to veto the measure.

France has the reverse strategy: if the United States does not get the nine votes, it would be spared making a decision about whether or not to veto the draft resolution

To complicate matters further, Blix's Friday report may not give much comfort to the United

One shot in **Motijheel**

BSS, Dhaka

A man was shot by a gang of miscreants in the city's Motijheel area vesterday.

The victim was identified as Babul Miah, 40, son of Golam Mostafa of 151/APWD staff quarters. Police quoting witnesses said the

miscreants shot Babul, while he was taking tea at a makeshift tea stall behind the WAPDA Bhaban at noon. Babul was shot in the thigh.

Local people rushed him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Later, he was shifted to the Orthopaedic Hospital.

A case was filed with Motijheel police station in this connection

States as Iraq has suddenly coor erated on a host of issues.

Baghdad met a Saturday deadline to begin destroying its Al Samoud 2 missile system, banned because its range may be greater than allowed. Iraqi workers also have dug up buried bombs they say are loaded with anthrax, aflatoxin and botulin toxin and which inspectors are now analys-

While the manoeuvring goes on, few believe that war can be prevented. The main purpose of the resolution appears to be providing political cover for US allies in Europe and elsewhere who support an American-led assault in defiance of domestic public opinion.

The United States also would like international help in rebuilding Iraq after an invasion but UN officials warned in a meeting with Pentagon planners that assistance would be limited if Washington went to war without a UN endorse-

Four policemen FROM PAGE 1

They said they were looking for a mentally retarded man whose photograph was published in a daily yesterday.

Being challenged, they started assaulting Monir. People around caught the three and handed them over to the police camp.

Meantime, some more journalists reached the camp. To their surprise, they saw police releasing the three after taking bribe, and protested.

The four policemen then assaulted the journalists. Monir, along with Abu Saleh Akand of Sangram, Osman Gani Babul of ABAS, Latif Rana of Nawrose and Abu Sufian Titu of Bangladesh Today were injured.

Senior police officials came and took the three persons to Ramna Police Station and assured the journalists of proper action against the policemen

Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association brought out a procession at the DMCH in the afternoon protesting the incident and demanding punishment to the policemen.

Philippines airport

FROM PAGE 1

running after them," Mindanao police chief Edgardo Aglipay said without elaborating. Aglipay told GMA television the bomb had been planted in an abandoned rucksack.

Government-run Davao Medical Center listed 19 dead from the airport blast and more than 50 injured, including at least nine Filipinos. The identities and nationalities of the other victims were not immediately available.

Casualties at other hospitals raised the number of injured to

Radio station DXDC placed the death toll at 30, without giving a source for the figure, which officials could not immediately confirm. Television footage showed a

long line of hospital beds full of bloodied patients being attended to by green-suited medical staff. The powerful blast at about 5:15

pm (0915 GMT) obliterated a shed used by passengers and wellwishers outside the airport's passenger terminal, he said over ABS-CBN television. An hour after the airport blast,

ambulances and other emergency vehicles were still picking up casualties from the street outside the airport, cordoned off by yellow police tape and dozens of soldiers armed with assault rifles. Flag-carrier Philippine Airlines

(PAL) suspended flights to Davao until further notice. The last of three PAL flights to Davao for the day was recalled back to Manila

about 35 minutes before touchdown, an airline statement said. President Gloria Arrovo

'strongly condemns the Davao bombing as a brazen act of terrorism, which will not go unpunished," presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Arroyo was holding an emerency meeting of th oversight committee on internal security to discuss the government response, he added.

Separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels, blamed in the car bombing of Cotabato airport on Mindanao on February 20 that killed one person and left six others injured, condemned the Davao bombing and denied responsibility.

"We are expressing our willingness to coordinate in any investigation for the purpose of determining the real culprits in this bombing, MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu said in a radio interview. He said the 12,500-member group only attacked "military targets"

The military launched a major offensive against the MILF in central Mindanao last month, killing nearly 200 guerrillas and displacing 214,000 civilians.

The attacks came amid planned deployment of US troops on the nearby island of Jolo, a stronghold of Abu Sayvaf rebels with alleged links to al-Qaeda Islamic militants.

Mindanao's large cities including Davao were without electricity earlier Tuesday in suspected MILF sabotage attacks.

Doubly dangerous

FROM PAGE 1

the fever, mostly in Dhaka. Surveillance and monitoring of

dengue situation has not started yet to prevent the disease.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) engages surveillance teams comprising entomologists or experts on insects to measure the spread of Aedes mosquitoes that carry the dengue virus. But this year the corporation has not as yet allocated any budget for the teams.

As a result, the DCC has no idea of the extent of the threat, experts

Sources also said all the vehiclemounted Ultra Low Volume (ULV) machines to spray adulticides are now out of order and rusting in the DCC warehouse. No alternative has yet been proposed. Sources at the DCC said the

corporation has only a very small stock of larvaecide, the main ingredient in combating the Aedes mos-

The current stock would last a few weeks but purchase orders for

new supplies have not been placed. "The corporation will soon

place orders to have a sufficient

mosquito I fear we may find ourselves in a situation worse than the previous years'," said one ento-mologist, on condition that he not

be named.

stock," said an official of DCC.

Entomologists say the absence

"Since the city corporation is

of early preparations may spur the

growth of Aedes mosquito popula-

blind to the population of Aedes

"The city corporation is taking preparations to stock enough larvaecide. Two separate tenders have been invited, one yesterday and the other day before," a DCC official said.

