Abdur Rahman

mistaken identity. A 23-year-old youth named Obaidur Rahman, who had been staying illegally in a West Bengal village for several months, was taken for JMB chief

Abdur Rahman

Two Bangla and an English dailies on Monday carried reports saying that Indian police arrested Rahman the previous day.

AFP quoting Inspector General of West Bengal police Raj Kanojia yesterday reported that Abdur Rahman was arrested along with a relative on Sunday while attending a wedding ceremony in the village of Joragachha near the Bangladesh

The news agency also quoted Kanojia as saying that Rahman had entered India a few weeks after the 17 August blasts and taken refuge in a relative's house in a village 250 kilometres north of Kolkata.

Superintendent of Police (SP) in Murshidabad Niraj Singh said the militant kingpin has been charged with travelling India without proper documents. He was remanded in police custody by a district court on Monday, according to the AFP report.

Police were interrogating him to establish his link to the August 17 blasts in Bangladesh. He would be produced before the court again on Wednesday, it added

But private TV channel ATN reported yesterday evening that Abdur Rahman was not arrested. Rather a youth from northern Bangladesh district Bogra was held in Murshidabad. He introduced him as Obaidur Rahman, a student of sociology department of Dhaka University, ATN said, quoting Kolkata IGP (Law and Order) Raj

Obaidur had been on the run from police for suspected links to the countrywide bomb attacks, and slipped into India from Bogra later.

Police were following Obaldur for suspicious movement and later made the arrest. Further inquiry is going on and a case has been filed against him under foreigners' act," Kanojia told ATN.

United News of Bangladesh (UNB), meantime, reported that Kanojia disclosed the identity of the arrestee [Obaidur] when an official

of the Deputy High Commission

the arrested Bangladeshi citizen.

The BBC meanwhile said the Indian state police have described the news reports of Rahman's arrest

Indian police in West Bengal have arrested Obaidur for suspected connection with a series of blasts in Bangladesh last August, BBC reported, adding that two others were also arrested in the police raid in Murshidabad district.

Speaking about the reported arrest of the JMB chief, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday said they had contacted Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata and the High Commission in New Delhi about the arrest and are awaiting an official reply WHOISOBAIDUR

"Following interrogation, it was student of Dhaka University. He entered India without a passport or any other valid document and had months," Murshidabad SP told PressTrust of India.

Obaidur, who was earlier susected to be Shaekh Abdur Rahman, was produced before the sub-divisional judicial magistrate's court in Jangipur and placed on a 10-day remand

militant activities has not yet been found, adding that it was gathered that he was a second-year graduation student who fled to India after police had begun raiding his village following the August 17 blasts.

Obaidur was arrested at a house informed the police about a

Kansat tragedy

FROMPAGE1 additional inspector general of

policeas members. Awami League-led 14-party called a day-long hartal in Chapainawabganj today protesting

Export-import trade through Sonamasjid land port came to a halt due to the road barricade with several hundred trucks stranded on both sides.

Police could not yet identify the dead whose body was taken to Shibganj Police Station during the incident and sent to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital

Five victims -- rickshawpuller Anwar of Kansat Colony, Kaimul Islam Garibul of Koylabari, Nasir of Kharagpur, Abdul Mannan of Shibnagar and Monirul Islam Chowdhury of Trimohini --were

buried yesterday without autopsy.

Shibnarayanpur. The entire Shibganj upazila was gripped by panic and grief with signs of devastation and funeral processions seen within the area

Subscribers Development Association.

and the district administration coupled with a local lawmaker's strong opposition against the movement of rural power subscribers were behind Monday's Kansat

Jamal Uddin of Shibnarayanpur, a witness to Monday's incident, said the policemen entered the houses and beat up women and children mercilessly. Many other locals also said the police were in a marauding

tendent of Police (SP) Rezaul Karim however denied the allegations of any fault of the law enforcement agencies. "Police tried their best to avoid firing and it was done only when people surrounded the policemen leaving 46 of them injured and six police vehicles set on

were repeatedly cut off after know-

Meanwhile, sources said the CEC got admitted to hospital as he did not

The CEC came to his office yesterday morning and left early after cancelling his appointment with the delegation on health

