10 killed as ferry hits

pains and hypothermia. The water

temperature was about 62

Richard Smith, was undergoing

surgery at Staten Island University

Hospital, said Dr. Pietro Carpenito.

The police source said he was

taken to the hospital after someone

at his home called 911 about an

hour after the accident. He bolted

the scene so quickly that he left

behind his keys, and was forced to

break into his home, the law

dent occurred in 1918, when a train

derailed in Brooklyn, killing 92

New York's worst subway acci-

A New York City subway crash

in 1991 killed five people and injured more than 140. Federal

investigators blamed the motor-

man's heavy drinking and lack of

enforcement source said.

3 killed in

separate

incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A hotel supervisor was found dead

inside his Elephant Road hotel

room, a peon of a Dhaka City

Corporation ward commissioner

was gunned down at Ring Road,

Shvamali and an unidentified youth

was beaten dead and his body

dumped on the rooftop of a student

body of Supervisor Shahidul Isalam

Shafi, 27, from room number 407 of

Hotel Gausia International yesterday

morning. Blood was oozing from the

victim's nose and his body was

Hotel employees said Shafi had gone to bed at about 1:00am as per

his schedule and was found lying

dead on the floor of his room at

Begum, said that Shafi had worked at

the hotel for seven years and had

paid Tk 25,000 to be promoted to

The owner of the hotel recently

asked for Tk 20,000 to promote Shafi

to hotel manager, which set off a

dispute between the hotel manager

Kamal and Shafi, with Kamal alleg-

edly threatening Shafi a few days

ago, family sources told The Daily

was poisoned to death

Family members allege that Shafi

In the second incident, a gang of

called Rabiul Islam Rabi, a peon

DCC Ward Commissioner Abu

Hashem Hashu, out of a tea stall at

Ring Road at about 7:30pm. The

gang took him to a nearby vacant plot

near Haq's garage and shot him

several times in the back and shoul-

Dhaka Medical College Hospital

where he was declared dead.

be known immediately.

Fatally injured Rabi was taken to

The reason for the killing could not

The duty officer of Mohammad-

nur Police Station could not give

details, saying an officer had gone to

the spot but did not return till

police recovered the victim's body

from the rooftop of the College of

Textiles and Technology yesterday

In the other incident, Tejgaon

The victim's sister, Rabeya

Dhanmondi police recovered the

hostel in Tejgaon yesterday.

in city

The ferry pilot, identified as

about 1,500 passengers, plowed into the enormous wooden pilings on the Staten Island end of its run from Manhattan at 3:20 p.m., ripping a giant hole in the three-level, brightorange vessel.

"There was a lady without legs, right in the middle of the boat." said ferry passenger Frank Corchado, 29. "She was screaming. You ever see anything like that?"

Corchado said it felt as if the ferry accelerated as it approached land, waking him as he napped on the trip home to Staten Island. He ran away from the front of the boat to safety but saw others who weren't as lucky six people dead, including one who had been decapitated.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said at least 10 people were killed and 42 injured, making it New York's worst mass-transit accident in nearly a century. Some bodies were accidentally counted twice, leading to an initial report by city officials that 14 people were dead.

The crash happened on a windswept afternoon, with gusts over 40 mph and the water in New York Harbor was very choppy.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known, although Bloomberg suggested the heavy wind as a possibility. The National Transportation Safety Board (news web sites) convened an accident investigation team, which will look at the weather, among other possible

"It's a terrible tragedy, people who were on the way home, all of a sudden, taken from us," Bloomberg said at a dockside news conference

He said the ferry's crew will be interviewed and tested for drugs and alcohol.

