Nagorik Committee

The committee reviewed the decisions of its previous meeting and prepared an outline of the vision paper.

It also discussed other related activities including the regional dialogues in Mymensingh on April 29, Jessore on May 13 and Comilla on May 20.

To promote competent candidates, the citizens group will take a number of measures to put pressure on the Election Commission to fully implement High Court directives regarding the disclosure of relevant information by the candidates, their asset and loan status, sources of income and criminal records, if

The committee thinks the candidates should also disclose their tax payment records and records on change of their political affiliation.

The citizens' committee is of the opinion that the RPO (Representation of the People Order) 1972 needs to be amended so that if candidate gives 'misdeclaration' on the required information, his or her seat can be subsequently vacated after the election.

The committee discussed the

approach and outline of the vision paper and decided to identify the prerequisite for realisation of an optimistic development possibilities in Bangladesh by 2020-21

The next meeting of the citizens' group will be held on April

Prof Rehman Sobhan, CPD chairman and convenor of the committee, chaired the meeting. It was attended by Dr Anisuzzaman, Samson H Chowdhury, Syed Manzur Elahi, Angela Gomes, M Mujibul Huq, Prof Mohammad Zafar Igbal, Dr Mahmuda Islam, Mahmudul Islam, Laila Rahman Kabir, Advocate Sultana Kamal, M Hafizuddin Khan, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Latifur Rahman, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, ASM Shajahan and M Sveduzzaman.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, CPD executive director, attended the meeting as member-secretary of the committee

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, was present on invitation.

give a subsidy of Tk 10 for each litre

amount has gone up further to Tk 20

per litre, as prices on the interna-

tional market have continued to rise.

fuel the government however is

making some profit, about Tk 3 to Tk

these items on the international

market the government might no

longer sustain its profit level.

In cases of octane, petrol and jet

However, due to the price hike of

From July-March in the current

fiscal BPC had to bear a deficit of Tk

1510 crore due to a huge gap

between import prices and sale

prices. If prices are not adjusted

immediately the loss might touch Tk

3,000 crore mark by the end of the

tough time, sources said. Talks are

on in the highest level of the govern-

On Sunday while talking to

journalists the finance minister

termed the rise in oil prices on the

international market "the most

formidable challenge for

Bangladesh" and added, "The

decision to raise or not oil prices will

be taken in a way so that it is less

harmful to the economy and less

of no adjustment in fuel prices.

ment to find a way out.

painful for the nation.

In recent times the subsidy

of diesel and kerosene.

IMF asks Dhaka

What the government can do is to avoid wasteful expenditures like purchasing fighter planes and can lower taxes on fuel items to tackle the situation, he said.

According to statistics, the country consumes 36 lakh metric tons of fuel annually. Twenty-three lakh metric tons of it is diesel and 6 lakh metric tons is kerosene. According to energy ministry estimation 48 percent of the total diesel consumption is in the road transport sector, 34 percent in irrigation and about 10 percent by water trans-

About 96 percent of kerosene is consumed for domestic purposes. Bakht said the poor people in

remote villages, where there is no electricity, consume a large chunk of the country's total kerosene consumption. So, if kerosene price is raised the poor will be directly hit.

Again if the price of diesel is increased, transportation cost will go up, which in turn will raise food prices further. Besides, since a sizeable amount of diesel is used for irrigation, a price hike of diesel will once again hit the farmers and ultimately raise food prices, he explained.

"I don't see how the government can provide diesel and kerosene to these sectors at low prices after raising the prices," he said.

Since the elections are around the corner and inflation is on the rise, the government should not raise the prices of diesel and kerosene, Bakht said. A government which earns about Tk 3,000 crore in the form of taxes from oil import, can sacrifice some of it by lowering tariffs on oil items, he added.

A Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) source said since 1976-77 it had paid off Tk 34,833 crore in tariff, vat and other taxes, while in the July-October period of the current fiscal it paid about Tk 823 crore.

An energy division source said from July 2005 to February 2006 the government on an average had to

Student strike

FROM PAGE 16

However, classes continued at most of the primary and high schools in the city.

The BCL called the strike to protest the killing of one of its leader as well as to protest police atrocities on BCL leaders and activists on April 19 during the opposition's sit-in programme at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Abdur Rahim Akash, assistant secretary of Shaheed Suhrawardy College unit BCL died on April 18, after ruling BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men beat up and wounded him on April 12, Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton, general secretary of the BCL said at a press conference on

April 19. A teacher of the college directed the JCD cadres to beat up Akash as he protested the teacher's claim that late president Ziaur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh on March 26 in 1971, Roton alleged.

BCL brought out a procession on the campus chanting slogans in support of the strike yesterday

Later they held a rally in front of the Arts Building, where Roton spoke and demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the teacher and JCD cadres responsible for killing Akash.