The delegation was scheduled to meet the CEC today and hold discussion about the preparation for

methim yesterday noon. UNB quoting Press Counsellor in the Bangladesh mission in Kolkata Saleh Shibly said that the mission has sought consular access to meet

Obaidur Rahman has turned out to be a mere illegal, a senior police official said yesterday, our Delhi correspondent reports.

found that the arrested person is a been staying here for the last few

The SP said his involvement in

at Joragacha village of West Bengal's Murshidabad district after locals stranger avoiding contact with the

Three others, all residents of the house where Obaidur was staying, were also arrested and remanded in judicial custody for 10 days.

ers' agitation, the SP said local

Awami League leaders instigated

the movement. He also named

Quazi Emdad, Tipu and Fatik.

THEMOVEMENT

no service at all.

some Jubo League leaders including

Villagers complained that the local

Palli Bidyut Samity was collecting additional bills of Tk 10 as rent of

electric meter and forced the sub-

scribers to pay Tk 105 to Tk 121 a

month as service charge for poor or

"We do not get electricity for days

together, and when we get, it is not

day," said Farhad Islam of Abbas

two times as their president to lead

the movement for uninterrupted

power supply and withdrawal of

Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur

Rahman Minu, who is in charge of

Chapainawabganj district, visited

the troubled area Monday evening

and assured local people of justice.

He said a judicial probe into the

police firing would soon take place.

committee of the villagers to look

into their electricity problems and

assured them of talking to the power

minister to meet their demands.

FROM PAGE 1

ministry source.

source said.

Country down

the evening doubles that in the

morning. If we can reduce such

fluctuations, may be we can serve

the people better," said a power

can be implemented, it will lessen

the peak time power consumption

in the evening by 400 to 500 MW,

greatly reducing load shedding, the

discussed a proposal of the Power

Cell in this regard and decided to

hold a series of motivational meet-

ings with stakeholders to make

load management measures work.

Last year, when the power ministry

imposed some load management

measures like shutting down shop-

ping malls in the evening, it

received a serious negative

response. This is why this time the

ministry plans to discuss the mea-

agement is rationing power supply

to different commercial consum-

ers like shopping malls and mar-

kets in the evening. This can be

implemented by dividing Dhaka

into seven zones and stagger the

rationing for one zone a day per

week. "This way the markets will

also find the idea acceptable," said

of efficient electrical appliances in

meetings with the stakeholders,

demonstrating the ideas and bene-

fits of load management," he

Another idea is to encourage use

"We will soon start holding

a senior official

the country.

One of the ideas for load man-

The power ministry last week

If load management measures

The mayor formed a 9-member

monthly charge and meter rent.

RAISHAHI MAYOR VISITS SPOT

are than for one or two hours

The subscribers elected Rabbani

told reporters yesterday. The 'controversial' 546 employees staged a showdown on the campus yesterday morning, but the police did not arrest anyone. They will also hold a rally on the Asked about the power subscrib-

and many other political and cul the employees' attack on teachers and demanded exemplary punishment of the attackers.

NBR

The NBR will appoint students ofuniversities and colleges on tem-porary basis to conduct the survey during their leisure period, the

NBR chairman said. He said, "We have 140 million people in the country but few cople pay taxes. The survey will help boost the number of taxpay-

making the Bar membership man-datory for all tax advisors, he gave assurance to take adequate legal measures. Khairuzzaman said he would

lawyers to play compliance friendly role to increase the tax Members and senior officials of the NBR and the Dhaka Taxes Bar Association General Secretary Amin Ahmed Montu also spoke on

Association conduct 30 percent tax related cases while 70 percent are conducted by lawyers outside the association, Amin Ahmed

Hasina

Obaidul Kader, Jubo League President Jahangir Kabir Nanak and General Secretary Mirza Azam, among others, were present.

"The alliance government had looted crores of taka after assuming power and now they want to cling on to power by rigging poll, alleged the She urged the countrymen to get

united against the 'failed' govern-ment and the patrons of the Islamist Family members of Khaleda Zia. ministers and MPs are setting up TV

looted, she alleged.
Accounts of their looted money nust be revealed, she said, adding:

The assets they have amassed after coming to power must be disclosed." The alliance government always vants to create a panicky situation for the people, she said, adding that people must have to get rid of this

After the appointment of the election commissioners, the govern-ment is now politicising the voter roll, she alleged, saying that they have already looted Tk 164 crore from

the freshvoter listing project.
Following the speech of the opposition leader, the Jubo League representatives discussed different aspects of their tour programmes.