Firefighters picked their way through the debris aboard the ship, the Andrew J. Barberi, looking for victims, and Coast Guard divers searched the water. At least one body was recovered from the

Commuters were trapped in piles of debris aboard the 22-yearold ferry, and victims screamed and dove for cover as metal crunched into wood just before the

EC to file writ over unpaid salaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

shortly file a writ with the High Court to resolve a legal dilemma over the salaries of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and three other election commissioners (EC) which have remained unpaid for the past

The salaries of CEC MA Sayed and FCs Safiur Rahman, M Munsef Ali, and AK Mohammad Ali have been held up for the past three months due to audit objections to their drawing their salaries and simultaneously continuing to receive pensions from their previous jobs.

The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has asked the CEC and the ECs to refund to the exchequer the pensions they drew in apparent violation of the existing rule.

On March 17 last year, the CAG's office, citing a finance ministry decision, told the election commission secretariate that if EC Safiur Rahmar wished to receive the total amount of his salary as EC, he had to adjust his gross pension by refunding the amount he had drawn while FC. The instruction was also applicable to the CEC MA Sayed and ECs M Munsef Ali and AK Mohammad Ali.

The election officials did not respond to the CAG office's directive and as a result their salaries for July. August and September have been held up.

The victim, aged about 23, was The election commissioners attired in a check shirt and check consulted with lawyers and decided lungi. Police sent the body to Dhaka to go to the High Court. The writ may Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for be filed on October 18 on the openan autopsy. No-one has been to the ing day of court after the autumn morgue to claim the body. vacation. Dr. Kamal Hossain will A case has been filed with Tejgaon represent the election commission-

Police Station in this regard.

UK transit visa

FROM PAGE 12

morning.

A visa for entry to Canada or USA that, if expired, expired no more than two calendar days before the date of arrival in the UK and a valid ticket enabling the holder to travel by air from the territory via UK.

A valid USA- I- 551 permanent resident card (Green Card) issued on or after 21 April 1998;

A valid Canadian Permanent Resident Card issued on or after 28 June 2002;

A valid common format category

D visa for entry to an EEA state: A valid common format resi-

dence permit issued by an EEA state pursuant to Council Regulation EC no. 1030/2002. Nationals from Bangladesh will

need to apply for DATV before transiting through the UK, unless they are travelling on to the US or Canada or in certain circumstances, travelling to Schengen countries.

The press release also added that during the 2002 some 725 Bangladeshis applied for asylum in the United Kingdom. Forty of them arrived without documents and more than one hundred arrived on

forged documents. Possession of a DATV for those transiting airside, or a visa for those who must enter the UK in transit, will provide greater certainty for genuine transit passengers and reduce

the scope for delay. Harris Chowdhury, PM's Principal Further details can be found on Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui, the websites of the Foreign Office Foreign Secretary Shamsher M (www.fco.gov.uk), Home Office Chowdhury and Bangladesh High (www.homeoffice.gov.uk), and Commissioner to Malaysia were present during the meeting. UKVisas (www.uk-visas.gov.uk).

CJ asked to probe graft tearing girders and splintering charges Hospital officials said at least against all three victims had limbs severed in the accident, while others were suffering from massive trauma, back and spinal injuries, chest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Bar Association of Bangladesh (NBAB) has demanded of the chief justice (CJ) to run a check on all the judges against whom allegations of corruption are heard.

"As lawyers of the Supreme Court, we are hearing allegations of gross corruption by some permanent and senior judges for quite a while now," said a NBAB memorandum handed over to Chief Justice KM Hasan Wednesday.

A delegation of the NBAB led by its Senior Vice-president Barrister Mainul Hosein met the chief justice at his residence to express concern at the recent allegation of corruption

The NBAB said he should look into any allegation or even rumours against the judges to uphold the image of the High Court.

prove corruption charges against a judge through evidence," it added. The NBAB suggested the chief justice consult the current and past presidents of the Supreme Court

The chief justice is preparing the file on the allegation of corruption against High Court Judge Sved Shahidur Rahman to send it to the president. Sources said the file might be sent in a couple of

O, A levels

Carter the special guest. The function, to be attended by hundreds of students from different educational institutions of the country, will take place at 9:00am at Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

JU VC

tougher programme," a student said oreferring anonymity

But Dr Enamul Huq said, "We arranged an alternative way of supplying water to the halls and the installation of the main pump is underway.'

that hit the three women's dormitories as a pump went out of order on Sentember 23

Agitators locked all seven gates of the administrative building, blocking the exit of hundreds of employees and other teachers.

hundreds of students confined the vice-chancellor, pro-VCs and the treasurer to the same place for three

ing exams leading to a two-month session backlog.

