Kuwait-based NGO AL to force

withdrawn for official purpose, the cheques did not bear any seals of the NGO, said the sources.

Abu Moaz was ousted from Iraq for his alleged ties with international extremist outfit Ikhwanul Muslimin, they added.

NGO bureau sources said they are knowledgeable about one RIHS account with Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited's Uttara branch that was suspended on requests from the central bank and intelligence agencies.

In the second week of March. Tk 1 lakh in cash and other valuables were stolen from the Kidney Dialysis Centre in Banani in Dhaka. Interestingly, the authorities did not file a complaint with the concerned police station.

The RIHS has received huge amounts of money through hundi since the arrest of Ahle Hadith Andolan, Bangladesh (Ahab) chief Asadullah Al Galib in February 2005 as the government stopped releasing its funds.

In November, the RIHS managed to release a sum of about Tk 2 crore days before the suicide attacks on courts by outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The fund was distributed among 'contractors', mostly followers of Galib and his deputy Abdus Samad Salafi (now behind bars) on bearer cheques instead of account payee ones.

Galib and Rahman established their relations with the RIHS following recommendations by Indian militant kingpin Abdul Matin Salafi, who was expelled from the country in 1988.

Meanwhile, visits to Bangladesh by RIHS top officials before or after several major incidents related to Islamist militancy are widely believed to have much significance.

RIHS Asia regional chief Kuwaiti citizen Abu Khaled Falah al Mutairee came to Bangladesh on March 6 after JMB chief Abdur Rahman was trapped in Sylhet

Despite tight vigilance,

Mutairee met three Ahab men -Maolana Akhter Madani of Naogaon and two other unidentified people -- at a Gulshan hotel

Arabia on Galib's recommenda-

RIHS Bangladesh chief Abdul Aziz Mal-ullah, a Kuwaiti citizen, who seldom visits Bangladesh landed in Dhaka three days before the August 17 serial blasts and stayed in the country until

Bangladesh during November 13-15 and a JMB suicide bomber

officials' visits were made through diplomatic channels and they had good opportunities to leave cash money behind.

Bangladeshi national in RIHS, Akramuzzaman Bin Abdus Salam, was present during the Ahab annual conference in Nawdapara in Rajshahi on February 16-17.

Before the August 17 blasts and early in the last year, four foreign nationals -- two Pakistanis, one Saudi and one unidentified man -- watched militants' performances at a remote char of Sariakandi in

A source who witnessed the training told The Daily Star JMB chief Rahman asked him to go there following Galib's diktat.

He said the arms, which were stolen from police during the Moheshpur fight in Joypurhat in 2003, were used in the training.

the media in 2004 that he got funds from the RIHS while investigators have found evidence that the NGO is funding Ahab. which has support for the banned

CEC faces contempt

why the CEC had annexed the letter to the leave to appeal and whether the CEC and sender of the letter have confidence in the Supreme

Mahbubuddin submitted that they have full confidence in the Supreme Court and the letter was annexed since the matter was of public importance.

The court adjourned the hearing for half an hour and then issued the contempt rule against the CEC and

Nurul Islam Moni. As the judges were rising after passing the orders, Mahbubuddin sought the court's attention to 'Dr Alauddin's remarks on the court's

judgement in advance' In a sharp reply, the CJ said, "We'll see it later on.

Noted jurist Dr Kamal Hossain told the press that the Supreme Court has taken the steps to uphold its image in discharging the constitutional duties as the apex court of the country.

The Appellate Division yesterday also heard the subsequent applications including the letter of Nurul Islam Moni.

Khandaker Mahbubuddin said CEC MA Aziz and Nurul Islam Moni MP, will reply within April 9 to the

Mannan Bhuiyan was waiting to get the go-ahead from party Chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia before replying to the letter.

meeting with Mannan and Finance Minister M Saifur three experts of the company. The plant is being set up under

"We'll now send a reply to the a supplier's credit of more than Awami League's letter very \$250 million. But the much bigger soon," Bhuiyan, also LGRD and cooperatives minister, told The

Daily Star yesterday. He was delaying the reply due billion in oil import cost in 30

Earlier on March 20, Bhuiyan in his letter sought names for a committee to discuss the opposition's proposals. Subsequently on March 22. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil wrote back to Bhuiyan seeking clarification on a number of specific

aspects. Bhuiyan suggested that the committee could be formed solely with members of parliament. But the members of the 14party alliance were demanding their active participation in the

in Dhaka on March 7.