Credible polls

FROM PAGE 1 the development of the country."

Describing the people of Bangladesh as "deeply attached to the democratic process", Scherk said they are also looking for a free and fair election for which they will hold their politicians accountable as this is important for the future of Bangladesh.
The EU delegation leader further

said that a free and fair election is also important for the image of the country abroad because "today's world is now one and a crisis in one country has repercussions all over the globe. "So, we came here as concerned friends...we don't wish to interfere,

but we wish to comment and work

together," Scherksaid. He, however, expressed concern over the problems of divisiveness of confrontational nature of the political discourse, "Parliament is the natural place for having debates, but this is 'not functioning' as it is supposed to be," Scherk said.

Scherk met separately with Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Foreign Affairs Advisor Reaz Rahman and Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin and said they had "frank and honest" exchanges on issues concerning the EU and Bangladesh.
"We have found from the

Bangladesh government's side eagerness to listen to us to find out areas where we can cooperate to overcome the problems that exist here," he said. Replying to a question on terror-ism, he said Bangladesh government

is addressing extremism and terrorismseriously He said the problems of terrorism and extremism have international dimension because the terrorists receive funds from abroad. "The fight against terrorism is a concerted effort...and we have expressed our readiness to work with the govern-

ment in combating extremism and terrorism," Scherk told reporters. The EU delegation also raised the issues of human rights and good governance, he said. Later, briefing reporters, Foreign

Minister M Morshed Khan said Bangladesh will welcome EU observers to monitor the future elections but disagreed to accept any outside

mediation on the election process.

On the issue of EC reforms, he said, "We feel that the Election Commission is functioning independently and three free, fair and acceptable general elections have been held consecutively under the present structure of the electoral

He, however, said there is room for improvement, which could be done through discussions.

Earlier, after the meeting with Foreign Affairs Advisor Reaz Rahman at his office, Scherk said the EU is willing to continue to work with Bangladesh government on the issues of mutual concerns as the EU is the country's largest trading partner and aid donor. EUdelegation meets Mannan

Later, the EU delegation met Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his official

The troika suggested a few things to the minister regarding an inde-pendent and strong EC, a delegation

The EU delegation also offered assistance to root out militancy from the country and urged the government to strengthen its efforts to arrest the top brass of the militant

UNB adds: A delegation of the Awami League comprising former ambassadors Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury and Mahmud Ali, Syed Abul Hossain MP and Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday met the EU troika at the EU office at Baridhara. They discussed issues relating to the next parliamentary polls, terrorism, corruption, human rights and gover-

After the meeting, former ambassador Chowdhury told UNB, "We have explained our viewpoints on the current situation and told them that a free and fair election is not possible under the circumstances."

Nikolaus Scherk did not make any comment on the meeting.

EC to appeal

FROM PAGE 1 be extended after receiving the result of the appeal," Election Commissioner SM Zakaria told reporters at his office yesterday.

19, the commission decided to file an appeal against the HC ruling. Since August 6, the EC has not sat for reviewing the ongoing task of preparing the fresh roll, which was

Earlier at a meeting on January

undertaken by unilateral decision of the Chief Election Commissioner Even the January 19 EC meeting, which followed hard on the heels of

the appointments of two new election commissioners, did not discuss the status of the voter-listing job. Zakaria declined to comment on

the issue saying, "I don't want to say anything about it as the matter is related to the court." Field-level officials, however,

said the progress has been very slow ince the HC directives. The EC Secretariat has not yet given any direction regarding the remuneration for the manpower engaged in the job from January 1.

"We don't know what the outcome of the appeal will be. Every day we face numerous questions from the enumerators and supervisors about the present situation. But as we ourselves are in the dark, we cannot answer any of those queries," a district election officer told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity. "How can we work when such is the

situation?" he asked. An officer at the EC Secretariat said the enumeration and scrutiny in Dhaka have been progressing at a slower pace compared to those in the other districts. "Most of the eminent persons are yet to be on the list," he observed.

