and the supply of fuel is sufficient.

Farmers apprehended a crisis in

irrigation on paddy fields during the

Boro season. Many bus owners kept

their vehicles off the road due to the

Several petrol-pump owners said they ran short of fuels following crisis

at the Baghabari depot. Some of

them, however, reportedly sold petrol, octane and diesel secretly to

the influential persons. Retailers are

selling diesel and kerosene at Tk 50

been taken to control the situation.

Haque, however, said all officials

concerned were ordered to supervise

an easy rationing of fuel to the cus-

tomers as the fuel pump owners

reports: Diesel and kerosene disap-

peared from the markets as dishon-

est fuel traders created crisis by

floating depot reportedly went dry

remote areas rushed to the district

headquarters for diesel but returned

disappointed as the filling stations

General Secretary Abdul Jalil yester-

day expressed grave concern over the

In a statement protesting the artificial crisis, he said the situation

was created by the unrestrained

businessmen loyal to the govern-

ment is now capitalising on the

situation, he alleged, adding that the

commoners have become the vic-

the price hike of fuel, ensure ade-

quate supply and sale to the real

League, Communist Party of

Bangladesh (CPB) and Workers'

demanded resignation of the finance

The Jubo League declared to hold

protest rallies across the country on

Kibria killing

FROM PAGE 16 speak against the militants, she

grenade attacks on British high

commissioner, shrines and other

never investigate those properly as

those [investigations] will expose the

involvement of the prime minister's

adviser or Jamaat leaders.
Investigations get stalled when-

ever investigators find the ruling

prime witnesses to the killing of

party. Reminiscing the days with Kibria, she said she and Kibria would

discuss elaborately before placing a

budget so that the poor won't have to

occasion how to free Bangladesh of

poverty as was dreamt by Bangabandhu, "sheadded.

lawmaker, said she takes to the

streets so that any other wife does not lose her husband or children lose

FROM PAGE 16 Harry K Thomas left Bangladesh on

July 2, 2005. The US Chargé

ing the responsibility since then.

nomination as the next ambassa-

dor to Bangladesh and the nomina-

tion was sent to US Senate on

ing in Islamabad as DCM, she

served as consul general in Bogota,

Earlier in her career, Ms Butenis served as Chief of Post Liaison for

Visa Services in the Consular

Affairs Bureau at the Department

of State. She received her bache-lor's degree from the University of

Pennsylvania and her master's

degree from Columbia University.

Colombia and Warsaw, Poland.

January 18 for approval.

Asma Kibria, wife of the slain AL

"We also discussed on many a

bear any additional burden.

their father.

alliance men's link to the killings of

opposition leaders, she observed.

Ahsanullah Master MP

Referring to the seizure of 10

He urged the government to stop

The Bangladesh Awami Jubo

A syndicate of unscrupulous

speech of the finance minister.

BDNEWS adds: Awami League

due to the scanty supply of fuel.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha

Eight filling stations and one

The Irri-Boro cultivators from

No measures were seen to have

Rajshahi DC Sayed Ahsanul

and petrol at Tk 100 per litre.

reported crises.

hoardingfuel.

remained closed.

artificial crisis of fuel.

tims of the situation.

the artificial crisis of fuel.

oils yesterday.

stations stopped selling fuel yester-

The administration even had to deploy police at some filling stations

Rajshahi and Gaibandha reported immense sufferings of people due to the acute artificial fuel crisis as the six fuel-carrying vessels could not deliver fuel to the depots in the northern districts due to sharp decrease in water level.

Our Rangpur correspondent reports: Most filling stations in Rangpur, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat remained closed as stock of oils ran short, Bangladesh Petroleum

Corporation (BPC) dealers claimed. Police have been deployed at the oil depots of three companies in

Although the district administration denied any crisis anywhere in the districts, they made arrangement of rationing petrol and diesel from a few filling stations with a view to

Pump in Rangpur town, said the supply from the Baghabari oil depot remained suspended as its stock exhausted. "Only a few filling stations, including mine, are receiving supply from the Parbatipur oil depot, which brings fuels from Chittagong and Khulna by Bangladesh Railway tankers," he said.

the Parbatipur oil depot is quite insufficient compared to the demand in the district, a BPC dealer in Lalmonirhat said over telephone,

Students assault

instructions beat up Abdur Rashid and then drag him to the principal's office, sources said.