The protesters also demanded action against Prof Golam Hossain of the government and politics department, ex-proctor of the uni-

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (Juta) boycotted all classes and examinations of the university as part of their indefinite strike to press their

Shell denies

FROM PAGE 12 venture into the forest because of its importance. This position was also stated in its annual reports for 2000 and 2001. Shell's press release for blocks 5 and 10 in July 4, 2001

Following a newspaper report in June on Shell's plan to explore in the forest, the oil company issued another press release to dispel the notion.

It said it has plans to conduct seismic surveys outside the reserve forest.

Following Shell's clarification, the energy ministry yesterday decided to hold a press conference next week along with the environment ministry and Shell to announce that there will be no exploration in the Sundarbans.

Besides, Shell will organise a seminar soon with Khulna University to disseminate its plan in

A couple of months ago Shell announced that it would leave Bangladesh by selling its local concerns to its British partner Cairn. It is now preparing legal documents and will apply later this month for permission to quit.

Small NGOs

"Small NGOs that do not get money from external sources will be given Tk 5 to 10 lakh for running social development programmes, Saifur told reporters after the meet-

Detailed criteria for the foundation and the targeted NGOs would be finalised soon.

Brac chief Fazle Hossain Abed said they would seek external support to enhance the trust fund to extend more support to small NGOs, which would be between 5,000 and 10.000 in number Meanwhile, a high level secretary

committee yesterday recommended raising the maximum government micro-credit ceiling from Tk 15,000 to Tk 75.000 at individual level. At group level, this will be Tk 5 lakh from the present Tk 50.000. In both

cases, the rate of interest will be 12 percent. Presently, interest rate on government-funded small credits is 18 to 20 percent and on NGOs-funded cred-

its, it is 24 to 30 percent. A secretary level committee on government micro-credit yesterday made the recommendation at a meeting with Finance Minister M

Saifur Rahman. Saifur said the interest could not be lowered further as it would irritate

Placing a set of recommendations, the committee said it felt the present micro-credit level is too low for the borrower to utilise it for income

Currently, the government disburses micro-credit through 26 departments of 24 different ministries. The credit balance of microcredit stood at Tk 4.269 crore till December 2002.

The secretary committee was formed early this year aiming at preparation of a co-ordinated policy as well as to set a uniform rule on the limit of credit, rate of interest and the criteria to get loan. Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed

tee, which prepared a set of recom-

As per the recommendation, the range of micro-credit at individual level will be minimum Tk 5,000 and maximum Tk 75,000. Currently, the micro-credit level is minimum Tk 1.000 to Tk 15.000.

While at group level, the credit will range from minimum Tk 50,000 to maximum Tk 5 lakh against the present minimum Tk 20,000 to maximum Tk 50,000.

The committee suggested instead of paying the recipient in instalments, the government should allow full payment at one go to the borrower. And the borrower should get two years for repayment instead

In case of natural calamity and reasons beyond control, the government might consider giving the borrower one more year for repayment. The committee strongly prohibited waiving of credit money, but may be rescheduled on genuine

Waiver could be considered only it the borrower dies broke.

The recommendations of the secretary committee will be approved at the upcoming meeting of the cabinet committee on micro-credit.