The counsel of the EC however said the commission can continue the work of the fresh roll as the court has not given any order to stop. On the premise of the appeal,

Khondakar Mahbubuddin said the s contradictory "The court has asked to prepare the new voter list on the basis of the existing one, whereas the electoral laws do not provide for it," he said.

BCIC in cash crunch

tion to BCIC's projected production of 19 lakh tonnes to meet the growing urea requirement of 28 lakh tonnes in 2005-06, almost the total of farm subsidy will end up in meeting the huge price gap in imports. The cost of urea import is Tk 18,000 per tonne, and the government sells the same to farmers at Tk 4,800 creating an astounding price gap of Tk

13,200 per tonne. Like in previous four years, in 2005-06 financial year also, the finance ministry is exhausting the whole amount of farm subsidy in paying off rebates to private phosphoric fertiliser importers and in subsidising the government's own urea imports.

Officials concerned at both the finance and the industries ministries agree that there are only two alternatives for bailing the BCIC out of the present liquidity crisis firstly, immediate payment of subsidies due to the corporation, and secondly, minimising the gap between its urea production cost and the selling price.

Seeing no prospect of the finance ministry paying off the dues, the industries ministry in late last year forwarded a proposal to the finance ministry asking to increase the market price of urea so that BCIC's loss is minimised.

But the finance ministry is sitting on that proposal considering severe backlash from the farming community as well as from urban consumers in the election year. In 2001-2002, BCIC factories

produced 15 lakh tonnes of urea and incurred a loss of Tk 180 crore as price gap due to non-payment of the subsidy, in the following fiscal it produced 20 lakh tonnes incurring a loss of Tk 240 crore again for the same reason and as this fiscal's projected output is 19 lakh tonnes, the corporation is set to count a loss of Tk 228 crore could go up to Tk 20 lakh.

culture of not paying due subsidies, the more urea BCIC factoincurs.

this for an unlimited period, aging BCIC factories will lose productivity leaving the government no other option but to import more urea at high international market rate that the country can ill-afford," said an official speaking on condition of ano-

2 burnt alive FROM PAGE 1

including several shops, on a 10katha private property.

The fire fighters rescued critically injured Shahidul from his shanty and admitted him to a local clinic where doctors declared him

26, and Kabir, 25, -- injured. Ten fire fighting vehicles from four stations brought the fire under

control at around 5:30pm. The fire fighters estimated the damage at Tk 3 lakh, although the

alive, and 10 houses were gutted in a fire at Jahanabad Jelepara in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong district early yesterday, reports The deceased, Samarjit Jaladas, 15, son of Panjuri Jaladas, was

caught by fire as he entered the house to save his books. The fire originated from electric short circuit in the house of Panjuri

Jaladas at about 1:00am and soon engulfed nine adjoining houses, sources said. Two units of Chittagong Fire Brigade rushed to the spot and

doused the flames at about 4:00am.

HC rule on govt

SHEIKH REHANA'S HOUSE to explain police action

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain why the police action taking over the house of Sheikh Rehana should not be declared to have been made without lawful authority.

A bench comprising Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed issued the rule, which is made returnable within four

On July 8, 2001, the government decided to allocate a house for Sheikh Rehana, daughter of slain President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, at Road no 6 House no 21 in Dhanmondi Residential Area of the city. Accordingly, on July 11, Rehana purchased the house at a nominal price and on the following day, the authorities handed over the house to

After the change of government in October 2001, police occupied the house and drove away the inmates on June 26 last year.

Moving the writ petition, Adv Mahbubey Alam, counsel for Sheikh Rehana, told the court that the police action, occupying the house had violated the citizen's right to protect

"This was a political harassment, as she is the daughter of father of the

He said the intention of the government was "mala fide and violation of the principle of natural jus-

PBCP men shoot AL leader dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

An Awami League (AL) leader was shot dead by a gang of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) at Ullapara upazila in

was the vice-president of Ullapara upazila Awami League. He was also the chairman of Lahiri Mohonpur Union Parishad (UP). Police sources said that a group of PBCP men shot Saiful on the

platform of Lahiri Mohonpur Railway Station at around 6:30pm, when he was returning home from his UP office. The outlaws left the spotafter making sure he was dead. Being informed, Ullapara police

the body and sent it to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for People of the district are fearing more outlaw attacks after the news

Superintendent of Police (SP) visited the spot soon after the

A case was lodged with Ullapara

3 boys hurt

FROM PAGE 16
School and College with a big bang at 10:00am, leaving three student of the class--Sumon, Nimmy and

news agency that though the bomb exploded with a big bang, it had no splinters. The bomb might have been blasted to create panic

Police kept the whole area cordoned following the bomb blast.

