NEWS

RU teacher murdered

evening

due punishment."

strike for today.

mourning.

FROM PAGE 20

for autopsy.

20 injured

Chairman Sayed Shamsuddin

Ahmed said. "We will not participate

in any academic activity until the

killers are arrested and meted out

demanded a judicial investigation.

The department teachers also

Bangladesh Chhatra League

barricaded the Dhaka-Rajshahi

Highway for three hours from

11:00am and called a students'

Progressive Teachers'

Association announced a three-day

work abstention and demanded the

RU authorities declare a three-day

police went to the spot at about

2:00pm, recovered the body and

sent it to Kushtia General Hospital

Of the injured, Sariful, Tajuddin

Musa. Matiar. Rafan. Innat Ali.

Chand and Hasan Foyez were

admitted to Kushtia General

Hospital while others given first aid.

Police arrested two persons

named Nazrul and Kabir. But locals

said the arrestees are not the cad-

res of Nasir. Police have been

Police Station, accusing 15 cadres

A case was filed with Kumarkhali

Sources said the same group led

by Nasir on Thursday attacked the

house of Abdul Khaleg, a member of

Shelidah Union Parishad (UP).

They looted Khaleq's house, as he

refused to pay them Tk 50,000 in

I received death threats twice on

Thursday--in the morning and at

noon," said Abdur Razzak, manager

of the Shamsur Rahman Road

No written complaints in this

regard were filed with any police

stations. Deputy Commissioner of

Khulna Metropolitan Police Akbar

Ali said investigation will begin after

has been informed of the incident.

Janaiuddha activist demanded a toll

of Tk 10,000 from the Kajdia branch

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)

Earlier on Tuesday night, a

Among them, Amader Boi Mela

of Humayun Azad, Mohabbat Alir

Akdin of Mohammad Jafar Iqbal,

Ramya Aramya of Anisul Haq,

Keboli of Sumonto Aslam, My

Century of Gunter Grass, are

receiving written complaints.

manager of Agrani Bank

Book fair

FROM PAGE 20

fair yesterday.

deployed in the area.

Outlaws

branch of Agrani Bank.

ROM PAGE 20

of Nasir.

Arrests, police harassment

FROM PAGE 1 in Paltan Maidan.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, a number of police officials in Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Gazipur. Manikganj and Comilla admitted to receiving directives from the home ministry not to allow anyone from their respective districts to travel to the capital without showing appro-

priate reasons "We have also been instructed to restrict transport movement," a top police official of Comilla told The Daily Star preferring anonymity.

Meanwhile, protesting the government's clampdown, leaders of the opposition combine yesterday threatened to launch tougher programmes including indefinite hartal. Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina is expected to announce the programmes from the Paltan Maidan rally tomorrow.

The top command of the opposition combine is also planning to announce a countrywide hartal for up to 72 hours from February 7, protesting the mass arrest of opposition leaders and workers, sources said.

The BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government is trying to smother the long march with police attacks, arrests and torture, alleged AL General Secretary and 14-party coordinator Abdul Jalil last night to The Daily Star.

"But the government cannot stifle people's voice by arrests and oppression," he observed and urged the government to give up 'the path'

MARCH ON PROGRESS

Nine more processions of the opposition long march started from nine points across the country vesterday to join the five main streams in Comilla, Keraniganj, Savar, Tongi and Narsingdi. All the streams of the long march will enter the capital tomorrow.

The Teknaf procession held a rally at Patia in Chittagong at 3:00pm yesterday and will start the march from Alankar intersection towards Comilla via Sitakunda, Mirersarai and Feni. In Comilla. a rally will be held at around 3:00pm and the procession will leave for Dhaka at 10:00am tomorrow.

Another procession will march via Sirajganj, Tangail, Mirzapur and Kaliakoir and hold a rally at Tongi at 4:00pm today.

An opposition procession started from Sonamasjid in Chapainawabganj yesterday morning and held a rally at Natore. The procession will start from Bonpara in Natore today and gather at Sirajganj to join the long march.

Another segment of the long march from Moulvibazar held a rally at Brahmanbaria. It will march via Bhairab, Raipura and Shibpur and hold a rally at Narsingdi at 4:00pm today.