Talking to reporters, the finance minister said the government is preparing a co-ordinated policy regarding disbursement of microcredit by the government. Under the policy, the credit limit will be enhanced and the recipients would be given relief regarding payment of

"The loans will be given completely collateral free...I am fully convinced that the poor people never misappropriate the loan... they pay the loan in time. Basically the poor people have high ethics. But the rich people who take loan even does not hesitate to misappropriate

OIC leaders rally

result. We have in fact worsened our He said the Muslims' holy book,

the Koran, "tells us that when the enemy sues for peace we must react positively. True, the treaty offered is not favourable to us. But we can negotiate." It was not clear to which treaty he

was referring. The Palestinians accepted in June the US-designed international plan known as the "roadmap" for Middle East peace, which provides for a Palestinian state by 2005. Mahathir called on Muslims to

emulate the Jewish response to oppression in Europe. "We cannot fight them through brawn alone, we must use our brains also.' Initial reaction to his speech was

positive. "I think it was a very shrewd, very deep assessment of the situation," said Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher. "I hope the Islamic countries will be able to follow this roadmap. This one is a good roadmap by the way.' Arab League chief Amr Mussa

also voiced support for Mahathir's comments, adding that the Islamic states have already said they wanted peace.

The draft resolution approved by OIC foreign ministers, obtained by AFP did not reflect the Malaysian leader's views. Rather it pays tribute to the three-vear "heroic uprising" against Israel.

It also condemns Israel for its "continuing crimes, slaughters and its repressive acts against the Palestinian people" It applauds the "legitimate lead-

ership commanded by president

aggression" and demands the immediate lifting of restrictions imposed against Arafat and the Palestinian people

Israel and its ally the United States have been attempting to sideline Arafat in favour of other Palestinian leaders it considers more moderate and Israel has threatened to "remove" Arafat after previously placing him under siege n his Ramallah headquarters.

The 57-member OIC will ask the European Union, Russia, the UN and the United States to continue working towards peace in the Middle East and implementation of the roadmap, the draft says.

And it demands Israel stop 'aggression, killing, destruction and violation of holy Islamic and Christian places" and reaffirms its Palestinian state with Jerusalem as

19 percent from the last fiscal year's same period. Rice and wheat imports increased 18 percent, pulse 9 per cent and onion 5 percent.

The commerce ministry at Wednesday's meeting proposed zero duty on import of onion, cutting

The proposal was sent to the finance ministry, National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Bangladesh Bank. The NBR did not take any decision until yesterday.

Moudud mum

Party, the four-party alliance leader, Moudud said the government presently had no plan on its mind to scrap or amend the black Special Powers Act. 1974.

"But we have stopped abusing the

act," the minister said defending the government at the press conference, 'Achievements of the Law Ministry in the Last Two Years". He sidestepped another question

on whether the government was reneging on the vital poll pledge, saying: "Our government still has three years to complete its term. If we don't do it by then, you can raise the ques-Moudud said steps were taken to

stop abuse of Section-54 of the Criminal Procedure Code that gives authority to police to arrest anyone on suspicion.

Such a law exists everywhere in the world, he said.

He claimed that the government made significant progress in separation of the judiciary, extending legal aid, establishing an independent anticorruption commission, human rights commission, the office of the ombudsman and sessions judge's courts in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and in reforming government attorney service and the judiciary.

However, none of the issues, except for the setting up of sessions judges courts in the CHT, has taken complete shape. Moudud pointed out that the gov-

Speedy Trial Tribunal and Money Laundering Act.