A group of teachers of the Siddheswari College at a meeting yesterday morning discussed the principal's alleged misconduct and graft. They decided to demand his removal and then disclosed every-

the principal and went on a ram-page to press home the demand. The police later rescued and escorted the principal out of the

college compound.

There is no alternative to removal of the principal, as he has embezzled a lot of the college's funds, a senior teacher of the col-

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone last night Rafiqul said some students had swooped on

out they had not beat him up. He denied any corruption and said everything had been going by the rules. However, he admitted that the education ministry is investigating an allegation of graft against him. "The probe is on," he

The principal also brushed off the accusation that he had insti-gated Thursday's attack on Abdur post of vice-principal is conspiring against me and linked me with Thursday's incident."

A team of policemen was deployed on the campus after yesterday's agitation.

Ramna police said no arrest has been made and no case filed in connection with the attack.

55 vessels

"My movement is not only to have However, the dumped sediment is returning to the downstream river again to damage the river's the killers of my husband tried, but to ensure justice for all those killed in the grenade attacks," Asma said in a navigability. The officials said the upstream sediment has already accumulated at Mohonganj and

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil. senior leaders Zillur Rahman, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Matia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, former diplomat Faruq Chowdhury and economist Dr Atiur Officials of Bangladesh Rahman addressed the discussion. US envov

days. They also could not say when the oil in the stranded ships will be distributed to the northern region.

Banking on the crisis, some

The same scenario was seen at Sirajganj intersection, 30 kilometre off Baghabari. Two hundred litres

of diesel was being sold at Tk 200 higher than the government-fixed rate. The rate is Tk 400 to Tk 500 higher than the normal rate in Bera, Breeshalikha and Kolghat.

The BPC chairman will visit Baghabari depot today to observe the situation, according to BPC

Meanwhile, resentment arose resterday among oil distributors as Bogra district BNP General Secretary Saiful Islam hurled abusive words towards them during a meeting on oil crisis at the district

nothing about the incident. The depot superintendent of Jamuna Oil in Rangpur, however, told

The Daily Star that there is no fuel upazila in Jessore foiled a child crisis in any of the northern districts trafficking move on Friday. The five children are Joy, 7, and Akash, 4, Our Raishahi correspondent reports: The artificial fuel crisis gripped the metropolitan city and son of Dilip Kumar and Shukti, 3, nine upazilas of the district as all the filling stations continued not to sell

Sources said the children were returning home after watching TV at a neighbour's house when some unknown criminals caught them and made unconscious with chloroform.

Villagers on seeing this came to the children's rescue but the traffickers managed to escape. The children were rushed to Jessore 250-bed Hospital on Friday night in

Gas supply

FROM PAGE 1

Enayet Bazar areas, residents said. Though the gas supply was not affected in other parts of the city, the pressure was low.

twice" said an engineer of BGSL. The BGSL officials resumed

supply at 12:30pm.

smooth movement of the devotees to and from the venue.

Mass Communication Department and Press Information Department have set up loudspeakers from the litema venue to Cherag Ali market in the north,

The 41st Ijtema began Friday amid tight security on the bank of the Turag river at Tongi with Islamic scholars delivering sermons to

Official sources said 54 close-circuit TV and 20 video cameras have been installed at the congregation. A total of 25 medical centres and camps have been set up to ensure healthcare of the devotees coming from home and abroad.

Party also expressed concerns over The CPB in a press release

Rocca herself has categorically denied ever using the word at her own press conference, the ministry said.

truckloads of arms in Chittagong and said the present government will She said the government used Rapid Action Battalion to kill the sanctions. However, Rocca herself did not mention the word sanction as mentioned in our report. Hasina said the killing of Kibria has been an irreparable loss to her We erred in attributing the word

Rocca leaves

FROM PAGE 1

visit to Bangladesh as assistant secretary of state for South Asia. She will be replaced by Richard Boucher who recently served as assistant secretary of state for

Under the PRGF arrangement, Bangladesh also agreed to perform according to certain macroeconomic criteria like ceilings on the government's net domestic financing and non-concessional loan, revenue target etc.

the government's net bank borrowing was supposed to be limited to Tk 4 billion. But as of mid-December 2005, the borrowing exceeded Tk 40 billion, which however came down to Tk 22.89 billion by January 15.