Deputy secy FROM PAGE 16

autopsy of Dr Tawfiq Khan Mailish's body that he might have committed suicide.

A brother-in-law of Tawfig filed an Unnatural Death case with Dhanmondi Police Station.

of Baharampur Secondary School. told our Magura correspondent that he went to the spot immediately after the accident and saw the body of Taniul was still trembling inside

A fire brigade team from .Ihenidah rushed to the spot and recovered the body of Taniul.

Hearing the news, Squadron Leader of the Jessore base Abdul Gaffar and Group Captain M Morshed Hasan Siddiqui rushed to

They suspected that technical caused the accident

Fakhrul Azam also visited the spot in the afternoon

committee was formed headed by Group Captain Morshed, The committee was asked to submit its report within 48 hours.

Taniul, son of Md Sirajul Islam and Hosne Ara Begum, hailed from Hajiganj of Chandpur district and joined the Air Force as a flight cadet on July 20, 2004

Slum dwellers

ing a few windowpanes.

BPC already owes Tk 11,000 The demonstrators were, howcrore to government banks. The ever, dispersed when police amount will further rise in the event charged batons on them. About 25 persons, five of them women, were Under the circumstances the injured in the clash. finance ministry is going through a

upazila, police said.

Akkas has long been involved in many criminal activities, especially in grabbing khas lands and establishing slums on those lands. Silimpur Slum is now under his control," said a source.

Akkas was sent to jail by a court yesterday after police produced him

Five drown

FROM PAGE 16

Two passengers went missing. while the remaining 23 swam ashore or were rescued by other boatmen.

Survivors said the boat left Gukhail Bazar ghat of Jamalpur for Sariakandi of Bogra district at about 10:00am. The boat was caught in a violent storm shortly after it sailed from the ghat and sank in the river, they added.

The deputy commissioner of Jamalpur visited the spot.

44 killed

FROM PAGE 1

Air Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam on August 19, 2003 informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence Ministry that a total of 43 pilots were killed in training plane

The airforce headquarters inquired into each of the deaths.

"Ten percent accidents occurred due to the fault of the pilots while 40 percent for technical faults and the reasons behind the remaining 50 percent accidents have not been unearthed." the air force chief was quoted in the first report of the standing committee on defence that was placed in parliament.

"Accidents of training planes are usual and a number of accidents occurred in the history of Bangladesh Air Force," a senior officer of BAF said, adding, "But the number of accidents is less than that in other neighbouring countries."

Then chief of BAF Air Vice Marshal Khademul Bashar was killed in a training plane crash in 1977, he added.

On June 7, 2005, a training aircraft of BAF, F-7, crashed onto a tin-roofed house in Uttara of the capital, injuring six people including two babies. The lone crew. BAF Flight Lieutenant Ahsanul Kabir, however, escaped unhurt as he jumped with a parachute at the last moment. The accident occurred due to a technical fault.

times over the field before crashing. Locals said they heard a loud sound from the paddy field and ran to the spot and saw the destroyed aircraft

Ataur Rahman, assistant teacher

faults in the engine might have Air Force chief Air Vice Marshal

A three-member investigation

Police were deployed at the spot.

FROM PAGE 16

workplace in the city's Sholoshahar area. They also arrested a class IV employee of Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI). The arrests were made following a request from Bayezid Bostami PS of Chittagong Metropolitan Police

As the news of arrests reached the slums at Silimpur in Sitakunda, the residents there became agitated and set out for the city to free their leader from police custody. Equipped with bamboo sticks and lathis over two hundred people of Silimpur Slum arrived in front of Panchlaish PS and laid a siege there. At one stage, they started throwing brickbats at the PS break-

None was arrested in this con-

Akkas, known as a notorious landgrabber, is an accused in about 15 criminal cases in different police stations in the city and Sitakunda

Sources said Akkas maintains a close link with a faction of the ruling

"Using this political leverage,

Fair polls

FROM PAGE 1

Observing that the conflicting politics is one of the main bottlenecks in the country's development process, he said the ruling and opposition parties should work together in the greater interest of the nation. Asked whether or not the donors

will accept the result of the next election if it is held without the reforms demanded by the main opposition, Choudhury said the development partners will closely observe the election process and decide later about recognising it.

The international communities will have their views and NGOs will also have opinion about the election results, he pointed out.

Choudhury regretted the existence of huge corruption in the society that has denied Bangladesh the pace of development Vietnam, Malaysia and South Korea achieved. "You could grow at the rate of at least seven per cent if the corruption is tackled as you tackled extremism." he said.