Another procession marched via Kaliganj, Jhenidah, Magura and Madhukhali and held a rally in Faridpur at 4:00pm. The march will reach Savar today and advance arrest and police requisition of towards Dhaka tomorrow

said many political parties have agreed to join hands with the 14party alliance in its anti-government novement

The briefing was held at the local circuit house prior to the meeting held in the district yesterday. He, however, did not mention the names those parties.

Opposition leaders Abdul Mannan, Asaduzzaman Noor, Bimal Biswas, Saleha Sultana, Mamtaz Uddin, Maiibur Rahman Mainu and others were present at the briefing. Meanwhile, the police seized

around 150 motorcycles to prevent them from joining the long march, sources said.

MYMENSINGH Our correspondent in Mymensingh reports: AL Presidium Member Motia Chowdhury at a rally yesterday said the mass arrests and implicating the opposition leaders and workers in false cases will only fuel the ongoing movement. AL Organising Secretary Saber

Hossain Chowdhury, AL central leader Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and other district AL leaders also spoke at the rally

MOULVIBAZAR Our Moulvibazar correspondent

reports: The 14-party alliance long march from Sylhet division started from Moulvibazar town yesterday noon A rally was held at the Central

Shaheed Minar in the town before the march started its journey. District AL President Sved Mohsin Ali. Suranjit Sengupta, Sultan Mohammad Monsur Ahmed, Abdur Rahman and Sylhet City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran addressed the rally. BARISAL

Our staff correspondent in Barisal reports: The 14-party alliance long march advanced through Barisal division peacefully yesterday. No untoward incident was reported except that the police arrested three

BCL activists in Jhalakathi town. Meanwhile, our correspondents in different districts reported arrest of hundreds of opposition leaders and activists across the country. NETRAKONA

Around 50 activists of the 14-party opposition combine were injured as police attacked on a long march procession. The law enforcers also arrested 30 activists in different areas of the district. The long march procession was

foiled in the district as the police had earlier requisitioned around 50 buses and arrested around 10 busdrivers. The police also barricaded the long march procession at different points in the district.

RAJSHAHI REGION Our staff correspondent reports from Raishahi reports: Raishahi police arrested over 100 people in

northern region, including 66 in Raishahi city on Thursday night. Thousands of people gathered in Natore yesterday as the 14-party long march from Rajshahi region started for Dhaka amid widespread

during the attack In Kushtia: The police in separate raids arrested 133 activists of

the 14-party combine in Jhenidah and Chuadanga districts on Thursday night. In Syedpur: The police arrested

eight opposition workers and damaged the 14-party podium in the town In Jamalpur: At least 15 opposi-

tion workers were injured during clash while a joint procession of local BNP. Juba Dal and JCD men attacked the pro-opposition procession Bakshiganj Bus stand. Police fired two rubber bullet shots and arrested three AL supporters.

In Cox's Bazar: The police arrested at least 85 opposition workers from different upazilas of the district until yesterday evening. In Comilla: At least 20 opposition supporters were arrested from

different upazilas until 9:00pm last niaht In Laxmipur: The police arrested

at least 20 opposition workers in the district. In Gazipur: The police raided

opposition workers' houses under all the upazila and arrested at least 50 opposition workers.

Besides, the police arrested two BCL leaders in Sarail of Brahamanbaria, 10 in Mirzapur of Tangail. 24 in Munshiganj, six in Khoksha of Kushtia, 27 in Feni, 13 in Jovpurhat, 23 in Faridpur, five in Chandpur, nine in Barguna and 60 others in Narayanganj.

UNB adds: AL activists and its front organisations yesterday barricaded the Dhaka-Sherpur Highway for half an hour, protesting hindrance by the local administration ahead of the long march towards Dhaka.

The barricade was withdrawn following a meeting between the AL leaders, police, administration officials and leaders of bus owners.

Local AL leaders alleged that the police and administration officials put pressure on the bus owners not to provide their vehicles for the long march.

India says latest nuclear missile ready for launch AFP, New Delhi

India yesterday announced it had completed all tests and was ready to deploy its latest nuclear-tipped missile, capable of striking targets at a distance of 3,000 kilometres 1.860 miles).

"All technical parameters for the aunch of the missile have been completed," M. Natarajan announced at a news conference in New Delhi.