"The law ministry is doing whatever necessary to ensure speedy and lowcost trial," he said. Replying to a question on foot-

dragging on setting up the anti-

corruption commission, Moudud said the ministry would hold a roundtable to seek expert opinions on October 23. The act seeking to establish the commission will be placed in the next session of the Jativa Sangsad for passage after careful scrutiny by a

experts' comments. In his written statement, Moudud said after passage of the Speedy Trial Act in April last year, 2,416 cases were disposed of and 2,917 people punished.

parliamentary committee in view of

In last five months, the speedy trial tribunals ruled on 220 cases of 362 and awarded death sentence to 50 He listed some sensational cases

including Rubel, Nowshin, Habib Mondol, Shipu, Principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri, Sihab, Jibran, Tayebi and Gandaria and Mohammadpur double-murder and a few rape cases. Moudud said renovation and

and the number of condemned cells would be increased. Some 70,000 prisoners are now in ails against the capacity of 26,500, he

expansion of a few jails were going on

State Minister for Law Barrister Shahjahan Omar attended the press ernment enacted 78 laws in the last two years, including the Acid Crime conference at the ministry, among Control Act, the Speedy Trial Act,

PM congratulates Chinese premier for spaceflight

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday congratulated the Chinese premier for their first successful

manned space flight into orbit. In a message to Wen Jiabao Khaleda said the great success of China clearly speaks of its vast progress in the field of science and technology, particularly in the space research.

She hoped that the success made in the space research would encourage the Chinese scientists to make more efforts in the space research for the benefit of the mankind under the new leadership.

The prime minister wished good health, happiness and long life of Wen Jiabao and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of China.

Pakistan, Morocco to help Bangladesh win top OIC post

BSS, Putrajaya

Pakistan and Morocco yesterday extended their total support to Bangladesh's candidature for the post of secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference

The assurances came when Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had bilateral meetings with Pakistan President Gen Parvez Musharraf and Moroccan King Mohammed V on the sidelines of the two-day OIC summit that opened at Putrajaya Convention Centre yesterday morn-

Musharraf told Khaleda that besides extending support to Bangladesh's candidature, he would discuss with the new OIC Chairman Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohammed and other dignitaries so that Bangladesh could get the post uncontested

During his meeting with Khaleda Zia, Moroccan King Mohammed VI said his country would not only support Bangladesh in its run for the top OIC job, but also do everything possible for the victory.

The king recalled Bangladesh's

support to his country's candidature

in the last election to the post of OIC

secretary general and said he would

talk to the present OIC leadership in

favour of Bangladesh.

Iraq resolution

FROM PAGE 12 the United States already had the minimum nine votes needed. Washington agreed to postpone the vote in a final bid to muster maxi-

mum support. Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Jagcues Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder then held lastminute consultations earlier in the day, paving the way for the trio to give their approval to the measure.

"We took note that the resolution is really an important step in the right direction," Schroeder said. "We have an interest that in a difficult international situation the UN stavs together as far as possible." The council was bitterly divided

over the Iraq war and diplomats said they wanted a consensus to avoid weakening the United Nations, which UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said last month risked losing its authority if the splits could not be healed. The resolution authorises a

multinational force in Iraq that could

provide the international cover

needed for wary nations such as

Pakistan, a non-permanent member, to provide troops and cash to help stabilise the country. Washington is not expecting much help with soldiers but does want generous pledges of money for rebuilding Irag at an international

donors' conference scheduled to start next week in Spain. The resolution gives the USappointed Iraqi Governing Council until December 15 to set a timetable for carrying out the next steps. rather than giving Iraqis sovereignty first, which the European trio had

initially insisted on. Annan

FROM PAGE 12 among many faiths," said Annan. who withdrew from the summit after the Iraq issue was taken back to the

UN Security Council. He said Western governments must match their rhetoric of respect for human freedom with action to promote development, including a fair world trading system.

But he told the Muslim leaders who represent 1.3 billion people they also had to play their part. Muslims are dismayed by the

apparent inability of Islamic states to

do much about problems such as weak government systems, a lack of democracy and poor human rights. especially for women, he said. Extremist dogmas are gaining ground, impeding the progress of the Muslim community and threat

ening the security of people all over the world, he said. Only when Muslims enjoy fundamental rights will the Islamic world be able to assert its influence.

"The Muslim peoples are capable of much greater things and they know it," Annan said.

The UN leader said the Palestinian people were suffering under "a harsh and prolonged occupation" and no one should be surprised at their feelings of humiliation, anger and despair.