Akhter, a teacher of RIHS-run Nashipur Islamic Centre in Bogra, studied in Pakistan and at Madina University in Saudi

Tarek Sami al Isa, RIHS central chairman, visited

assassinated two judges on the second day of his tour. Sources believe the top RIHS

The top suspected

Sources said the RIHS funded Ahab for holding the two-day conference where all attendants were brought in at the Islamist

JMB chief Rahman also told

FROM PAGE 1 to Met office. In January, there was no rain in

BNP accept

reforms thru'

Awami League (AL) General

Secretary Abdul Jalil MP said they

would force the government to

accept the reforms in caretaker

government and election commis-

sion systems through united move-

He was speaking at the prepara-

tory meeting of the 14-party opposi-

tion combine at the Dhaka

Reporters' Unity auditorium on

today's demonstration programme

and secretariat siege programme

Jalil, also the coordinator of the

opposition combine, warned the

government against using the army

saying, "The armed forces are not

anybody's personal property. Don't

hatch any conspiracy to use the

He said the army was used in the

Jalil said it should be ensured

that the president act at the advise

of the caretaker government since

there is a chance that he might

manipulate the administration in the

He reiterated the vow to resist

the election as what he said the

chief election commissioner (CEC)

had prepared the electoral roll

disregarding the verdict of the court.

forces to be united and take part in

the on-going democratic movement

to overthrow the autocratic regime.

Jalil urged all pro-liberation

Leaders of AL, 11-party, JSD and

NAP spoke at the meeting chaired

by Samvabadi Dal leader Harun

9-yr low rainfall

interest of a particular party.

parochial party interest in the past

and the conspiracy to use it for the

asset of people against people".

same purpose is still on.

ment alongside dialogue.

on March 30.

talks,

agitation

the country while normal rainfall for the month is 308 ml. In December last, the shortfall of rain was 137 ml as it rained only 191 ml against the usual 328 ml. The estimate is based on rain-

fall statistics of the last 35 years. The Met office however said the situation is not very unusual and confirmed that it is not an effect of EL-NINO that causes a droughtlike situation. Samarendra Karmakar, deputy director of Met office, said rain

occurs during this period when easterly and westerly lowpressure conjunction occurs. But there has been a lack of those phenomena in the weather this The westerly low is blowing by

the far northern side of the country's latitude. We don't see any strong westerly now. But the situation might change at any moment," An agro-metrologist of Met

office pointed out that thanks to irrigation-based farming, the shortage of rainfall might not create any problem in paddy production Samarendra said. "Paddy

production now depends on irriga tion. So, it would not be affected. But production of mango and ichee would be hampered.

Meanwhile, amid the shortfall of rain and load shedding of power. rising temperature is affecting life. Met office yesterday recorded

41 degrees Celsius in Jessore, the nighest temperature this season. The sub tropical pressure in the Bay of Bengal is high this year.

resulting in less rainfall, weather "It is not very unusual at this

time," said Sujit Dev Barman, assistant director of Met office. The situation might change in April and May, he added.

A shortfall of rain as this time occurred in 1997, weather officials mentioned.

In 1979, a severe drought occurred in the country, badly hampering paddy production. Then in 1992 and 1994, droughtlike situation prevailed in the country but it did not affect paddy production as the pattern of farming changed by that time.

Rahman

FROM PAGE 16

The court gave the order when district Detective Branch (DB) of police, responsible for the investigation of the cases, appeared before it to submit additional charge sheet on the serial blasts at Chandpur District Judge Court on August 17 and October 3. court sources said.

Eight more witnesses were added n the additional charge sheet. Most of them had seen Abdur Rahman themselves at a JMB den at Torpurchondi village sadar upazila, sources said.