Another performance criteria demanded a Tk 154 billion revenue collection in the first half of fiscal year 2005-06. But, the NBR managed to earn Tk 145.42 billion or 5.5 percent short of the target.

Bangladesh has sought the waiver of performance criteria. In the past, Bangladesh had appealed for a similar waiver for the release of the third PRGF tranche, which the IMF did approve.

Though further adjustment of oil prices is not directly named in

14-party 'long march' Family disinherits Bangla Bhai aide

Narsingdi, and Comilla before resuming their final legs of the march towards Dhaka on February

They will gather at Paltan Maidan, which will be the epicentre of the programmes on that day, claimed the coalition leaders.

The 'long march' was announced from the November 22 grand rally demanding an end to the BNP-Jamaat rule where the coalition also announced a 23point national programme which vowed to separate the judiciary from the executive branch of the government, bring the perpetrators of all bomb and grenade blasts to book, hold direct elections to women's reserved seats in the parliament and award autonomy to state-owned radio and television

channels. Following the grand rally, the opposition coalition announced a two-month long agitation programme that would build up to the 'long march' demanding reforms in the system of caretaker government and the Election Commission for a free, fair and neutral election.

Senior leaders of the opposition coalition discussed the logistics of the 'long march' at yesterday's meeting and issued directives to the coalition's field-level leaders and activists not to tolerate any obstruction on the way.

Leaders of city units of the opposition parties will meet today in the office of the Workers Party to discuss their preparations and to announce the programmes in

ROUTEMAP OF 'LONG MARCH' The 'long march' will kick off from the border areas of the country, decided the 14-party meeting.

Leaders and activists of 16 northern districts will start their march from Tentulia on February 2 and will stay in Tongi on February 4 before resuming their march to and National Awami Party.

The march from the southern districts will start on February 2

will take a break in Narsingdi on February 4 before joining the programmes in Dhaka on February

The 14-party opposition coalition has been preparing to make the 'long march' a success since it was innounced.

The coalition held a series of meetings with its district and division-level leaders on January 25, 26 and 27 in different parts of the

Besides, it had embarked on a two month-long agitation programme including barricading and laying sieges to deputy com-missioners' (DC) offices, sit-in programmes and other demonstrations across the country to gear up for the march.

The left 11-party alliance also held a meeting with Workers Party Chairman Rashed Khan Menon in the chair to make the 'long march' a

Besides, the front organisations of the 14-party coalition are also preparing for the march.

Yesterday's meeting was chaired by AL presidium member Abdur Razzak MP, and was addressed by Abdul Jalil MP, Tofail Ahmed, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Dilip Barua, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, 11-party leaders, and the leaders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

with full participation," the troika

delegation said responding to main

opposition's threat to abandon the

polls under the present Election

disputes over future caretaker gov-

ernment and the Election

Commission, the EU called for estab-

lishing 'cross-party confidence' in

the two institutions through an

active dialogue as they consider

caretaker government and the EC as

principal guarantors for free and fair

is already engaged in providing

financial support for the election

process and prepared to provide the

country with technical support for

the election process, and to work

with other international partners to

ensure proper observation and

The Europeans, however, regret-

They suggested an independent

Christina Rocca stressed the need

for a level playing field for all parties

and free and fair elections to ensure

the winners' legitimacy, signifying

that any party elected through con-

troversial elections would not be

Bidyut Samity Subscribers'

Development Association leaders

acceptable at home and abroad.

Shibganj OC

and impartial EC free from influence

of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

and having separate fund.

ted that they could not meet CEC

election monitoring.

appointment.

The troika delegation said the EU

On the government-opposition

Commission dubbed 'partisan'.

Bangladesh politics

free, fair voting on the election day to ensure credibility of the election results and legitimacy for the winners to run the nation.

They expressed concern over the confrontational nature of divisive politics and called for finding a solution to the nagging disputes between the opposition and the party in power over the appointment of caretaker government and the Election Commission.

The EU troika and the US official in their pre-departure press statements have assured support to democratic process and the holding offree, fair and peaceful elections.

In unanimity of their observations, both the major players of contemporary world also made it ear that parliament is a natura place for debate and dialogue between the parties on national issues of concern.

However, both of them dismissed the notion of stepping into the country's internal politics, pushing the ball to political party leaders to settle their disputes through meaningful discussions.

