## Frantic farmers

BCIC sources explained that the restriction has been meant for checking smuggling of urea to India

tinued to put up road blocks and held demonstrations yesterday in Khulna, Jessore and Dinaipur, according to reports dispatched by

Sources at BCIC that runs six state-owned urea factories in the country said vesterday that Jamuna Fertileser in Jamalpur went out of operation on February 20, for the third time in the last six months, due to a damage in a reactor. It is unlikely to resume production before March 10, the sources added. When in production, it gen-

Farmers' urea requirements in Jamuna's supply zone, greater Mymensingh and other neighbouring districts, are now being met with surplus stock from Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL), the sources said.

demonstrate for urea, the officials concerned claimed yesterday that there has been no crisis of stock but there might have been some localised problems of transportation and

"The transport contractors used to charge Tk 400 as labour fees for each truck-load of urea but this year showing various excuses they have been charging Tk 600 per truck resulting in chaos in timely transportation of urea to all remote pockets sorted out and the contractors are charging the previous fees now.

At least 10 people were injured during an attack allegedly by ruling party men on a Khulna rally arranged by several thousand farmers demanding fertiliser at Rupsha yesterday morning, reports

between the two groups injuring 10

## PM

persons including three seriously

Our Dinajpur correspondent

reports, several hundred farmers,

many of them women, took to the

streets vesterday at Chirirbandar

Upazila and blocked the Dinjapur-

Rangpur highway for four hours

demanding adequate diesel and

fertiliser supply.

Around midday, Upazila Nirbahi

Officer ASM Moinur, and Officer in

Charge of Chirirbandar Police

Station along with his police force

rushed to the scene and persuaded

the demonstrators to lift the road-

block. Around 1:00pm the angry

farmers agreed to withdraw the

barricade on assurance of adequate

fuel and fertiliser supply.

Agitating farmers also blocked

roads at two points in Jessore

yesterday, reports our Jessore

transported by three trucks at

Bagharpara Upazila in Jessore, The

police raided various places in

search of the looted bags but could

not recover them till filing of this

peace treaty group active in the

4:30am when the criminals

ambushed two army patrol teams of

Mahalchhari zone and opened fire

against the attack and the shootout

continued for half an hour

Additional troops then joined the

patrol teams and cordoned off the

searched the hilly area and arrested

the six with the cut rifle, said an army

official at Mahalchhari. Later they

raided a den of criminals in the area

and recovered the AK47 rifle and the

ammunition. The den was

Committee, a local organisation

working for realising rights of the hill

people, yesterday in a press release

claimed that the arrestees are

Meanwhile, District Citizens'

The army personnel then

on them near the Kala Pahar.

The gun-battle occurred at about

The patrol teams retaliated

On Saturday night 288 bags of

tiliser were looted while being

rrespondent.

report last night.

6 held

FROM PAGE 1

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

FROM PAGE 16

'They want that the people are killed by terrorists from behind the screen," the prime minister said and alleged that that party has taken the path of conspiracy shunning the democratic ways to go to power.

Referring to the opposition's treat to boycott and resist the next polls if their demand for electoral reforms are not fulfilled, she said they really fear 'vote' as they did nothing good for the people

Chaired by local MP Khurram Khan Chowdhury, the rally was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mizanur Rahman Sinha former State Minister AKM Mosharraf Hossain, lawmakers Shamsuddin Ahmed, Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu, Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen and Nurjahan Yasmin, and BNP leaders Abdus Salam, Shah Shahid Sarwar and Anwar Hossain Khan Chowdhury.

## 50 Taliban

FROM PAGE 16 between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Pakistani military used attack helicopters against the militants who had taken positions on two hotels, the main telephone exchange, and other key government buildings.

Local sources said the death toll on the militants' side could be around 100. but a military spokesman said they could not verify the figure.

Pakistani forces have spent the last four years battling al-Qaeda and Taliban militants who sneaked across from Afghanistan after a US-led military operation toppled the Taliban, and have also tackled their local supporters

Miranshah was already under the virtual control of around 400 heavily armed tribesmen mainly students of a local Islamic seminary run by Maulvi Abdul Khaleq.

## IAEA meets

FROM PAGE 16

ElBaradei that savs Iran is defving IAEA calls to halt enrichment and to cooperate fully with agency inspec-

The item is expected to come up Tuesday or Wednesday.