"We are ready for the launch today ... it is now for political leadership to give the nod." Natarajan said of the Indian-built missile codenamed Agni-III (Fire). Agni-III is the longest range

Defence Research and

Development Organisation (DRDO)

comprising dozens of state-owned

ndustries and military research

facilities, said scientists were also

trying to develop a 1,000-kilometre

announced that a naval variant of

the 300-kilometre range BrahMos

cruise missile, which has been

jointly developed by India and

The official said the DRDO had

made "tremendous progress" on an

anti-missile shield for which India is

currently negotiating with the United

India in 1983 launched its inte-

grated guided missile development

programme and so far has built an

array of systems including the

battlefield missile Prithvi (Earth)

which can carry a 500-kilogram

nuclear warhead and other tactical

Nataraian said that India was

"As against the need for a mini-

mum of 100,000 design engineers,

we are making do with just 6,000 of

them in the DRDO and this will come

in the way of development of future

missile and space weapons." he

plagued by growing shortages of

Russia, was ready for deployment.

The chief scientist also

ange cruise missile

marine-fired BrahMos.

States, Russia and Israel

Egyptian ferry

the HMS Bulwark warship in the Red Sea to offer help but the vessel would reportedly take one and a half days to reach the scene.

The Egyptian ship, called Al-Salam 98, had departed from the Saudi port of Duba and had been due to reach Safaga at 2:30 am local time (0030 GMT) after a crossing of up to 18 hours.

The boat was also reported to be carrying more than 40 vehicles.

The Panamian-flagged ship is 118 metres long (387 feet) and around 24 metres wide (78 feet).

Close to 500 people had perished when another Salam Express ferry boat sunk in the Red Sea in 1991 in the deadliest shipping accident in the Middle East in recent years. A probe found it was caused by a navigation error on the part of the captain.

Andrea Odone, from the operations department of the Al-Salam Maritime Transport company's Cairo headquarters told AFP that the ship complied with all safety rules.

"The ship is registered in Panama, It met all the safety requirements, and it fully complies with international safety rules. The number of passengers on board was less than the maximum number." he said.

"We have diverted three of our vessels to ao on the spot. One of them will be at there 3:30 pm (1330 GMT)," said Odone, who was unable to give any figures on the number of people feared dead.

Red Sea Governor Bakr al-Rashidi announced that an operations room had been set up in Safaga and a state of emergency was declared in the area's hospitals.

According to French-based shipping expert Yvan Perchoc, the Al-Salam Baccaccio 98 is one of several old Italian ferries to which extra levels were added in order to boost passenger capacity, sometimes threefold.

"Among the ships operating crossings in the Red Sea... some are remarkable because of the height of their structures. They are old Italian ferries to which four extra decks have been added, raising the capacity from 500 to around 1,400," he told AFP.

"Despite the addition of extra bulges on the sides of these ships, one can wonder about their stability," he said, adding that the draft of such ships was generally very low. A ship owned by the same Al-

Salam company collided with a

Diesel price hikes

FROM PAGE 1

The government's budgetary allocation of Tk 1,200 crore in subsidy for farm sector this fiscal year (2005-06) now appears far short of the requirement to cover the fertiliser price gap. The demand for urea this vear is projected at 28 lakh tonnes while the country produced 19 lakh tonnes. For each tonne of locally produced urea, the government has

cargo ship near the entrance of the Suez canal in October, causing a stampede that left two dead and up to 100 wounded.

An inquiry into the accident blamed the captain for violating the rules governing transit through the Suez canal.

The popular Red Sea holiday area was already hit by tragedy on January 31 when a bus carrying HongKong tourists overturned between Hurghada and Safaga, leaving 14 dead and 30 wounded.

Foes in politics FROM PAGE 20

On information, police reached the spot and arrested the two. Saiful and Liton are often seen chasing each other during their parties' political programmes at day, said locals and police.

Soon after their arrest, telephone calls started pouring in Jaldhaka Police Station, requesting the Officer-in-Charge Abdul Mannan to set them free. Jaldhaka Police, however, refused to submit to any pressure and took the two young men to hospital for test and 'stom ach wash'.

On Thursday noon police produced them before the court for legal proceeding.

This incident has become a talk of the town in Jaldhaka

Forex

FROM PAGE 20 rencies several times from inside toilets of aircrafts but the Biman authorities did not take any measure in this regard.

Chairman of National Board of Revenue Khairuzzaman Chowdhury visited ZIA following the recovery and discussed the matter with the managing director of Biman.