6 killed

FROM PAGE 1 the road around 12:45pm.

The six died on the spot. The injured were admitted to Mohammad Ali Hospital. The condition of Saiful Islam, 20, and Rony was stated to be critical.

and barricaded the Bogra-Rangpur Highway disrupting communications for two hours. They also hurled bricks at the policemen who tried to bring the situation under control

Farming gets hardly

against the power crisis across the country. They laid siege to the house of a local lawmaker in Chapainawabganj and put up barricades on a road in Jessore demanding uninterrupted supply.

While the Rural Electrification Board (REB) report placed at the meeting shows a dismal picture of power supply situation, the Power Division in its report claimed that electricity is being supplied adequately and uninterruptedly.

The Power Division report says the northern region is getting at least 65 to 80 percent of power required in the peak hours for irrigation.

"Supply of electricity was 992.14 MW against the demand of 1,941 MW on March 26 in the peak hours," says the REB report on its coverage The situation is worse in the

northern region where the supply is less than one-third of the demand "Supply of electricity was 49.40 MW against the demand of 167 MW on March 26 in the peak hours in Rangpur region," the report says. In this region, the REB has provided electricity connections to 37,838 shallow and deep tube-wells.

The areas under Nilphamari Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) got supply of 2.20 MW against the demand of 14.53 MW while Thakurgaon PBS got 7.50 MW against the demand of 29.96 MW. says the REB report.

In Raishahi region, REB supplied 116.10 MW against the demand of 307.36 MW. In this region, the REB has provided electricity connections to 39,625 irrigation pumps. The electricity supply in Khulna

region on March 26 was 80.78 MW against the demand of 240.44 MW to run 27,346 pumps. However, the situation is a bit hetter in RFB's Dhaka region where

RFB supplied 417.15 MW against

the demand of 566.54 MW to oper-

MW against the demand of 184 MW.

ber and ruling BNP lawmaker Nazimuddin Alam at the meeting blasted the Power Division for the power crisis. "SSC examinees' preparation is also being hampered due to electricity crisis." he said. Officials of the Power Division

however informed the parliamentary body that they are supplying more electricity to the rural areas to run irrigation pumps. For this, they have reduced the supply of power to the urban areas, they claimed.

will ease by this month as genera-3,000 and 3,200 MW against the demand of 3,900 to 4,000 MW.

ress in implementing different power projects the committee members blamed the donor agencies. "Implementation of power projects is being delayed due to various conditions of the donors." committee member and BNP lawmaker Sardar Shakhawat Hossain Bakul told reporters.

ing anonymity said he had witnessed chaos at an Independence Day programme in his constituency on Sunday when the party activists protested their leaders' claim that the power situation is now better

Rupali Bank

from March 13 to 25 to find prospective buyers for the bank. Commission Chairman Enam Ahmed Chowdhury led delegations at the road shows. The delegations presented the

government plan for sale of the bank mentioning a time-frame and its financial state till 2005, commission sources said. At the road shows, the delega-

tions also described in detail government commitments regarding recapitalisation of the bank, employment of expatriates, waiver on restrictions of foreign ownership and branch rationalisation. Around 20 buyers showed

interest in buying the bank. They include Alliance Bank, Malaysia, Melewar Group Berhad, Malaysia, United Bank Ltd of Pakistan, India's ICICI Bank, Sabre Capital Ltd and State Bank of India, Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia, Muscat Finance Limited of Oman and JJ Finance, UK/Bangladesh. The delegations informed the

potential buyers that the government is working out the privatisation process to complete it by September through signing sale and purchase agreement. The prospective buyers will have

to collect tender documents in between April 30 and May 4 by depositing \$ 2,000 that is nonrefundable

\$100,000 by July 6.

The Privatisation Commission will announce the chosen bidder on August 31, sources said.

regarding divestment also mentioned that it will waive existing restrictions on the number of expatriate management staff. About branch rationalisation, it says majority shareholder (buyer) will have management control over all aspects of the bank's operations. including human resource policies and pay scales. The government

The bank's pension liabilities would rest on the government with the latter taking full responsibility of paying off the pensioners' dues from

Owner gets bail

The court also rejected the petition seeking remand of Deen by the investigation officer (IO) for interro-

Families of each of the dead will get Tk 3 lakh each while those who were seriously injured will get Tk 2 lakh each. Besides, the victims who suffered minor injuries will get Tk 50,000 from the deposited money, court sources said.