"The report is presented to the board and then has to go to the Security Council," IAEA spokesman Peter Rickwood said Saturday.

The IAEA's 35-nation board had reported Iran on February 4 to the Security Council but left a month open for diplomacy before the Council receives ElBaradei's assessment report and decides

what measures, if any, to take. "After the board report, I think the Security Council will have to have a serious discussion about what the next steps will be," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said

But Rice said there was no need to rush to sanctions.

The Security Council could adopt "presidential declaration" calling on Tehran to heed IAEA calls, diplomats in Washington and Vienna

## Garment workers

payment of Tk 7 lakh as compensation for each of the families of the dead and Tk 2 lakh for each injured worker.

Garments Sramik O Shilpa Rakkha Jatiya Mancha also called a countrywide hartal on June 12 protesting the repeated building collapse and fire accidents in garments factories that have left a number of garment workers dead and injured.

Around 54 workers, mostly females, were burnt dead and over a hundred sustained serious burn injuries at the fire of KTS Textile Factory at Kalurghat of the port city of Chittagong on February 23.

Twenty-one workers were killed and around fifty were injured in Phoenix Garments building collapse on February 25.

Wearing black clothes and carrying a symbolic coffin, banners, festoons and placards, the garment workers chanted slogans against the owners of the two factories, and set fire to an effigy of a garment owner.

At around 12:00 noon, they eventually reached the main entry of BGMEA office, where the police held them back.

The garment workers blamed the government and the BGMEA for failure to look after the victims' families and injured workers, and demanded death penalty to the responsible factory owners.

They said lives of many people could have been saved if the entry and exit points of the KTS factory were not kept under lock and key.

They urged the government to form a fair iudicial probe committee to identify the causes of accident and punish the offenders responsible for ensuring safety of the garment work-

They also announced their series of protest programmes during their protest rally in front of the BGMEA

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad will stage demonstration and bring out protest procession at Muktangaon in the city on March 12 demanding punishment to the responsible people for accidents at KTS and Phoenix garments and proper compensation. SKOP will also hold workers' rally at Kalurghat in Chittagang on March 9 on the same issue.

Our Narayanganj correspondent adds: Thousands of garment workers of 11 organisaitons of Shovon Group staged demonstration in Narayanganj town vesterday demanding the release of Shovon Group Chairman and BGMEA Vice President Abu Ahmed Siddique and his family mem-

They also blocked the road for two hours and laid siege to the deputy commissioner's office

# The invisible people

How the enclaves were created is a debatable issue. One theory says local maharajas owned these enclaves and they used them as bets in high-stake gambling. But then the Indian sub-continent was divided into India and Pakistan in 1947 and the borderline was drawn. As the property of the maharajas became part of either Pakistan or India, these lands also picked up new identities. Thus, a piece of land inside Pakistan belonging to a maharaia who opted to be an Indian became part of India. The opposite happened to the land of a maharaja who opted to be part of Pakistan. And the enclaves were created.

These enclaves, both Bangladeshi and Indian, are governed by no law. And often they become dens for criminals who take refuge there after being chased by police. At Dashiarchhara, a few Bangladeshi criminals had set up a podium and started cabaret dance and gambling. Every night, the small bazaar yard would turn into a lure for gamblers with portable generatorpowered spotlights flooding the small area. Then one day, Bangladeshi law enforcers came and burned down the whole thing.

here," says Upendra Chandra Mohanta. "We have made our own law. We have set up our govern-

The 9,000 residents of this 7 square kilometre land have set up their own Panchayet (local government) and elected a chairman. Nazrul Islam. A small white tworoom building houses the Panchavet, and most of the time, as it is now, it remains closed. "When a crime is committed, the

chairman holds trial," Upendra says. "If someone's crime is proven, the chairman fines him.

ous offences. For thefts, a person can be fined anything between Tk 500 and Tk 2.000. The last murder happened a few years ago and a man, suspected to have committed the crime, was fined Tk 5,000. And what happens to the

money? "The Panchayet uses the fund for whatever public work that

to find. The dirt road is the one single example one can find there. Someone said it was rebuilt after it was washed away in the last monsoon. There are no schools in the enclave and so Salam, a class VI student, has to go to a Bangladeshi school.