"We have ordered 2,500 litres of adulticide for aerial spraying. Two local agents offered Anvil, a widely used adulticide for killing Aedes while the other ofered Rescene 50E, an equally effective insecticide," he added. The official said the DCC is yet

to obtain permission to spray the insecticides, which are not registered in Bangladesh. However, the government can spray the insecticide without prior permission under special considerations.

He relied on newspaper reports. Moudud also claimed that the government had no hands in Mannan alleged that the PSC was politicised during the AL cancelling the exams. Suranjit then read out a report

Award giving ceremony

Anannya, a fortnightly magazine for women, organises a function to award 'Anannya Top Ten 2002'medal among the ten distinguished women for their outstanding contribution to different fields. Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum. Time: 4.30pm.

Reception

Alowkik Prakashani organises a reception for Dr Mahadev Chatteriee, the initiator of Bengali Department in Torento University of Canada and a noted Physicist. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium. Time: 2.00pm.

The inauguration of a workshop on

'International Year of Mountains' will be

held with Environment and Forest

Minister Shajahan Siraj as chief guest. Venue: BIAM auditorium, New Eskaton.

Workshop

Seminar A seminar on 'Present Japanese Garments Industry and Latest Dyeing Technology of Japan', organised by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and JETRO, will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International, Time: 10.00am.

Roundtable A roundtable on 'International

Aquaculture Certification' will be held Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 7.30pm. Anti-war rally

The preparatory committee for anti-war

rally and procession organises an all-

party rally to protest the US move to

attack Iraq and express solidarity with the

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan thanked the PSC for cancelling the test thus establishing its

Opposition demands JS probe

peace-loving people around the world.

Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time:

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies

(BILS) organises the publication

ceremony of a research report on 'Rice

Mills Industries, Present Labour Situation

and Boiler Accidents'. Venue: National

Publication ceremony

Earlier, Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid stood on a point of order and criticised the

PSC chairman for defending the **Barisal BNP** FROM PAGE 12

> Divisional Commissioner (General) as RO.

commissioner through lottery. Eneyeet Peer "Fish", Majid Munshi "Rose", Altaf "Chair", Śalahuddin "Umbrella", Ikbal Zahid "Pigeon' and Dewan Fakrul Alam got "Lan-

Press Club. Time: 10.00am. **Super Sixes** Rotary meeting

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Kenya, a non-Test playing nation, Club of Dhanmondi Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

A meeting of Uttarbanga Janakalyan Samity will be held. Venue: 54, Dilkusha. Time: 4.30pm DHAKA

Meeting

TOMORROW

Art exhibition The inaugural ceremony of a group exhibition of six reputed artists Abdus Shakoor, AHM Bashirullah, Farida Zaman, Showkatuzzaman, Ranjit Das and Tandra Das, organised by Alliance Francaise, will be held. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi. The exhibition will remain open till March 16 from 9.00am to 12.00 noon and from 5.00pm to 8.00pm daily except on

Saturday from 5.00pm to 8.00pm. Women's Day festival

The inauguration of a 3-day long festival on International Women's Day, organised by the British Council, will be held. Venue: Fuller Road premises of the British Council. The festival will remain open from 10.00am to 5.00pm daily.

test despite reports of question paper leakage. Shahid demanded removal of the chairman.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar then said he would not take press reports into cognisance and explained that only the president can remove the PSC chairman provided a supreme judicial council finds the chairman either mentally or physically incapable

or guilty of gross misconduct.

quarters raised questions about the neutrality of the Additional

The RO yesterday distributed election symbols among candidates for the post of mayor, 30 posts of ward commissioner and 10 reserved seats for women ward

Sarwar got "Bicycle", Chan 'Ship", Kamal "Wall Clock"

tern" as election symbol.

for security reasons.

FROM PAGE 1

who go in with 10 points. Kenya gained through their stunning defeat of Sri Lanka at home in Nairobi and then earned four free points when another qualifier, New Zealand, forfeited their match in the Kenyan capital

take away eight points, followed by Sri Lanka (7.5 points), New Zealand (4) and Zimbabwe (3.5). Four of the six teams who made the second round during the 1999 World Cup have qualified once again. The newcomers are Kenya

and Sri Lanka, who replace South

India, who lost to Australia but

won their remaining five matches,

Zimbabwe

FROM PAGE 1 before to Douglas Hondo to make it

Africa and Pakistan.

Yousuf Youhana made it 55-2

when he was caught behind by Tatenda Taibu off Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak

When play was called off, Saeed Anwar was unbeaten on 40 and Younis Khan on zero. (Scoreboard on page 15)

any investigation. An impartial investigation could unearth the truth

He said the police and the PSC authorities should interrogate the students and owners of the coaching centres who got the question papers before the test. At the same time concerned employees of the BG press, where the question papers were printed, should be interrogated. He demanded a judicial inquiry and exemplary punishment

to the culprits. A former PSC member commenting on the government intervention said, "Although the PSC is a constitutional entity, the fact remains that it is always controlled by the government.

"This is not the first time such an

intervention has taken place. After

coming to power, the BNP govern-

ment cancelled recruitment of over 690 officers, though the PSC had taken their tests and interviews," he PSC Chairman ZN Tahmida Begum earlier denied question leakage and said, "Following reports of question leakage being carried by national dailies, the PSC and its

various sources investigated the

matter and found that the report was

Sources said there were a number of students of Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Dhaka College who got leaked question papers on Thursday night and Friday morning.

An empty corridor greets two students of Dhaka University yesterday as the Bangladesh Chhatra League called a student strike to protest leakage of questions in the civil service exams.