Customs officials had seized Saudi Rivals worth about Tk 64 lakh from a Dubai-bound passenger of Biman at ZIA on July 17 last year and Euros, Hong Kong and US dollars, and Chinese and Bangladeshi currencies worth about Tk 27.57 lakh were seized from a Hong Kong bound passenger at the same airport on March 18 last year. Two passengers were arrested in connection with the two incidents.

While visiting the airport yester day NBR chairman told reporters customs officials had filed that several cases in connection with such recoveries, which are not yet

In the wake of an erratic fue market situation resulting from the finance minister's recent hints at fuel price hike, energy advisor Mahmudur Rahman said with-

drawal of Vat and other taxes on fuel

import could benefit all stake hold-

Import cost of diesel is Tk 27 per litre but it sells at the officially fixed rate of Tk 30 a litre in the market.

There is over Tk7 tax and Vat on per

litre of diesel, forcing Bangladesh

Petroleum Corporation to incur

Jalil reiterates

demand for

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Awami League (AL) General

Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday

reiterated his resolve that no parlia-

mentary election would be allowed

without reforms in the system of

At a rally on Altafunnessa play

ground in Bogra town he also urged

the people to be united against the

four-party alliance government and

said the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance

Commission in a bid to deprive the

Asaduzzaman Noor, former ministe

of Bogra district unit of the AL, pre-

is scheduled to enter the capital

tomorrow. Jalil said the much-craved

democracy could be established only

government system," Jalil said,

tion to ensure free and fair elections.

Under the present law of the

system of caretaker government, the

president enjoys unrestricted author-

ity, which paves the way to manipulat-

in 2001 he said, "It was not a free

election, as the president gave

Referring to the general elections

ng the elections, Jalil noted.

magistracy power to the army.

sided over the rally.

movement.

people of their rights to vote.

electoral

reforms

caretaker government.

losses.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 20 were staged "on government's instructions and switch of the bombs is in the hands of the government". Earlier in the day, in her brief

address to the local Awami League leaders and workers, Hasina accused the alliance government of creating instability in the country through its "misrule and support to militancy"

The AL chief urged all to vote for the Awami League candidates in the next elections to protect the country from the "anti-liberation axis of BNP and Jamaat".

Hasina reached Tungipara Thursday evening from Dhaka to offer fateha at the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She attended a milad mahfil at reached despite repeated attempts, Bangabandhu Memorial Complex said his son Himel, an official of after Juma prayers yesterday. British American Tobacco Ltd. Awami League leaders, including Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP Sultan-ul Islam that her husband Farook Khan MP. Jahangir Kabir was missing. The other teachers Nanak, Muhammad Ali Khan Abu and employees led by RU Registrar Miah and Emdad Chowdhury, were Abdus Salam then started to scour present the campus for him.

Hasina left Tungipara for Dhaka at 4:30pm.

Bomb blast

FROM PAGE 1 their hands, legs and heads.

Babul was sent to Dhaka in a critical condition, while his son Robin was admitted to a local hospi-

> Immediately after the incident, police arrested four suspects. Police and Rab members are patrolling the area.

15th anniversarv FROM PAGE 1

home and abroad are expected to join the members of The Daily Star family in today's celebration seen as a milestone in the advancement of English-language journalism in the country with a firm commitment to upholding people's right to know.

The celebration will commence with inauguration of a photo exhibition in the evening while the microcredit guru Prof Muhammad Yunus is scheduled to present the key speech. Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, and the Chair of the Mediaworld, the owning company of the paper, Rokia A Rahman, will deliver the welcome address and make closing remarks

The 15th anniversary celebration programme also includes a reception, classical dance, folk songs and a laser show.

PROFILE On the occasion of the anniver-Dr Taher was born in Kolkata in sary, The Daily Star is also bringing December 1945. After majoring in out 312 pages of supplements in six geology at Dhaka University in instalments on different dates 1960, he joined geography departstarting from today. ment of RU in 1973.