"The teacher knows I am an Indian," Salam says. "But he ignores it. I have to study Bangladesh's history and everything. But my [Bangladeshi] classmates often tease me about it and I And why is he studying? Salam gives a blank look, he has no answer. Actually it does not matter

whether one has education here. because there is no prospect of anyone getting a job in Bangladesh and going over to India for one is almost unthinkable for these secluded people. Still children like Salam go to school because they don't have anything better to do. In times of Monga, the seasonal near-famine situation common to the north, the Dashiarchhara

enclave dwellers face a harrowing time. They also have no work, they also have no food. But they cannot borrow from anybody as others in the north do to survive the bad "The Bangladeshis would not lend us money or rice, we are alien

to them," says Md Baseruddin. "We just barely survive during the time, borrowing from each other whatever No school, no electricity, no

hospitals, no roads, no relief, but that would not have been their fate had they had the right to vote, the enclave people feel.

"We have never taken part in elections," says Baseruddin. "We have never cast votes for any one. We are invisible to the leaders and they don't care to see us." But life still goes on for these

invisible people, if what they are living through can be called Life

# Lit up Sirajganj

Sources said Rajshahi zone consisting of 10 sub-stations at Ishwardi, Naogaon, Natore, Rajshahi, Bogra, Chapainawabganj, Pabna, Shahjadpur, Ullapara and Sirajgan receives 180MW against a demand of 416MW.

Whereas, Rangpurzone of six substations at Palashbari, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Syedpur, East Sadipur and Thakurgaon gets 76MW of 214MW demand.

"The situation would not improve until the Baghabari power units are repaired," said Rajshahi Regional Superintendent Engineer Abdur Rashid Badar. The power units have been out of order for a week

Badar denied that there is no io shedding in Sirajganj, but said, "It's lower than that of other districts."

"A 26 tonne shaft is creating problem to fix the Baghabari units and it would take about a month." he

explained. Official sources said the state minister and Power Development Board (PDB) chairman asked them to

supply uninterrupted power to rural areas for irrigation even if suspension of all urban power stations is neces-Hospitals, banks, educational institutions and other important estab-

lishments are facing unprecedented load-shedding against the backdrop of the directives "The situation was not so bad even last year," said a PDB official as no

fresh power units were installed and the existing ones not properly main-"We are functioning with only 185MW of power from the national grid

and 140MW from local production. said the superintendent engineer. SOUTHWESTERZONE

Severe load-shedding has been persisting in the zone for the last 15 days hampering the daily life of over three crore people in Khulna and Barisal divisions and Faridour district. reports our Satkhira correspondent.

The situation is worsening day by day as the region is experiencing loadshedding at least a dozen times a day.

## RU grinds

FROM PAGE 16

threatened to enforce a strike in the university if Shalehi was not

unilateral decision to go for a fresh roll. Meanwhile, students of Geology and Mining Department brought out a silent procession on the campus decision and preparation of the fresh demanding speedy trial and punishroll, the HC on January 4 asked the EC ment to the killers of Taher, who was a teacher of that department.

Samajtrantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation held a joint rally on the campus yesterday protesting against the killing Taher and demanding the arrest of Shalehi.

### Tornado kills 4 FROM PAGE 16

Meanwhile, 12 people were injured when another tornado lashed Brittibirela and Chandgarh of Dumuria upazila in Khulna.

Crops and at least 50 houses were damaged by the tornado, locals said.

Reveal names

administration who helped JMB chief Shaekh Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai to operate in Bagmara

in 2004. "The ruling alliance leaders who said Bangla Bhai was the creation of media and those who spoke for the militants in the parliament should also be identified," he said during an interview with The Daily Star yester-

He also said that before claiming success for capturing Rahman, the ruling alliance should apologise to the nation for supporting the militants in Bagmara at that time.

"We came to the region to resist terrorism. We have the support of administrative officials as well as important people of the government. Join JMB and take part in resisting outlaws," Badsha quoted Rahman as addressing a Bagmara gathering and said that Rahman's speeches should be made a point of interrogation. Rahman and Bangla Bhai's

addressing of a women's rally and a press briefing at Bhawaniganj Women's College field on May 4, 2004 was audio and videotaped Apart from several hundred JMB cadres, a large number of policemen were seen guarding the militant leaders at that time.

Badsha expressed his suspicion that a certain circle is active to save the patrons of the militants by keeping away Rahman and his revelations from the media.