"It is essential for the stability and prospect of Bangladesh that the election takes place on schedule and

Foreign diplomats

FROM PAGE 16

for the refugees' children. But government officials said the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNHCR and Bangladesh provides that Rohingya children can have education only up

"A generation of the Rohingy refugee children is being deprived of education," Norheim said. Besides, the refugee women are afraid of harassment both by the outsiders and insiders of the camps, she added.

The Swiss envoy regretted the way the refugees are living in the camps. She stressed they should have free movement and scope for income generating activities. They are living here for long and "it is also difficult for us to provide funds for so long," she noted.

Urging the officials concerned to ensure security for the women refugees, the Swedish ambassador said a regional approach could also be considered to find a solution to the issue as a whole.

Referring to government officials' concern that free movement of the Rohingyas will increase criminal activities in the area, he said their lack of education would breed crimes.

Earlier at a meeting on Thursday, Refugee Relief Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Shoyebur victims of police atrocities and Rahman said there is no provision for secondary education of the Rohingya children. "However, if the UNHCR officially proposes, the government could even think of it," said Shoyeb, also a

joint secretary of the food and disastermanagement ministry. UNHCR country representative Christopher Beng Cha Lee said they have already proposed interim secondary level education in Bangla medium as there is scarcity of teachers for Burmese language but the Bangladesh government has not agreed to it.

Asked what is to be done if neither Bangladesh accepts the Rohingya refugees permanently nor Myanmar agrees to take them back, the Australian high commissioner said it could be thought of only if such a situation ever arose.

Bangla Bhai aide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The top local aide to Bangla Bhai at Baghmara, Mahtab Khamaru, was disinherited from his family yester-

Mahtab's father Mohammad Ali Khamaru, chairman of Hamirkutsa Union Council, in a press conference said he has no relations with

"He (Mahtab) is a disobedient son and he is identified as a terrorist by law enforcement agencies, have no relations with him," he told journalists. "He is responsible for his deeds," he added.

"Leftist outlaws have killed two of my sons brutally and they have also threatened me, yet I hate the Islamist militants [who launched an anti-outlaw campaign in Baghmara in 2004]. I want Mahtab to be arrested and I also ask all to inform police wherever he is seen," he said in a written statement.

He said he called for the press conference as law enforcement agencies are harassing him enquiring about Mahtab.

Police recently picked up Ali to enquire about his son.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Mahtab on December 29 but released him within hours of his arrest. Mahtab went into hiding since his release. Police headquar ters in Dhaka asked for his arrest

Meanwhile, Nazir Hossain Pramanik, Bangla Bhai's father, also disinherited him in Bogra last

keeping the minister confined in the circuit house for over two premises.

The rally, where Industries Minister and Jamaat Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami spoke as the chief guest, was arranged to kick off the unofficial electoral campaign for Shahjahan Chowdhury, Jamaat lawmaker from Satkania

The protesters alleged that the Jamaat lawmaker had instigated the killing of three local BNP lead-

on the ground to prevent him from joining the Jamaat's programme. Incensed, the minister harassed Association.

Association's President Monjurul Alam Monju, former president Ali Abbas, adviser Dev Prasad Das Debu, former general secretary Rupam Chakraborty and joint secretary Mohammad Faruk in a statement yesterday condemned the incident. They said this kind of behaviour of a minister might encourage the unruly cadres of the political parties to attack

"Minister Noman knows me well for long. But yesterday all of a sudden he started swearing and shouting at me and kicking me," Didar told The Daily Star in the afternoon.

Witnesses said the minister also warned the other photographers including Zobaer Hossain Sikder of The Daily Star not to 'go beyond the limit.

Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) will hold a rally at 11.00am today at the Chittagong Press Club to protest the assault on Didar.

Saarc foreign secys

FROM PAGE 16

Afghanistan and observer status to China and Japan, programme preparation for Saarc's different bodies, strengthening of Saarc Secretariat and Saarc's vision for the next 10 years are

Afghanistan was given membership at the 13th Saarc Summit held in Dhaka last November while China and Japan were given observer status

The committee will also prepare the draft of membership and observer status criteria for Saarc.