Topics of the six supplements are, Celebrating Bangladesh puband mining department in 1976. lished today, Trends to be published on February 7, Our Cities to be chairman and dean of the life and published on February 10, Sports to earth faculty. Before joining the be published on February 13, university, he was a geologist at Investment to be published on Petrobangla February 16, and Bangladesh and REACTIONS the World to be published on

FROM PAGE 1 Taher's son Himel too took part ir indefinite strike with effect from the sit-in. After a namaj-e-janaza, he today brought the body to Dhaka in the

Taher used to visit Dhaka at

regular intervals since shifting his

family there seven months ago for

the education of his daughter. He

went missing shortly after returning

Late in the evening, he phoned

his wife Sultana Ahmed in Dhaka to

let her know that he had reached

campus safely. Later at around

8:00pm, he called his daughter

Sunita and said he was going to

have dinner within minutes, family

Since then he could not be

Taher's wife informed Prof

Dr Sultanul Islam of the geology

department said Taher returned to

Rajshahi to attend a planning com-

mittee meeting of the department

expert-level members of the com-

mittee assigned to select teachers

investigations suggest that Prof

Taher might have been killed in the

pillow, carpet and bedcover from the

room on the around floor of the two-

He was bleeding from his mouth

Jahangir, who was arrested

yesterday, denied his involvement.

He told police that Taher was home

when he left the house Wednesday

evening. But he did not find him

An assistant commissioner of

"He seems very likely to know

The killers locked every room

and the main gate before leaving the

house. "They dumped the body

inside a sewer probably to keep the

murder hidden at least for some

days," said Faizur Rahman. officer

guards--Alfaz and Zahrul--were

arrested and being interrogated.

Besides Jahangir, two other

He was shifted to the geology

He served as the department

in charge of Motihar Police Station.

Detective Branch of police in

Raishahi said Jahangir's version did

when he returned at 10:00pm.

and nose when police recovered the

storey house, said a police official.

Meanwhile, police said primary

Police recovered a bloodstained

A source said he was among two

scheduled for Thursday.

for promotion or recruitment.

room of his guard Jahangir.

body at 7.30am.

not sound credible.

the killers, "he observed.

to Rajshahi Wednesday.

sources said.

The Kushtia procession held a rally at Rajbari and will join the Mongla procession at Goalanda today.

A procession from Haluaghat, Mymensingh, will merge with the Tongi rally today. Three separate processions from three sub-routes started from Susangdurgapur, Sherpur and Jamalpur to join the Tongi rally.

Another procession from Barguna held a rally at Madaripur at 4:00pm and will march to Keraniganj in Dhaka via Shariatpur, Zaiira and Mawa

SITUATION IN DHAKA

The 14-party opposition line-up held rallies and took out processions in different areas in the capital to drum up support for tomorrow's showdown.

Dhaka City unit of 14-party combine held a meeting at the Gono Forum office with city coordinator Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya in the chair. The meeting demanded immediate release of opposition leaders and workers arrested in the city as well as elsewhere in the country.

A special extended meeting of the Awami Jubo League (AJL) was held at its central office on Bangabandhu Avenue chaired by AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader. The meeting condemned the police clampdown to foil the long march.

The police charged baton on an AL procession at the city's Shyampur in the evening injuring at least 50 AL workers and arrested 48 others.

DHAKACMM COURT

A few hundred relatives of the people detained in the city gathered on the premises of the Court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka even in the weekend yesterday, hoping to get their relatives released on bail.

There are no specific cases against many of the arrestees, while some others are now on bail in cases filed earlier against them.

Many detainees were chanting slogans like 'Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu' when a private TV channel was taking shots of them on their way to a court in a police van The slogans indicate at least one reason for arresting them. BOGRA

Our Bogra correspondent reports: AL GS Abdul Jalil at a press briefing

The law enforcers barricaded the Dhaka Road at some points in the morning and later withdrew the roadblocks.

A large rally was held in Natore. Former information minister Prof Abu Sayeed, Workers Party politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha and others addressed the meeting

MANIKGANJ

The police arrested 64 opposition workers in different areas of the district on charges of what the law enforcers said "previous complaints"

Ahmed and Abdur Razzak and Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon led the long march in the district.

people held rallies at Barguna, Patuakhali, Bakerganj, Rahamatpur, Bhurghata and Madaripur

ARRESTS ELSEWHERE

In Chittagong: The highest number of over 100 people were arrested in the port city and 56 in Rangamati yesterday.