"It is necessary to inform the nation what Rahman has to tell about their patrons, otherwise the real perpetrators could not be traced," he observed. JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen

Bangladesh) and JMJB (Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh) operated openly at six upazilas of Rajshahi and Naogaon from April 1 to May 24 in 2004. Members and leaders of these militant outfits killed several people and tortured hundreds of them openly at their torture camps with direct support from the local administration and the law-

### Babar FROM PAGE 1

Sylhet on Thursday, will be tried

under existing laws. Bhuiyan, in charge of the home

ministry at that time, observed Saturday that the laws of the country do not have provisions for strict punishments for sedition. However, if needed, sedition charges might also be brought against the JMB chief

On Rahman's closest aide and JMB Majlish-e-Shura member Bangla Bhai, Babar said he believes the infamous militant leader is staying somewhere inside the us to capture him."

The minister met with officials of Rab and other law enforcement

Earlier on his arrival at the Zia International Airport (ZIA), Babai termed Rahman's arrest a major success. "Militancy is an international problem. But our law enforce ment agencies are determined to eradicate this menace from the soil

### INVESTIGATION IN SYLHET

Charge sheet in the two cases filed in Sylhet against the JMB chief and his accomplices will be submitted

Since the much-publicised arrest, police recovered a number of important documents including four mobile phones, which helped the

charge sheets in both cases within 10 days," the SP said. A three-man CID team from

Dhaka is monitoring the investiga-

## Radio collar

FROM PAGE 16 Rahman, told the news agency.

"The Queen of Jamtala died five months after it was fitted with a radio collar. It left us some data to analyze but it was not enough. Besides, it was a very old tigress," Rahman Little is known about the habits of

an estimated 668 Royal Bengal tigers living in the Sunderbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and a United Nations heritage site that stretches along the eastern coast of South Asia.

the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Through a satellite antenna and

a computer programme, the team will observe the tiger's whereabouts for seven months before it is tranquillized again to remove the sensor for further study. Authorities say the big cats are

learned brothers could not be present at the court and the hearing over the used in traditional medicine.

Experts have estimated only 5,000 to 6,000 Royal Bengal tigers are left in the world, down from about 100,000 in 1900.

## **Donors** want

process, observe several govern-

ment high-ups. The External Affairs Division of the government is negotiating on the issue, KMA Rab, director general of Bangladesh Railway (BR) said, adding that after finalising the terms and conditions of the assistance, a formal memorandum of

understanding (MoU) will be signed. Some railway officials, however, think if the reforms are brought in the BR as per donors' suggestions, the sector will turn into a fully commercial body instead of a service ori-

The railway service could be mproved with proper utilisation of the BR's own property and resources, they said

The development partners

suggested that the government give

the railway full autonomy and corporate entity before the loan is given while the government wants to give the railway a 'government controlled' autonomy. JBIC, which is working with the WB and ADB for assisting Bangladesh Railway, will conduct a comprehensive study on the railway system before taking the decision of

assistance, said a high official of the JBIC. He, however, did not mention the amount of assistance to be The study titled Special Assistance for Project Formulation

s likely to start from April this year. The condition of age-old railway lines in Bangladesh has badly

deteriorated, leading to recurrence As many as 310 derailments on the main lines, branch lines and yards happened from January to April in 2005 period against 220

Development Bank (ADB) said. There was no major accident due to these derailments, but they caused delay in train operations.

such incidents for the same period

in 2004, a recent report by the Asian

Containers from Chittagong have to wait for about 10 days to find a slot in

a Dhaka-bound container train. Around 500 railway accidents occur every year due to the poor

signalling and operation system. The ADB sees a number of challenges for Bangladesh Railway

in terms of performance. In its view the main challenge is to arrest the decline in its market

and generate investment. The BR also faces greater challenges in overcoming its diminishing commercial focus, low efficiency, poor service quality, political interference, ageing fleet and congested network on major lines like Dhaka-

ADB also sees a great potential of development in the railway sector through making it commercially

It also suggested restructuring nance practices

railway passengers almost halved over the last two decades. Almost half of the railway tracks built during the British period have become run-

replacement of railway tracks and setting up of new lines. The foreign investors who

wanted to make billion-dollar invest-

ment in the western part of the country also suggested improvement of the rail system in the west-

# Rahman had training

FROM PAGE 1

court seeking seven days' remand in a case filed in connection with a blast near Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on August 17 last year. The Court of Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate, Dhaka granted the

remand after the two were hauled before it in helmets and bullet-proof They were awarded 40 years' rigorous imprisonment on February 9 in a bomb blast case filed with Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station on

November 14. The suicide bombing

killed two judges the same day. Rahman told the interrogators yesterday he received training in making bombs, handling explosives and operating sophisticated firearms in different countries.