2 die FROM PAGE 16

and Farida Akhtar, 17, were admit-

Kamrul Amin told The Daily Star the twelve people ate the fish around 10.00pm on Monday and started falling sick one after another. Of them Shamima and Forkan died around 9.00am yester-

Police Station, Julhasuddin Khan, told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon that all those who were taking treatment are out of danger

Ministry of Commerce, Secretary to the Civil Aviation and Tourism the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

was transferred as secretary incharge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism while Additional Secretary to the Finance Division Quamrul Hasan as secretary in-charge of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, the handoutsaid.

Fuel prices set

further tighten its monetary policy and meet some other conditions to get the \$75 million fifth PRGF tranche from the IMF, finance ministry

They said the price hike is expected to come before the IMF board meeting next month with approval of the PRGF instalment on its agenda.

Oil prices rose above \$69 a barrel in Asian trade last Monday, which even King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, the biggest crude oil-producing country in the Opec, considers too high and damaging to the developingeconomies. "From our perspective, I person-ally feel that the current price of oil is

too high," AFP quoted him as telling the NDTV of India telecast Monday. The price is damaging to developing countries who subsequently have to suffer," Abdullah noted. Talking to reporters at his Secretariat office yesterday noon Saifur agreed with the Bangladesh Bank's recommendation for raising

oil prices, because, he said, "They [Bangladesh Bank] know we spend dollars to import oil, we buy at Tk 60 The minister argued, "No oil supplier reduces the price for the sake of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has to buy oil at the same price as Kuwait, India or the UK. So, if oil price is Tk 60

in India, it should be the same in Bangladesh.' He also pointed out that oil prices are adjusted on a daily basis in most of the world. "In Pakistan it is done on a daily basis and weekly in India," he said, quipping, "But, people here are in too much comfort and expect the

price to be adjusted periodically." According to some economists, if the oil prices go up and the tight monetary policy continues the targeted 7 percent GDP growth

cannot be achieved. But Saifur dismissed the view. "There will be no problem," he said, claiming, "We follow a monetary policy that is consistent with growth."

In his words, "Tight monetary policy is necessary, so is growth. So, we will coordinate the two."

Explaining the necessity of further oil-price adjustments, IMF Asia and Pacific Department Adviser Thomas Rumbaugh told a wrap-up press conference of the PRGF situation review in November that the whole world is doing it and Bangladesh too needs to adjust. "At the current domestic prices, the state-owned enterprises like the BPC are losing money and eventually require the government to step in and make up their losses," he pointed out, adding such a huge subsidisation cannot be sustained.

"We have discussed this with the government and there is no disagreement. The government knows there is a need for further adjustments at some point," the IMF adviser said. However, he noted, the government was in the best position to decide the

Rumbaugh also said, if the government continues to tighten the macroeconomic policies to reduce inflationary pressures and speeds up reforms at the NCBs and the National Bureau of Revenue, the IMF executive board may discuss the fourth reviewunder the PRGF in early 2006.

The last fuel price hike was made in the first week of September 2005, raising the price of one litre of octane by 18 percent to Tk 45, petrol by 17 percent to Tk 42, and diesel and kerosene by 15 percent to Tk 30.