The February 25 building collapse left 22 dead and 48 seriously

As per direction of the High Court (HC) Deen Mohammad and five others along with their lawyers appeared before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court around 3:30pm and praved for bail.

Five others are Deen's son Mohammad Shoib, one of his (Deen's) partners MA Majid, Managing Director of Phoenix Medical Centre Dr Jahangir Alam, Executive Director of Phoenix Fabrics Ltd MA Hassan and its Manager Siraiul Islam.

Moving the bail petition, Barrister Omar Sadat told the court that his client Deen was shocked at the loss of so many of his workers' lives. Moreover, his client had earlier given the victims and victims' families through financial assistance for treatment. So he prayed for bail for all the accused, the lawyer said. Court Inspector Abdul Aziz Khan

opposed the bail petition saying Deen could not show the documents of the ownership of the building to the IO of the case. After the hearing, Metropolitan

Magistrate Suzayet Ullah granted them bail upon a bond of Tk 50,000 with two quarantors even though the HC directed the CMM to hear the matter of granting bail. Earlier on March 12. Deen appeared before the High Court

(HC) for an anticipatory bail, but the court denied his prayer and directed him to appear before the CMM court within two weeks.

The CMM will settle the amount

HC mentioned. Following the HC order, CMM court had earlier directed the IO to submit details of the dead and

niured victims.

Following the building collapse, Tejgaon police filed a case accusing Deen Mohammad and seven others the same day. Faruq was arrested

Power-hungry FROM PAGE 1

siege to the house of Harunur Rashid MP at about 10:30am, according to

drew their siege programme after the lawmaker assured them of taking necessary steps to ensure smooth power supply in their areas. The farmers later submitted a

memorandum to the deputy commis-

sioner (DC). A copy of the memoran dum was also given to the MP.

As the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) along with some policemen went to the spot at around 10:00am, the farmers surrounded them. They kept the UNO confined for three

aged a bus and clashed with the cops, leaving Sub-Inspector Tota Mia and three farmers injured. The agitators withdrew the block ade at 1:00pm after the UNO assured

them of taking necessary measures to improve the power supply situa-

(independence award) to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). They said the extra-judicial

killings are clear violation of

"Bangladesh has been criticised due to the incidents of extraiudicial killings. Executive investigations into the incidents are merely unreal, immoral, unjust and expression of no-confidence in the constitution, existing laws and the judiciary," the statement

The SCBA leaders said killings in the custody of the law enforcement agencies, including the Rab, in the name of "encounter" and "crossfire" without handing over the arrested persons to courts are the same offence the militants are committing taking position against the constitution, existing laws and the judicial system.

Their targets are same and identical, they said.

They also said the BNP-

Jamaat alliance government has been using the Rab for political purposes. HC asks govt

her husband Advocate Atiur Rahman on charges of toll collection

The High Court granted anticipa-

tory bail to Shanta and Atiur Rahman in the cases. Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury and Barrister Tania Amir moved for the petitioner.

Sunny FROM PAGE 16

The other accused are Sunny's friend Fariduzzaman Swapan, JMB regional commander of Gazipur Enayet Ullah alias Jewel, Kamrul alias Sumon alias Zahidul and Alamgir alias Bijoy.

Sumon and Alamgir are absconding while the others are now in custody. Rab dropped the names of Monir

and Abul Khair, landlords of Sunny,

from the charge sheet, as evidence of their involvement with JMB was inconclusive. Sunny, younger brother of Abdur Rahman and also a member of JMB's top tier Mailish-e-Shura

masterminded the August 17 blasts

across the country. He was arrested

at the Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute on December 13 last year. Following his information, Rab seized 56 items of arms, ammunition, explosives, bomb-making materials, and books on jihad from the house of Abul Khair at South Manda in the city's Sabujbagh

3 customs men

FROM PAGE 16

made the investigation officer (IO). After his transfer, SI Mainuddin was made the IO. Night guard Oliur Rahman gave a confessional statement before the magistrate court under Section 164 stating the conplicity of three customs officials in

The statement gave the investigation a new turn and the IO filed his final report to the court on March 17 this year.