According to him, he visited different countries including Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, India and Pakistan and had fought for the Talibans in Afghanistan.

"According to Rahman, he received training in bomb-making and operating different kinds of firearms there," said a source involved in the

bers on how to make bombs." the source quoted Rahman as saving. During interrogation earlier, Sunny told investigators Rahman and Shura member Khaled Saifullah taught him

training to all Shura committee mem-

how to make bombs. Sources said Khaled, who was a leader of Harkatul Jihad al Islami before joining the JMB. learnt bomb making in Afghanistan when he visited

the country during Taliban regime. Rahman disclosed some names including Sunny and Awal, who were assigned for smuggling in the explosives from the neighbouring country.

FOUR HIDEOUTS Since the August 17 blasts, Rahman switched hideouts four times before he was captured at an east Shaplabagh house in Sylhet Thursday.

He had been staying at a house in Banasree adjacent to Rampura after the countrywide blasts. As the law enforcers sensed his position there, he shifted to Pallabi. His younger brother Sunny, who was in charge of JMB operations in Dhaka and Tangail, had found the place for him and his family. After Rab arrested Sunny in

Teigaon, Rahman moved to a house in Tangail, which too had been arranged by Sunny. But after Sunny's arrest, Reza was tasked with coordinating the militant

outfit's work in Dhaka region and looking after the JMB supremo. As the law enforcers began raiding different places, following up the leads provided by Sunny, Rahman found it risky to be in Tangail and moved to Sylhet on suggestion of Salahuddin, the Shura member in command of the banned organisation in Sylhet-

ORGANISATION As of last night, Rahman has not told the interrogators how many JMB operatives are working across the

Mymensingh region.

Though he had told The Daily Star in May 2004 that the outfit has 10,000 full-time and over one lakh part-time cadres active. Rahman did not disclose any figure in this regard before the interrogators.

"He just said the activists are operating under different area commanders and the number varies with region. Up to 1,000 activists may be working at one place while 200 or 400 in other places," said an interrogator. MUM ON FOREIGN LINKS,

FINANCE The JMB boss kept silent when asked about their links with other groups at home and abroad. He also did not say anything about having funds inflow

Sources said he would receive

money from different organisations in

Detectives yesterday took them to a the name of constructing mosques

and madrasas. Rahman had told The Daily Star in May 2004 that he set up a mosque and a madrasa in Jamalpur with financial assistance from Islamic NGOs Rabeta e Islam and another Islamic organisation Islamic 'Oytijjho Sangstha' [Ku-

Societv1 **FOCUS OF INTERROGATION** 

In grilling Rahman, the interrogators

from him information about the JMB leaders who have managed to be outside the dragnet so far and may make further attacks," said the interro-

Without saying anything specific about explosives, Rahman told the interrogators that Salahuddin and some others still at large might be in possession of some explosives

who previously served as Jamaat amir of Habiganj, not Shabbir Ahmed, sources in the police and intelligence

yesterday evening.

officer of Laldighirpar branch of Islami Bank, Walid assisted Saidur as his introducer when the latter went to open the account on February 27, 1999.

gating him at Kotwali Police Station in Sylhet till filing of this report at 9:40 last Tk 50,000 was withdrawn from the

sources said, adding that no money was drawn after that. Hridoy Chowdhury alias Moizul who was arrested with Abdur Rahman on Thursday from East Shaplabagh.

and drew the money, police said. "Saidur made a phone call to the bank, asking the officials to give Tk 50,000 to a man he had sent for draw-

ing from the account," said a police

WHO IS SAIDUR

before Rab men that bomb making materials were kept in that house. Raiding the house, Rab men

recovered seven packets of resistance wire, 1000 pressure switch. 1000 capacitors, 600 integrated circuits (IC), one volt meter, one high voltage battery, one pack of emitter diode, one belt (used for strapping bombs), knives, daggers, light bulbs

hiding after the August 17 countrywide bomb attack. He hails from Bahubal upazila in Habiganj. Law enforcers arrested Saidur's son Shamim, who is a former activist of

bomb attack on the Gazipur court premises in last November.