Since coming to office in October 2001, the coalition government has raised fuel prices on eight occasions. In December 2001, petrol sold at Tk 28 per litre, and diesel and kerosene

troops across in Iraq -- was trying to destabilise the area.

bank, there was a sudden power cut

and then an explosion. It was a really huge bang. All of my 15 employees

were injured, and one lost her leg," he

Iran blasts

Situated close to the border with British-controlled southern Iraq, Ahvaz has been hit by a wave of insecurity over the past year, including ethnic riots in April 2005 and a string of car bombings prior to Iran's presidential election last June when Ahmadinejad scored a shock victory In October another double bomb

ing in Ahvaz killed six people and

wounded more than 100, while at the

same time several pipeline blasts were reported with sabotage reportedly suspected in at least one of those "We think this is by the same movements who were behind the previous incidents. Most of them had been arrested but there were a few on

the run," Ahvaz governor MohammadJafarSarami toldAFP Interior Minister Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi also said the attacks

were "directed from abroad", but stopped short of repeating past allegations that Britain -- which has 2 outlaws killed

FROM PAGE 16

arms recovery operation at Jabusha village under Rupsha upazila of the The Rab seized one revolver, two pipe guns and 16 bullets from the

place of encounter. According to Rab, Mofazzel was arrested at Uttara in the capital while Mostafa was arrested in Rayermahal area of Khulna city on Monday.

Both were wanted in a dozen of murder and several other criminal cases filed with different police stations in Khulna and Bagerhat. They were also involved in extortion, rape and kidnapping, Rabsaid.

Meanwhile, Badda police last night recovered the bullet-riddled body of an unidentified youth, aged

around 25, from a field at Aftabnagar in Badda at about 8:00pm. The police said the body was dumped there after shooting the

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital

youth somewhere else.

morgue for autopsy.

corresponding months of FY2004-The forex reserve stood at \$2.41 billion at end-November 2005, declining by 23.48 percent from

The major factor contributing to this slide in forex reserve is an increasing export-import imbalance, with a higher outflow. Import recorded an 11.26 percent rise over July to October in FY06, while export posted a 12.73 percent

growth over July to November.

aries," the ACC chairman said.

land port has been stopped.

the ACC chairman observed.

Referring to the commission's

work to prevent corruption in the

port and customs house in

Chittagong and in land ports on the

borders with India, he said illegal

entry of trucks through the Benapole

corruption in Chittagong port and

the situation will improve further

with the completion of some ongo-

ing projects to modernise the port,

In addition to 2,500 cases pending before its formation, the ACC has

received 2,000 corruption cases, he

Transparency International, the

spread corruption prevails in Bangladesh, said AmCham

drastic actions against corruption,

and push the country towards higher

growth, for example, a sustainable

GDP growth rate at seven to eight

percent for the next several years, he

Now the important thing is to take

President Andrew L. Fawthrop.

general perception is that wide-

Apart from the ranking by the

There is no longer any rampant

ACC chief

brought about by political will, anticorruption measures can not suc-

He was speaking as the guest of honour on 'Role of the Anti-Corruption Commission in Shaping the Future of Bangladesh' at the January monthly luncheon meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. The ACC chairman, however,

mentioned that the commission is now handicapped due to lack of required rules to accord sanctions for prosecution of cases, lack of recruitment rules and rules regarding staff organogram of the body.

sures in case of corruption, the commission decided to file charge sheets for prosecution in 42 corruption cases and authorised inquiry officers in seven cases to lodge formal information to the police against several persons involved in corruption, Justice Sultan said. The ACC is an independent and

neutral body with power to investigate and launch prosecution with regard to offences of financial corruption and misconduct against any person, whether he is a minister or a member of the parliament or a government functionary, he said.
"The commission has been given

Bangladesh's moving in this direction will help to diminish the

affaires of US embassy in Dhaka and Trevor MacDonald, general manager of Dhaka Sheraton and US investors here were also present at the meet-

the police atrocities at Kansat.

Locals while burying the dead staged demonstrations against the police action and burned tyres on the road in Kansat, Abbas Bazar and

from Kansat to Abbas Bazar. Policemen were seen at many points removing logs and concrete poles from the road while people put new barricades at some places in demand for release of three leaders of Palli Bidyut Samity

Locals said excesses by the police POLICEDENYATROCITIES

mood during the incident. Chapainawabganj Superin-

CEC sick FROM PAGE 1

ing that they were from the media. want to meet the visiting EU troika.

the next parliamentary election.