The report said the mobile phone sets had been taken away from the godown and sold in the market by three officers of the department.

Accordingly, SI Mainudin filed a fresh case of misappropriation under Section 409 and Section 114 with the Kotwali Police Station on March 25 night accusing the three customs officials.

Kamal blasts

FROM PAGE 16 and the patrons of the militants can

He called upon the patriotic and honest people to get united for a massive movement against the evil forces to save the country. "We will protect our national sovereignty the way we had liberated the country from the clutches of the Pakistani

Chowdhury said, "The martyrs sacrificed their lives not only for a flag and a map, but they dreamt of a repression- and poverty-free country, which could not be realised yet due to failure of the leadership and politics." The people would consider the

arrest of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) kingpins Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai as staged dramas of the coalition government. if it does not bring the patrons of the militants including the ministers and MPs of the government to justice, Badruddoza. also former president of the country, added.

Federation (BTF) Nazibul Bashar Maizbhandari vowed to resist Jamaat-e-Islami's coming to power again. "If Jamaat comes to power again, they would destroy all the shrines of the country. BDB Secretary General Major (retd) Abdul Mannan, BTF Secretary

also spoke at the meeting.

SC Bar demands | 40 killed in attack

FROM PAGE 16

nearby Sadr City, reported 17 dead and five wounded in an incident that risks further inflaming tensions in Iraq. The US military admitted that

members of the US special forces were present in an advisory capacity and said that "no mosques were entered or damaged during this operation. The statement added that the

of an insurgent cell linked to attacks on coalition and Iraqi forces as well as kidnapping Iraqi civilians. Large numbers of weapons were found, including dozens of assault

meeting house was the headquarters

rifles, rocket propelled grenades and launchers, two heavy machine guns and material to make explosives. A dental technician with the Ministry of Health who had been taken hostage the day before was also

rescued. He had been tortured for the last 12 hours, reported the US military. Hazam al-Aaraji, a high ranking official in radical Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr's movement, flatly denied the US

version of events. "This is a lie, we saw unarmed worshippers and we didn't find any Iraqi weapons. This place was just for praying and worshipping and it included different groups of Shias, including not just Mehdi Army but

Dawa Party as well. Aside from during full scale battlefield conflict like the re-taking of Fallujah in November 2004, US forces have a strict policy of not entering or attacking mosques. Iraqi forces are brought in if such a building needs to

were moved from the hospital and placed in coffins before being loaded into pickup trucks for the journey to the cemetery in the holy city of Najaf where Shias prefer to be buried. The incident comes at a particularly ense time with a rising tide of corpses

from sectarian killings and the US

putting increasing pressure on Iraq's

political factions to form a long awaited

On Monday morning, the bodies

national unity government. Since the dynamiting of a revered

Shia shrine in Samarra on February 22, corpses showing signs of torture have been discovered on a regular basis in Baghdad and surrounding provinces, victims of tit-for-tat sectar-

ian killings. On Monday, police discovered nine more corpses dumped in an empty lot

used to sell used cars. The bodies had all been killed by strangulation. Police found 30 more victims of the sectarian slaughter rayaging Irag most of them beheaded dumped on a

Sunday. Separately, 12 more bodies were found near Baghdad nine handcuffed and blindfolded, with rope around their necks and three shot in the head,

Most of the dead appeared to be victims the shadowy Sunni-Shia score-settling that has torn at the fabric of Iraq since Feb. 22 when a Shia shrine was blown apart in Samarra,

In violence around Baghdad two bombs killed a total of three people.