(BCIC) supply zones. Official sources confirmed yesterday that to quell the farmers' almost daily demonstrations across the country the government has temporarily lifted a previous ban on fertiliser movement from one supply zone to another within BCIC's six

factory zones and 21 buffer zones. and Myanmar.

Farmers in their hundreds conour district correspondents.

erates 1600 tons of urea per day.

But as the farmers continued to

of the country," explained a source claiming that things have been

our Khulna correspondent. The demonstrators retaliated sparking a half an hour clash

Pak govt should try

reputation." he noted

This is our dilemma in Pakistan." the former chief of Pakistan Air Force said. He observed that it has always been very hard to find the right people for the civilian leadership in Pakistan.

"Political parties have damaged their

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr Kamal Hossain made a scathing

attack on the former military juntas in Bangladesh, and those presently in Pakistan and elsewhere in the subcontinent. He lauded Asghar Khan for writing

the book that offers an insider's view of Pakistan's struggle for democracy from the 1960s to date. The book expounds on the history of Pakistan army's interference in the country's politics. It outlines the author's opposition to military rule that started in 1968 by waging a campaign for the restoration of democracy. The movement had culminated in

ouster of president Ayub Khan in 1969, ending a stretch of 11-year military Oxford University Press, Karachi published the book and the University

Press Limited (UPL) is its distributor in

Dr Kamal, who was a young lawyer in the years preceding the Liberation War, sáid the book would play a vital role in awakening the people's craving for democracy. The people had struggled for democracy during the years of the then Fast Pakistan and are still doing

the same, said the noted jurist adding that unfortunately democracy has no vet gained an institutional shape in Bangladesh. 'In a democracy, money and muscle power must not be allowed to

manipulate the elections." he Recalling the denial of people's verdict in the general elections of 1970 and the genocide of 1971, Kamal said the majority was being constantly

denied of basic and democratic rights

The dealers and retailers in the city

said they are losing business every

sell their empty containers rather

"Many customers now come to

day as the sales are decreasing.

than exchanging them with filled ones. It clearly means they are moving away from using this means of energy forever." said Mokbul Hossain, a salesman in Moghbazar. High officials of two LPG importers said they will seriously think of

closing their ventures if business

keeps deteriorating at the current

"Business has been cut down by 50 percent and we suspect the price will go higher which can only mean more cuts in the sales," said one of the officials They said the government

to save the sector. Seven companies are currently importing LPG in Bangladesh. The dealers and retailers in the city said supply chains of two of the importers including Union LP Gas Ltd. which is popularly known as Basundhara Gas, are already interrupted due to

should withdraw duty on LPG import

But the deputy general manager of Union LP Gas, Abdur Rahim Gazi by the dictators of the then Pakistan. Applauding the author for docu-

nting at first-hand the history, he said. "You have put down the history of elfishness, corruption of power and iniustice.' Kamal, also president of Gono Forum, urged the author to continue

human being, it is your commitment to justice and democracy." Speaking on the book, Professor Rounag Jahan of Columbia University said military rule is incapable of fostering democracy and thereby is never

countable to people.

his work and said, "As an outstanding

She also blasted the Pakistan intelligence ISI for its involvement in the politics, which she said, leads to serious abuse of human rights. Unless such involvement is overcome, democratic norms will continue to be undermined, she noted, adding

that the police or military should never execute the immoral orders from their superiors The UPL Publisher Mohiuddin Ahmed, Professor Harun-or-Rashid of Dhaka University former Air Vice Marshal (Retired) AK Khandker also

took part in the discussion

tions, the IO added

Court rejects

adverse effect on the investigation. The IO in his report said he asked Interpol and authorities concerned in Singapore and United Kingdom to scrutinise her foreign bank accounts papers through the foreign ministry. If she goes abroad she would influ-

LPG price spirals

said, "Supply might have been

interrupted for a day or two due to

ence the foreign banks' investiga-

unavoidable circumstances but we are very much in the business.' Residents of downtown in the capital, and small restaurants and fast food shops in the city and its adjoining areas are a bulk of the consumers of LPG. The lion share of the total demand is used in small