The Saarc Council of Ministers, comprised of foreign ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, are likely to meet on July 18 in Dhaka to approve the recommendations made by the Standing

Australian Open

FROM PAGE 16

favour, gives the world number three her first Grand Slam and makes up for her devastating loss in the 1999 final. She was totally dominating an

out-of-sorts Henin-Hardenne before the French Open champion and four-time Grand Slam winner retired 52 minutes into what had been one of the most lopsided finals in the tournament's recent

Henin-Hardenne called for a trainer when the score was 2-0 in the second set, holding her hand to herhead.

The 2004 Australian Open champion tried to continue but told the umpire she could not go on and slumped into a seat, a towel draped across her head to hide her tears.

New video shows four hostages in Iraq

REUTERS, Dubai

The captors of four Western peace activists in Iraq said US-led forces had one last chance to free Iraqi prisoners or they would kill the hostages, Al Jazeera television said

The Arabic channel aired a video from the Swords of Truth group, apparently showing the two anadians, one Briton and one American standing against a wall. The grainy footage, shot in a dark room, was dated January 21.

The hostages appeared to be speaking to the camera but their voices could not be heard.

Norman Kember, American Tom Fox and Canadians James Loney and

13 die in Nepal

during a search operation on Saturday," said an official at Royal Nepalese Army headquarters in

The clash, in which two soldiers were also killed, lasted until 2:00 am

local time Saturday, the official said. Troops on Saturday were scouring the rugged area, located 260 kilometres (162 miles) east of the capital

Kathmandu, for signs of more rebels. "Additional troops have been mobilized to intensify the search operations in the area," the officer told

There was no immediate reaction from the Maoists, who rarely commenton clashes. The battle came after the army said five rebels blew themselves up

Thursday while making a bomb in Siraha district, located 420 kilometres southeast of Kathmandu. Earlier the European Union warned Friday that political forces in Nepal seemed to be heading toward a

King Gyanendra to restore all political and civil liberties. "Political forces seem to be moving towards an ever more severe confrontation and polarization, thus increas ing the risk of deepening the political

severe confrontation" and urged

crisis," the EU said in a statement. The king, who seized absolute control of the country a year ago, should "immediately restore all political and civil liberties in accor-

dance with Nepal's international obligations," the statement said. A recent crackdown aimed at thwarting anti-royal protests has earned the royal government widespread international condemnaHarmeet Sooden were kidnapped on November 26 in Baghdad, where they were working with a Christian

peace organization, by the previ-ously unknown Swords of Truth. "The group ... said it was giving a last chance for its demands to be met through the release of Iraqi prisoners in American and Iraqi prisons in exchange for the release of the four

hostages," the television said. The Swords of Truth earlier issued a video of the four men and accused them of spying for US-led forces. It threatened to kill them unless pris-

oners in Iraqi jails were freed. Reverend Alan Betteridge, president of the Baptist Peace Fellowship to which Kember, 74, belongs, said he was happy to see evidence the four were alive but concerned over the

"We are glad to have some evi-dence that the four captives are still alive but we are very sad that the captors still repeat this threat of killing them that they issued two months ago," Betteridge, a close

friend of Kember, told Reuters. "We're very sorry that they're still talking in those violent terms after all the appeals from the Muslim world and others for the release of these non-violent peacemakers who were in Iraq for the benefit of justice and peace in that land."

2 children die

FROM PAGE 16
Mazar and engulfed the entire area including the neighbouring Kamal Uddin Colony, reducing at least 23 semi-pucca and thatched houses

into ashes. Two fire-fighting units from Chandanpura and Lamabazar fire stations rushed to the spot immediately and managed to extinguish the blaze after one hour with the help of

The loss was estimated to be Tk 5

In another incident, a bus of Shohagh Transport service was damaged in a fire originated due to electric short circuit from the dashboard of the bus at about 3:00am

lakh, sources said.

yesterday. Fire service and Shohagh sources said except three, all of the seats of the bus were destroyed in the fire. No passenger was in the bus during the incident, sales officer of

Shohagh, Kaiser informed. Property worth over Tk 3 lakh was damaged in the fire, fire service sourcessaid.

Shohagh Transport Service In-charge Md Wahid, however, claimed the loss to be worth around Tk 50

No Palestinian state

tion.