Izzat al-Duri, the number two in Iraq's Revolution Command Council in Saddam Hussein's fallen regime and is its highest ranking official urged Arab leaders at the ongoing Khartoum summit to consider the Iraqi resistance as the Iraqis' "legitimate representative", the Qatar-based Jazeera satel-

should take a courageous, frank and clear decision to recognise the valiant nationalist Iraqi resistance as the sole legitimate representative of Iraq's people," said a taped voice attributed

Hamas ready

FROM PAGE 16

funding unless his incoming administration executes a sea-change in its nardline platform.

region, putting an end to the occupation and restoring out rights," Haniya "We have never been supporters of war, terrorism or bloodletting. Instead it is the Israeli occupation that waged all forms of terrorism against our people

in chasing them out of their homeland.

besieging it and starving it. Israel has refused to have any dealings with the incoming administration and has already imposed a series of sanctions including travel restrictions, which forced Haniya to deliver the speech to the Ramallah-based parliament via video-link from its Gaza City branch

Haniya was heavily critical of acting sraeli prime minister Ehud Olmert's plan to unilaterally fix the Jewish state's final borders, saying it would "turn our country into isolated cantons", while also demanding an end to the Israeli occupation and dismantling of its West Bank barrier. But while holding off any sugges-

tion of negotiating with Israel, Haniya

welcomed the prospect of continued international involvement in the peace process, in particular from the socalled Middle East quartet. "Our government will be prepared to hold dialogue with the international quartet about the ways to end the

conflict and install calm in the region, said Haniya. The quartet -- the European Union, Russia, the United Nations and the United States -- is the sponsor of the roadmap peace plan which aims for the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside a secure

The blueprint, which has made next to no progress since its launch three years ago, was rejected by Hamas, which refuses to acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

Both the United States and European Union have threatened to

Authority unless Hamas recognises and respects past international agree-

choose their leaders in free and democratic elections," Haniya said. "Those who think that economic pressure is going to make our govern-

much mistaken." However he also said his government would seek talks with all coun-

Political analyst Thitinan Pongsudhirak said Thaksin needed to make such gestures to make the elections appear legitimate despite

Γhaksin can say 'Look, I'm trying to reach out to you for the country but

meeting over Thaksin's offer, a box of explosives was found outside the headquarters of the Democrat Party. The meeting was taking place elsewhere.

minutes to spare. it's clear that they're trying to

snap election three years early in hopes of ending weeks of street village road north of Baghdad on

police said Monday.

north of Baghdad.

At the end of meetings Sunday, Irag's political factions were still deadlocked over the issues of forming a new government. Talks resumed Monday.

lite news channel said. "Your upcoming conference

slash funding to the Palestinian Israel, commits itself to non-violence

reliance on foreign aid, Haniya said that there would be no caving in to "The Palestinian people should not be punished for exercising their right to

ment collapse or undermine the determination of our people is very

tries to ensure the continuation of aid adding that all funds received would be spent "in complete transparency" Washington has already asked the Palestinian Authority to return a multi-

needed to change its policy. "We believe it is necessary for the United States to revise its policy with regard to the Palestinian people and to prove fair and responsible, and stop supporting the occupation and its policy of double standards so that

established in the region," he said. Given Hamas's majority, the vote on the list of 24 ministers, which has been pieced together by Haniya should be a formality, although the formerly dominant Fatah faction will vote against it. The list will get the final seal of approval from Palestinian Authority president Mahmud Abbas on

claims of fraud threaten to cause

even more trouble for Thaksin after

the vote, although the Election

Commission reiterated Monday that

EC secretary general Ekachai

Waroonprapa said the vote proba-

the polls would go ahead.

running," Ekachai said.

the boycott. "Without the opposition, the elections lack legitimacy," he said. "If they don't accept the offer,

As the opposition parties were

to detonate at 10:00 am but was safely deactivated with just 30 "We have no idea who did it but

threaten us," Democrat spokesman Ongart Klampaiboon told AFP. The embattled premier called the

percent of the vote

a full parliament.

PM okays

Rahman and approved inclusion of non-MP leaders of the 14party opposition alliance, sources said.