In Gaibandha: The police district AL leader. In Magura: The police arrested

21 persons, including activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jubo League, in four upazilas on Thursday night. With these arrests, the total number of arrestees in the district rose to 66 in

the last couple of days. persons were arrested in seven upazilas of the district although there are no notable workers and leaders of AL among the arrestees The police have shown them arrested under section 54 of the CrPC to avoid the issue of long march, sources said.

different upazilas of the district.

warhead

variants of the Agni, but shelved the experiments for two years ostensibly under US pressure. The flighttests resumed after India conducted a series of nuclear weapons tests in 1998 Natarajan, who heads the

AL presidium members Tofael

The procession of thousands of

arrested at least 22 leaders and activists of AL and its front organisations in seven upazilas of the district on Thursday night. They also set up check posts to prevent vehicles carrying long marchers, alleged a

In Khagrachhari: At least 40

In Noakhali: A total of 47 leaders and workers of the 14-party opposition combine were arrested in

Dal (JCD). the student wing of the ruling BNP, attacked an opposition procession at Sujanagar Zero Point, leaving at least 10 injured. The JCD

missile of its type and can carry a to provide Tk 1,200 in subsidy to bridge the gap between production one-tonne conventional or nuclear cost (Tk 6,000) and sale price (Tk Delhi in 1993 began testing basic 4.800).

Moreover, the government has to bear a subsidy of Tk 13,200 per tonne of imported urea as import cost is Tk 18,000 a tonne.

Bangladeshi farmers usually spend \$53 to irrigate one hectare of armland compared to \$18 in Thailand and Vietnam, \$19 and \$31 in West Bengal and Punjab states of India, according to the Agriculture Sector Review (ASR) conducted recently by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for

Bangladesh's agriculture ministry. Meanwhile, the government has granted a power tariff rebate for about 10 percent of the farming community, who use electricity-rur irrigation pumps. But it is yet to meet the subsidy needs of about 90 percent farmers who use diesel-run shallow pumps to irrigate cropland.

"The ship-launched missile is There are around one million ready for deployment and is curdiesel-run pumps as against hardly rently going through user trial with one lakh electricity-run ones in the navy and army," Natarajan said, but country. Erratic power supply also declined to confirm reports the causes troubles for farmers using DRDO was also working on a subelectricity-run pumps.

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar told The Daily Star that the cost of operating diesel-run pumps is 30 per cent higher compared to electricity-run ones.

His ministry had repeatedly put forward a proposal for subsidy on diesel amounting to Tk 381 crore to give the poor and marginal peas-ants somewhat relief from the rapidly increasing input costs and create a level playing field for farmers using power- run pumps and diesel-run pumps. But the finance ministry time and again turned down the proposal, saying the subsidy would be misused as diesel-run pumps are also used for operating mechanised boats.

The FAO-prepared ASR however strongly recommended subsidy to owners of diesel-run pumps at the rate of 20 percent of the cost of diesel, certified by the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and also by local government bodies or irrigation groups.

"For increased coverage and relatively trouble free operations, all the irrigation pumps should be electrified on a priority basis, say, within a fixed time frame of 10 years with adequate insurance for uninterrupted supply. This is expected to reduce both fixed and operating cost by about 50 percent," the ASR

says Sources at the agriculture ministry and the DAE pointed out that there is no policy directives as yet to convert all diesel-run pumps into power-run ones to reduce cost of arm production.

The price occasionally soars up to February 19. Tk 40-50 and even Tk 60 a litre.

Navigability

FROM PAGE 20 upstream in the rainy season flood the country, causing sufferings to millions every year.

A top official of the BIWTA said negligence of the successive governments in restoring navigability has been reflected in budgetary allocations since the independence.

"We have failed to realise that maintaining waterways means prosperity of the country and saving of crores of taka in transportation costs," said a top engineer of the WDB requesting anonymity.

Experts noted the demand for water has risen manifold with the rise of population, and without a proper plan for floodwater management, it would not be possible to protect the natural waterways.

Govt running FROM PAGE 1

had staged a drama with the Election foot-dragging in implementing the court order must be brought to book. AL Organising Secretary Abdul Instead of acting against some Mannan, Mahmudur Rahman small-time bureaucrats, the court Manna, its Publicity Secretary should go after the top guns in the government who called the shots, Ashikur Rahman, former member of he added. the parliament Mostafizur Rahman,

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud Central Organising Secretary of said the government is violating the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Rezaul Karim also spoke. Mamtaz Uddin, president SC order by not complying with it, though there is no stay order on it and as the government's prayer for Urging all the activists of the 14time has been rejected twice by the party opposition coalition and the SC in the last four months. people to attend the 'long march' that

He termed the recent request for time extension farcical, as the court had already rejected the prayer on October 20.

by ousting the four-party alliance To his view, the government's government through a democratic steps are aimed at degrading the court and avoiding the judiciary "As the president has no power to participate in policy making without separation. The Appellate Division the advice of the prime minister, so should be resolute against these should be done with the caretaker moves, he said, adding if it does not take a strong stance in this case, the adding that the magistracy power SC will be demeaned. should be kept under civil administra-

Rokanuddin also expressed doubt about the legality and validity of all the verdicts passed by the lower courts in the last four months, as there has not been any stay order on the SC directive for making the judiciary separate.