Hamas over the long-time ruling Fatah movement in Wednesday's parliamentary election has thrown prospects for Middle East peacemaking into turmoil and triggered

alarmin Israel and across the world. But the most immediate problem was right inside the Palestinian

territories themselves. As dusk fell over the Gaza Strip on Friday, thousands of angry Fatah supporters flooded the streets, demonstrating outside the parliament building in Gaza City to call for the resignation of Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas and the rest of the

partyleadership. In the southern Gaza Strip, violence involving Hamas and Fatah supporters in Khan Yunis and nearby also highlighted the lingering tensions and left nine people wounded, including five members of the secu-

rity forces. "We want him (Abbas) and his entire team out," demanded one militant in Gaza. "This would never have happened with (the late) Yasser

Arafat," said another. On the political front, US President George W. Bush warned of cuts in US aid to the Palestinians if Hamas does not dissolve its armed wing and renounce its threats against Israel.

"If they don't, we won't deal with them. Aid packages won't go for-ward," Bush told CBS television in an interview as Hamas prepared to form agovernment.

'That's their decision to make, but we won't be providing help to a government that wants to destroy our ally and friend," Bush added.

This year, the United States has budgeted no direct aid for the Palestinian Authority, but plans to provide 150 million dollars to the Palestinians through the US Agency for International Development and another 84 million through the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the Near-

East. International assistance will be a key topic when US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice meets in London on Monday with her counterparts from the European Union, Russia and the United Nations, the diplomatic "quartet" pushing the socalled "roadmap" to Middle East

The Hamas vow to destroy Israel is at odds with that document's requirement that the Palestinians end violence against Israel.

Israel, which pulled out of Hamas's Gaza Strip stronghold last year, has steadfastly rejected talks with the movement, which refuses to recognise the Tewish state's right to exist and has carried out scores of suicide attacks.

Despite the ballot-box endorse-

Palestinian leader Abbas said he remained committed to reaching peace with Israel through negotia-

tions and confirmed he would ask Hamas to form a new government. Ismail Haniya, Hamas's top candidate in an election that saw it win 76 of the 132 seats in parliament, said he had agreed in a phone call with Abbas to meet in the next few

"We have political differences about the way to recover our rights but that is not to say that Hamas will be in conflict with the president of

health and education. A Reuters report from Ramallah says: Fatah gunmen and Palestinian police, angry at Hamas's election victory, briefly took over parliament

nesses said. Some climbed onto the roof of the parliament in Ramallah, which was not in session at the time, demanding the resignations of senior members of President Mahmoud Abbas's long-dominant Fatah movement --

though not of Abbas himself. The gunmen left after shouting

'We will transform the army of the Palestinian Authority into armed militias. We are not waiting for Hamas to teach us their Islamic beliefs. We know the Koran by heart,"

said one gunman, Ramzi Obeid. In the Gaza Strip, police led by their commander in the territory briefly stormed into the compound of the parliament building there to protest against any transfer of security responsibility to Hamas, an

gunmen from Fatah and Hamas since the Islamist group won a crushing victory in last week's Palestinian parliamentary election to end decades of Fatah domination.

Shibir men

14 Shibir activists of the brutal attack. Protesting the incident, Jubo

disrupting traffic for about an hour. They held a rally demanding arrest of the culprits. District Jamaat Ameer Abdur Rahman said Shibir cadres were in

no way involved in the attack. He demanded withdrawal of the 'false' case filed against the Shibir activ-

Govt denies fuel crisis | BSF pushes

to avoid any untoward situation. Our correspondents in Rangpur,

Rangpur for the last three days.

easing the situation. Meanwhile, what the oil dealers showed as the reason for the crisis contradicted the reason shown by the district administration and the

three oil companies. Masum Mia, owner of Shapla Oil

But the amount of supply from

PROMPAGE 1
Degree College during a BA (pass) examination held at the Siddheswari College for adopting unfair means. The two examinees took the matter to Rafiqul Islam and according to his alleged

thing to the students. Agitated, the students assaulted

lege told The Daily Star yesterday. "He even managed the appointment in May 2004 by political influence," he said.