CONTROVERSIAL HIRING RUhaltson teacher strike

RU CORRESPONDENT Academic and administrative activities came to a standstill at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday following the simultaneous work abstention programmes of the teachers and the officers demandng cancellation of the appointments of 546 'controversial'

employees, who attacked the teachers on January 21. No scheduled classes or examinations were held yesterday on the second day of the RU Teachers' Association's (Ruta) three-day work abstention programme. In addition, all administrative activi-ties came to a halt following the one-day token work abstention

programme of RU Officers and Employees' Association. The academic activities of population science and human resource (PSHR) department remained suspended yesterday, since the department decided not to continue the activities unless the attackers of its faculty member Mahmudul Hasan are not pun-

On January 21, the 'controversial' employees carried out spo-radic attacks on teachers and officials and ransacked the offices of vice-chancellor (VC), pro-VC and Planning and Development

Meanwhile, Progressive l'eachers' Association (PTA) members last night met RUVC Prof Altaf Hossain at his house and demanded a 'judicial investigation' into the January 21 incident. They also demanded exemplary punishment and cancellation of appointments of the 546 employes who attacked the teachers on

Science told The Daily Star that no action could be taken as yet against the employees responsible due to the senior teachers' affiliation to the ruling parties. Fresh agitation programmes would be declared after the teachers' association meets with the VC,

Ruta President Prof Nazrul Islam

Prof Khairul Alam of

Department of Animal Husbandry

that day.

campus near Kajla gate today demanding confirmation of their Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (ICD) Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Progotishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ) tural organisations condemned

FROM PAGE 1

In response to the demand for

consider placing the matter of compulsory Bar membership in the Finance Bill during the next Referring to the incomplete and misleading information in the income tax returns he urged the tax

the occasion while DTBA President Sohrab Uddin chaired the Members of the Taxes Bar

FROM PAGE 1 Jubo League, a front organisation of the AL. AL Joint General Secretary

channels with the money they had

killer government.

if the subsidy is not paid. nine lakh tonnes of urea in addi-It now appears that due to the

> ries produce the more loss it "If things keep on going like

The fire also left three slum dwellers -- Phul Banu, 65, Aslam,

dwellers claimed it to be more. A class eight student was burnt

Fire service sources said the loss

nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," the counsel said.

Sirajganj yesterday evening. Saiful Islam, 40, of Purba Bong Kirat village of Ullapara upazila,

rushed to the spot and recovered

of the incident spread.

Police Station.

Urmi--injured. They are now undergoing treat-ment at the upazila health com-Officer in-charge (OC) of Sreenagar Police Station told the

among the students, he said.

ted to the local health complex following their illness. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)

day, he said. An officer on duty at Anwara

Reshuffle FROM PAGE 16 Ministry M Abdul Karim to the

Ministry AKM Jafrullah Khan to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Secretary to the Health and Family Welfare Ministry Abu M Moniruzzaman to the Election Commission Secretariat, Secretary to the Anti-Corruption Commission M Ataur Rahman to Rajuk Chairman M Shahid Alam

> government in the sub-continent has parted with this power of investigation and prosecution for crimes relating to bribery and misconduct by government leader and function-

Nursing a bandaged head, bank manager Samad Tavakoli described a huge bang" outside his now totally destroyed branch. 'We had a lot of customers in the

"I thought the city had been hit by a rocket," said Meysam Nourian, an office worker. "I went into the street and saw smoke, burned bodies. It was a horrific sight." Inside an Ahvaz hospital, injured 27-year-old bank worker who gave his name as Ali lashed out at "godless

people" and "foreign agents' "Twas sitting and filling out forms, and suddenly I was knocked out. There was a huge shockwave," he Britain has consistently denied being behind the unrest and insecu-

rity in the area or aiding ethnic Arab

Arabs are said to represent three percent of Iran's population of 69 illion, who are mainly Farsi speaking, but they are believed to make up close to 50 percent of Khuzestan's

Dollar prices FRO M PAGE 1

10.2 percent in September and
14.57 percent in October from the

that of November 2004. The amount was good to cover the imports of only 2.11 months.

FROM PAGE 16 there is a national consensus

To set examples of punitive mea-

this power under the ACC law. No

negative perception about the country, accelerate the interest of the local as well as foreign investors, and help alleviate poverty, Andrew felt. Judith A Chamas, charge d'