142 criminals netted in new anti-crime drive in S-W region

FROM STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 226 people including 142 wanted criminals and two extremists were arrested from different districts of south-west region in a special anti-crime drive by joint forces launched at midnight last

Three illegal arms were also

recovered. According to sources at the office of the deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, Khulna Range, around 3,000 members from Bangladesh Rifles, district police, Khulna Metropolitan Police, Armed conducting the operation.

Moreover, selected officers and personnel of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police and Chittagong Metropolitan Police, specially trained to combat crimes, have

joined the drive. The DIG of Khulna Range Abdul Aziz Sarkar is commanding the operation that will continue till further orders from the Ministry of

Earlier, an operation -- Spider Web -- was conducted in the region from July 18 to August 13.

War on terrorism

the end of the month after leading this moderate Muslim country for 22

"1.3 billion Muslims cannot be defeated by a few million Jews." He urged Muslims to emulate the Jewish response to oppression,

however, saying the Jews had 'survived 2000 years of pogroms not by hitting back, but by thinking". "We cannot fight them through brawn alone, we must use our

brains also," he said. The Muslim people had become angry and the Jewish people had become arrogant, "and arrogant people like angry people will make

mistakes, will forget to think," he

The summit is the biggest gath-

ering of Islamic leaders since the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, drawing more than 30 heads of state and government from throughout the Muslim world. In an apparent denunciation of terrorism, Mahathir -- who often

criticises both sides in a dispute

said "we find some of our people

acting irrationally," killing themselves and others as they "lash back blindly in anger". Muslims must seek another way to "counter-attack", he said, calling

for them to build stable, economi-

cally strong and technologically

advanced countries along with

Mahathir's speech, apart from its

racially explicit attack on the Jewish people -- rather than the state of Israel, was in line with the general theme of the summit, which is that the Muslims feel besieged by the fallout from the terrorist attacks on the United States

The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, in a speech handing over the chairmanship of the 57-member organisation to Mahathir, said Islamic countries support the war against terror but reject attempts to link terrorism with their religion.

The other dominant issues at the summit are the crises in Iraq and the Middle East.

Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council, which is represented at the summit by its leader Ayad Allawi, has requested the scrapping of a draft resolution demanding a timetable for the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq and a central role for the

United Nations. The council had asked that the resolution be replaced by a simple statement saying that the OIC countries want Iraqi independence as soon as possible, said Egyptian

Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher

Germany wants

Gen. Boecker was scheduled to speak at the press conference held at Hotel Sonargaon but he could not due to revised programmes, the ambassador

Andreas said the visit is taking place against the backdrop of a longstanding training cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries and a shared commitment to the ening operations of the UN The German defence team has come to Bangladesh to establish direct personal contacts to get a firsthand impression about the nation, he

have drawn the attention of the Armed Forces of Germany through its contribution to the peacekeeping operations of the UN in different parts of the world. Bangladesh forces have achieved a very good reputation," the ambassa-

"The Armed Forces of Bangladesh

Asked if there is any specific agenda of this visit, Andreas said it is purely a bilateral visit and that no agreement would be signed during the

In reply to another query, he said there is no link between Bangladesh Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan's scheduled visit to Germany early next month and the current visit of Gen

"There may be questions whether Germany is eager to sell arms to Bangladesh and has for this arranged the visit, but I would like to say there is no such intention of my government. It is completely a bilateral trip aimed to establish closer cooperation between

the two armies," the envoy said. During his visit, Gen. Boecker wil call on Commander-in- Chief of Bangladesh Armed Forces President lajuddin Ahmed, Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam. Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Igbal Muitaba. Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major Gen AM Mahmuduzzaman and Defence Secretary KM Ehsanul Haque,

Andreas said. Boecker will also give a lecture on "Current Aspects of a European Security Policy" at the Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic

Studies (BIISS) tomorrow morning. Deputy Head of Mission Hermann Nicoloi and Press and Political Officer Mujtoba Ahmed Murshed were

50 nurses hurt

hospitals.

the sit-in. Nurses under the banner of Bangladesh Unemployed Diploma Nurses Association (BUDNA) and Bangladesh Student Diploma Nurses Association (BSDNA) were protesting the authorities' move to appoint 177 nurses, who passed from private nursing institutes, to government

At 10:30am, the nurses tried to go

to the DNS office on the third floor of

the building and police stationed there since the morning swooped on them and began clubbing them indiscriminately. Police forced them out of the building and also dispersed the agitat-

ing nurses from the area by firing rubber bullets and teargas shells. Witnesses said though there were a number of women police there, police men mostly took part in the action. The policemen molested a

alleged. Locals and colleagues took the nurses with multiple injuries to the

number of agitating nurses, they

Meanwhile, police arrested one male nurse for attacking police-Police claimed some 10 of their

women members -- one subinspector, seven constables and two women ansars -- were injured during the scuffle. The injured policewomen were treated at Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital. The agitating nurses threw brickbats, damaging the windowpanes of seven vehicles, police

Later on, the nurses went to the National Press Club with a procession to hold a rally in protest at the police

attack. But police dispersed them.

The nurses then gathered in front of the DMCH Nursing Institute and broke its windowpanes on the ground During a demonstration there, the DMCH staff nurses expressed solidar-

ity with agitating nurses. The staff nurses announced that they would soon go for a boycott in support of the agitating unemployed and student nurses. Nurses told The Daily Star that the authorities had threatened to cut off

power and water supply lines to the

DMCH Nursing Institute for their

involvement in the agitation The BUDNA and BSDNA began work abstentions since October 1 for varied durations before embarking on an indefinite bovcott from October 7. On October 8, police clubbed and injured 20 nurses during a rally on the

road near the Old High Court Building. The BUDNA and BSDNA alleged the government has finalised appointment of some 180 nurses, who passed diploma from non-government institu-

"Receiving huge bribes, some dishonest government officials are working for their appointments though there are 4,000 nurses who have passed from government institutions, but are still jobless," alleged BSDNA President Lima Rodrix.

ers. FC sources said.

OIC post

country was thinking about giving a candidate for the OIC secretary general post. He, however, did not mention anybody's name as the candidate. Khaleda congratulated Mahathir for his speech in the opening session, saying that there were new

guidelines for the OIC in his

address. She hoped that the OIC

held in a friendly and cordial atmo-

Mahathir told Khaleda that his

would be revitalised under his dynamic and extraordinary leadership.

Mahathir said he would try to implement what he had said in his speech.

Both the leaders expressed their

commitment that Bangladesh and

Malaysia would work together to

strengthen the OIC and the Muslim ummah. Mahathir said Khaleda's participation in the OIC summit only few months after her visit to Malaysia to attend the NAM summit proved her country's commitment to the OIC. The Bangladesh prime minister

hoped that Mahathir, who will retire

as Malaysia's prime minister next

month, would remain as eminent an

international personality and work for the benefit and development of the Muslim ummah. Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, PM's Political Secretary

least in 10 upazilas.

judges

against a High Court Division judge.

"We all know it is very difficult to

Bar Association and senior lawyers.

up any alternative measure to supply water to the halls. If they don't do anything we have to go on a

The latest wave of protest came on the 23rd day of the water crisis

They also snapped power and telephone lines to the administrative building after technicians repaired the connections severed in Wednesday's demonstration, when

The agitating students at a press conference in front of the building demanded resignation of the four top officials of the university and blamed the authorities for postpon-

versity, who was accused of verbally abusing the women students and threatening them with dire consequences if they did not back down.

demand for removal of the VC.

announcing the signing of the PSCs also mentioned this.

Yasser Arafat in the face of Israeli

L/C margin

it from 29.5 per cent.