Rashid. He claimed, "A vested quarter manipulating to grab the

FROM PAGE 1 again. The BIWTA officials termed the situation normal, saying they cannot take the pipe up to the bank to dump the extracted sand due to strong current.

the situation is same for Penchakola where the BIWTA is now conducting dredging work. Petroleum Corporation (BPC) could not say when oil will reach the Baghabari port where no petrol and octane arrived in the last 12

d'Affaires to Bangladesh Judith Ann Chammas has been discharg-About 100 tankers from different fuel hungry northern districts are waiting at Baghabari port for oil. President George W Bush on January 4 announced Butenis' dealers are selling oil at the depot gate at Tk 8,000 to Tk 9,000 higher than the original rate per tanker.

According to US Senate, the hearing of Butenis will take place on February 2 before the second session of the 109th Congress of the Committee on Foreign Relations with Senator Chafee in the chair. Ms Butenis of Virginia, is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. Prior to her post-

The oil distributors said they might go for movement against the use of abusive words.

BDR sources said they knew

Meanwhile, the villagers of Sekendarpur of Bagharpara sons of Subhash Chandra, Rupa, 5, daughter of Rampada, Dipankar, 8,

daughter of Shukanta.

unconscious state.

amal Khan, Kazir Dewri and

We have mended the leakage this morning, but resumption of gas supply was delayed as the disordered bulb had to be repaired

Akheri Munajat FROM PAGE 1 Besides, all the inter-city trains will touch Tongi Station to facilitate

Tongi railway station in the east, Azampur bus stand in the south and Kamarpara in the west.

Rejoinder FROM PAGE 1 reiterated that at no stage of the discussions at different meetings held between the visiting US Assistant Secretary of State and government leaders and officials, did she make any reference to or mention of sanctions. Christina

Our Reply: Rocca in her discussions with the government had mentioned the US government's grave concerns over terror financing and rise of militancy and said unless these issues are properly addressed, Bangladesh would risk falling under the US anti-terror financing act. In our story, we interpreted to the readers the implications of this law which includes the possibility of facing

'sanction' to her. We stand cor-

public affairs at the State Department in Washington. Govt seeks FROM PAGE 1

According to one of the criteria.

Against this background,

the performance criteria, it is demanded by some benchmarks like the limit of loss to be incurred by the state-owned enterprises. So, the IMF has been insisting on adjustment of domestic oil prices with the global ones to keep other microeconomic indicators on

from Barguna. The marchers will spend a night at Mawa on February and resume the march on February 5. Marchers from the Sylhet division will start on February 2 and

Protesters from the Chittagong division will start their 'long march on February 3 and will stay in Comilla on February 4 before resuming their march on February 5 towards the capital. PREPARATIONS

BNP men

hours. Some of them lay on the roads inside the circuit house

(Chittagong-14 constituency).

LENSMAN ASSAULTED Photojournalist Didarul Alam along with fellow lensmen was snapping the minister stepping over the party men who were lying

Didar, also general secretary of Chittagong Photojournalists

media people in future. Justice MA Aziz despite seeking

Golam Rabbani, Zahir Chowdhury and Monirul Islam Manna. On behalf of the district administration, a four-member lawyers' the discussion topics in the agenda. team visited the troubled area yesterday and talked to local people about their demands.

and Sohrab Ali. The team also visited Golam Rabbani, who led the subscribers' movement for uninterrupted power supply and reduced charges, at Chapainawabganj jail before going to Kansat.

Locals told the lawyers' team

that they want their leaders'

release, compensations to the

The team included

Chapainawabganj Bar Association

President Ahmadullah

Chowdhury, Secretary Enamul

Haque, and members Osman Gani

solution to their five-point Barricades put up by the protesters still remain on a 9-kilometre stretch of Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid road. Fresh barricades have been placed at Monakosha in Shibganj.

Shibganj police yesterday con-

firmed seven deaths in the January

Earlier, press reports said that

'DEAD' RETURNS ALIVE

23 police firing.

Anwarul Islam.

eight people were killed but on Friday Monirul Islam Chowdhury of Trimohini, one of the eight, returned home alive. The victims are -- Anwar Hossain, Kaimul Islam Garibul, Nasir Uddin, Anwar Hossain Babu,

Abdul Mannan, Daud Ali and

days to discuss forming a "political partnership".

the Palestinian Authority," he added. While Hamas will almost certainly head up the government, its areas of responsibility would be likely limited to domestic issues such as

buildings in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday, firing in the air, wit-

their demand and anti-Hamas slogans.

Islamist militant group. Clashes have erupted between

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Dal put up a barricade on Dinajpur-Dhaka Road yesterday,