The household users and small businessmen who use the gas are worried over the price hike "At least two cylinders are

towns of the country especially in

North Bengal

Road in the capital.

required for a four-member family per month, which means Tk 1600 for gas. I cannot afford it anymore. So want to stop using LPG but don't know what would be the alternative," said Romena Akter, a housewife in the city. "It takes almost Tk 1 lakh excluding the bribe required to get a pipe-

line connection for natural gas for commercial use, so we were using LPG. But in the present situation it is not possible to continue with LPG so we have applied for natural gas. said a fast food shop owner at Bailey

needs to be done," says Upendra. The 'public work' is however hard

"It is not true that we have no law

There is no set amount for vari-

Frequent power cuts and low voltage are incurring losses in mills, factories and businesses as both

Sundarban Textile Mills, the lone

state-owned industry in Satkhira, is incurring a loss of over Tk 2 lakh a day due to outage and low voltage, said CBA General Secretary Gazi Abdul IRRI-Boro cultivation is also being affected due to the ongoing outage, an

official of agriculture extension depart-

ment of Jessore zone told The Daily

Star over phone yesterday.

only 175MW on an average.

to be named.

production and sales have declined.

The candidates of the SSC examinations scheduled to begin on March 9 are the worst victims of the outage. A PDB source said the daily demand of the zone is about 525MW while the authorities are now supplying

The PDB is supplying 110MW from KPCL unit in Khulna, 55MW from Bheramara unit and 34MW from Barisal gas turbine. Two power units at Goalpara are

out of order and two floating electricity

units did not resume operation, said an

official of Khulna PDB office asking not

not be solved before September.

PDB sources said the crisis would

EC to wait

FROM PAGE 1 completion by the same date. The EC Secretariat had informed the field level officials that they would be issued with the dates for publication of the draft and final rolls later as per the commission's decision and the Appellate Division's ruling on the

Commissioner SM Zakaria yesterday told journalists at his office. The EC began the task of preparing a fresh voter list on January 1 amid controversy and litigation over the chief election commissioner's (CEC)

In response to two writ petitions

challenging the validity of the CEC's

to revise the existing voter list.

"Whatever it is, we must comply

with the court's decision. We hope we

will still be able to complete prepara-

tion of the voter list." Election

But the EC ignored the court's directives and opted to continue the task. Meanwhile, after controversial appointment of two new election commissioners, the commission filed the appeal against the HC ruling. The Appellate Division was sup-

posed to hear the appeal yesterday.

matter will be held on March 12."

The chief justice said: "One of our

This is the third time that the hearing was adjourned for quorum crisis in the chief justice's court. In two other instances, it was deferred due to hartal and time petition by the EC.

country. "I believe he is in the country and it's now a matter of time for

agencies and gave them necessary instructions to arrest Bangla Bhai.

## of Bangladesh," he said

shortly as the investigations are to complete within a stipulated time of 15 days, the SP of Sylhet yesterday told our staff correspondent in Sylhet.

investigation a lot, he said. "We are trying to submit the

Adam Barlow, an expert in wildlife studies from the University of Minnesota, is leading the radio collar study team with funding from

on the brink of extinction worldwide because of poachers who kill tigers for their pelts and bones which are

condition of tracks and backdated

that has reached a critical condition

share, increase operational profit

Chittagong and the fall out of giving corridor to India.

the BR into passenger, freight and other lines of business, improving its financial governance, human resources, operational and mainte The BR is facing tremendous competition with the road sector and

There have been very little

wait-based Revival of Islamic Heritage

are concentrating on information regarding the possible stockpile of bombs and explosives, whereabouts of other Shura members and leaders

Ex-Jamaat

Walid Chowdhury from his bank While serving as an assistant

account on February 22 this year,

wet to the bank with a bearer cheque

Former Habiganj district Jamaat amir Saidur hired a house at Hatimbagh in Shibgani in Sylhet town using the name of Saifur Rahman, sources said. While on the way to Dhaka immediately after their arrest with Rahman Thursday, Hridoy Chowdhury and Abdul Aziz alias Hanif confessed

in Habiaani town until they went into

Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, after the August 17 countrywide bomb blasts. Saidur's only daughter's husband went into hiding after JMB's suicide

### of different lower tiers. "We're now mainly trying to extract

agencies said. Detective Branch police picked up

Detective and police were interro-

Saidur's used to live at Anantapur