He warned the government of grim consequences if the directive Story. remains unrealised any further. -- Editor

A pall of gloom descended on the campus as the news of Taher's death spread. Hundreds of teachers, students, and people from all over Rajshahi city started gathering at his house from 8.30am.

described him as a man of principle.

believe that he could have an enemy--be it political or personal." said Assistant Prof Aminul Islam. Former RUVC Abdul Khaleque

said the killings of Prof Yunus and Dr Taher are no separate incidents. the country's progressive force.

FROM PAGE 1

succeed and here we are.

time when we cross our 15 years in

existence. We face another chal-

lenge as dark clouds gather in the

political horizon. It is a disquiet time

for us all who believe in democracy,

peace and prosperity. This is the

time when we have to, and we

promise we will, play our objective,

analytical and independent role as

we have played before to reflect

reasoning and values. We will fight

for every inch of democracy and free

thinking. We will raise the loudest

voice to speak for protecting human

in ideas. We believe Bangladesh

will show to the world that it can

perform and achieve feats not dared

by others, and The Daily Star will be

there all the way to see dreams

dav is that we will bring a more

vibrant air to journalism in

Our resolve on this very special

come true.

Bangladesh.

for children in the morning and a As police was taking away cultural programme in the evening were also held on the Bangla Academy premises. Top city schools FROM PAGE 20 which we can meet big expenses for

the institution's construction and regular renovation work," said Rowena Hossain, principal of Vigarunnisa Noon School and

Moreover, a painting competition

building for the institution's Basundhara branch and acquire land for the Dhanmondi branch, she mentioned.

"If the government formulates a policy regulating the fees of the nongovernment schools, it should also take the responsibility for the schools' overall development," the principal viewed.

Shahan Ara Begum, principal of deal School and College, said the institution has to pay the salaries of a significant number of teachers whose MPO (monthly pay order) has not been confirmed by the aovernment.

rights and secular ideals. Our vision The guardians who are unable to will be to promote, through our news pay the fees of the non-government and views, a society that will oppose schools should send their children accumulation of ill-gotten wealth to the government schools, Acting and corruption that gnaw away at Principal of Udayan School Khaleda the very fabrics of democracy. We Habib said. will speak for a tolerant society free

However, she felt the necessity for a government policy to control the charges of the non-government schools.

An education ministry high official said they can take action after inquiry if guardians come with specific complaints of charging high admission fees by non-government schools

May the new year of our journey give us that strength. We will tell the

mentionable Robin Ahsan, owner of Srabon Prakashon, said publishers have a plan to bring new books at the fair on the occasion of Saraswati Puja, as they know huge visitors turn up at

His colleagues and students the fair on this day. "He was so good that it's hard to

A discussion on "Thoughts of the 20th Century: Riazuddin Al Mashadi", as part of regular discussions was held in the afternoon at the main stage with Mohammad Abdul Qaiyoom in the chair

Mohammad Shahjahan Mia prethey are rather part of a wellsented the keynote paper. orchestrated campaign to wipe out

Taher's body for autopsy at around 10:00am, students and teachers stopped the pick-up. They let the law enforcers go only after the RU Vice Chancellor Altaf Hossain assured them of doing everything necessary for a proper investigation

and an immediate trial Letter to Readers College. unfazed determination to reveal the

They are yet to construct the truth, to tell the story. They had attempted to mow us down, to trounce our efforts. They did not It is another crucial juncture of

He, however, said that the problem cannot be easily solved, even if a policy is adopted.

Rayerbazar fire FROM PAGE 20 mane situation living on the

sheets," said Ripona Begum, 30, a mother of five small children.

suffering. " The community centre distributed 20 kilograms of rice to each of the families, but we have no access to a kitchen, " said Champa, an old woman affected by the fire.

missiles.

militarv scientists.

In Pabna: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Crises of food have added to the

men also abducted an AL activist

said.

roadsides of the affected area.

' Finding no shelter we are now compelled to sleep on burnt tin-