Khaleda yesterday had a

mainly to the indecision whether the committee would be a parliamentary or party-level one. Khaleda yesterday directed him to form a party-level committee, said the sources.

committee.

notice issued by the Supreme Three AL lawmakers on December 12 filed two writ petitions with the High Court, challenging the validity of the unilateral decision of the CEC to prepare a fresh voter list They also questioned the legality of

Disposing of the writ petitions, the High Court on January 4 asked the EC to revise the existing electoral roll The CEC on February 1 filed the

'recruitment on political

leave to appeal petition against the court's directives. The full bench of the Supreme Court vesterday heard the petition hearing of which had been adjourned for several times for various reasons.

Attorney General AJ Mohammad

Ali and Additional Attorneys General

Abdur Razzak Khan and Fida M

Kamal were present for the state

while Advocate TH Khan for the

CEC. M Amir-UI Islam, Rokanuddin

Mahmud, Tania Amir, Sarah

Hossain, Taniibul Alam

Maniruzzaman Asad stood for the writ petitioners.

the power plant site.

First unit to mismatch between extracted coal and machinery of the plant.

The wasted coal is being piled on

for Power Igbal Hasan Mahmud

visited the site and instructed the

plant's Chinese builder CMC to

On February 8, State Minister

start commercial operation of both the units by April. As per an agreement with the UCC, an American company specialised in ash management in a coal mine, CMC is relying on

Meghnaghat 450 MW gas-fired AES power plant was set up at a cost of \$170 million only. The Barapukuria plant in Dinajpur is situated in the gasstarved northern region where power plants are typically oilfired. Use of coal as raw material will save the nation about \$2

tonnes of coal a day and the annual production from the coal mine has been estimated to be at 1 million tonnes. Sixty-five per cent of the coal to be produced from the mine will be consumed by the power plant and

It might take four more years to

see the Tk1600crore coal-mining

project start its full operation,

purposes.

The plant will require 2,000

the remaining 35 per cent for brickfields and other domestic

An angry mob set fire to the bus

ate 16,857 electricity-run pumps

In Mymensingh region where 32,604 irrigation pumps are in operation, the supply was 76.40

Sources said committee mem-

The Power Division also assured the committee that the power crisis tion will increase to 3,500 MW. The present generation is between

While discussing the slow prog-

Another lawmaker of BNP wish-

As per the privatisation timetable, the buyers will have to submit tender proposals with a deposit of

The government commitments

will not impose any restrictions on

of compensation for the victims and the way of realising it from the owner and consider granting his bail, the

Another accused Rezaul Karim Faruq, finance manager of Phoenix Fabrics Ltd, obtained bail from the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on March 19.

the BDNEWS. The power-hungry farmers with-

Our Jessore Correspondent reported that the agitating farmers of different areas of Monirampur upazila put up a barricade at Begaritala point on the Jessore-Satkhira road at 8:00am demanding uninterrupted power supply.

hours from 10:00am to 1:00pm. At one stage, the farmers dam-

remain beyond the law.

occupation forces." Dr Kamal added. BDB President Badruddoza

Chairman of Bangladesh Tarikat

General Zakir Hossain, BDB Vice President Dr Mozaffar Ahmed. Dr Nurul Alam Bepari, Convenor of Bangladesh Gonotantrik Jatiya Party Shafiul Alam Pradhan, Shah Mohammad Badal, Advocate Sabera Begum, ATM Kamal, Nasir Uddin Sarker and Advocate Abdur Rouf

"Our government will spare no effort to reach a just peace in the Despite the Palestinian Authority's

million dollar loan in the aftermath of Hamas's landslide election victory on January 25, but Haniya said it was the United States rather than Hamas

peace, stability and prosperity can be

Thaksin's frantic offer

Saturday to demand that Thaksin

you are not cooperating'," Thitinan

Police said the bomb was timed

But the opposition boycott and

bly would not fill all 500 seats, as required by law for parliament to confirm a new prime minister. "It is not likely that we will get enough members of parliament after the election, because only a small number of candidates are

The commission, which has already barred one third of the 941 candidates from running, met all day Monday to finalize preparations for the vote and hammer out how to respond if the results fail to produce

Thaksin has insisted that the

"We have prepared several

options to prepare for whatever the

election results are," he said.

polls should go ahead, and has styled the election as a referendum on his rule. He has promised not to take office if he wins less than 50