On the UK-Bangladesh relationship, the British ambassador said the UK has changed its foreign policy and is giving more importance to Bangladesh. "We have already increased the

aid to Bangladesh in the last 18 months and it would be increased substantially in the future," he said. The UK has been providing over \$250 million aid to Bangladesh annually, he noted

He also pointed out that there are around \$4 billion worth of British investments in Bangladesh and another \$1 billion is waiting to come.

Choudhury appreciated the role played by nearly half a million Bangladeshis living in the UK as they are making "important contribution" to the British economy. "But Bandladesh should stop exporting politics there," Choudhury said.

DRU President Shafiqul Karim and General Secretary Shahed Chowdhury were present at the

BAF trainee pilot | US has no 'recipe'

system], but I will leave it to the political

and hundreds of foreign observers.

"And people expect the elections will

leaders to settle it." She said she predicts the upcoming national election will be the most monitored election in the country's history with thousands of domestic

be held within the timeframe and peacefully," she added. About the US interest in the election, she said, "We are interested not because we support one particular party [we do not], but because [we think] only a free and fair election -without intimidation or violence or fraud -- can produce a government with the legitimacy and the authority it needs to address issues of concern to

international partners Asked what kind of government her country wants to come through the next elections in the wake of widespread concern stemming from extremism and corruption Butenis said "This is not about something we sit here to oppose ...it's rather up to the Bangladeshis to decide whether the government will be changed or not. That's your decision to look at all these issues and explore them and make the best decision possible."

the Bangladeshi people and to your

On current political violence, the US ambassador said violence does not produce a solution and does not project the true image of Bangladesh, instead they damage the day-to-day fabric of life, stops children from going to schools and people from going about their business.

"United States always encourages to resolve an issue through dialogue within parties and within parliament," she added

About long- and short-term election observers. Butenis said through NDI and IRI the US will train the election observers and journalists in monitoring the situation in the run-up to the polls as well as voting. Asked about her priority during her

tenure, she said it would be strength-

ening counter-terrorism and, secondly, seeing the upcoming elections are free and fair. "What the United States wants for Bangladesh are the same things that most Bangladeshis want: a country free from political and terrorist violence, a strong democracy that resolves disputes through non-violent means, increased prosperity that reaches the poorest citizens, and an end to corruption that robs them of

progress in these and all other areas."

When asked if she apprehends the emergence of any third force in case the major parties fail to resolve the disputes over the elections, Ambassador Butenis said any attempt challenging the present democratic process will be "an absolute disaster for Bangladesh, I don't think anybody can foresee that."

On religious extremism, she lauded the government for measures to capture top JMB leaders and

recover arms and ammunition. "We welcome the arrests of senior leaders of the JMB, the recovery of large amounts of arms and bombrelief that there has been no new JMB attack since December.

and I think everyone would agree that works remain to be done to identify and hold accountable all those persons who supported the JMB and its

These are positive developments

extremist violence, and I believe that the government is indeed committed

following up." she said. She said the government should also try the supporters of JMB and those who financed the network on specific evidence

Butenis said the US government is providing special training for Bangladesh law enforcement agencies to enhance their counterterrorism capability and basic skills in probing the terrorist attacks and tactically analysing the blast incidents. Besides, Bangladesh military officials are being trained in the US.

'We are also providing technical assistance on the drafting of new legislation here on money laundering and terrorist financing," she said, adding that she would work to find new opportunities to expand the US law enforcement assistance programmes in Bangladesh.

Replying to a query, the ambassador, said the FBI has no plans to open office in Bangladesh. "US and Bangladesh have robust relations and cooperation in law enforcing and terrorism issues," she added.

Asked if the US' appreciation in combating terrorism and withdrawal of its peace corps are contradictory, she said the decision was taken in Washington considering the safety of US volunteers since they are to work in villages too. Besides, some newspapers here reported that JMB's next target was the US peace volunteers.

When asked if the US authorities would deport the convicts of the Bangabandhu murder case hiding in America following the deportation of US citizen Ehsanul Sadequee. Ambassador Butenis said she does not know whether the killers are staying in USA.

about the progress in signing an extradition treaty initiated by previous Awami League government for deporting the killers of Bangabandhu. The Trade Act bill -- 2005 that seeks duty-free access of Bangladeshi products to American market, is now

She also could not say anything

pending before the US Senate, she said, adding that it would be difficult to give such preferential treatment outside WTO where the matter is being discussed. The US is already one of Bandladesh's most important trading and investment partners and the

number one buver of Bangladeshi

products. Butenis said. adding. "I

would like to expand our trading ties even further, and see that American products and services have the chance to compete here on a level She said the relationship between the two countries is already strong and

getting stronger. "So this is an exciting and hopeful time for me to be the American ambas-

ON CORRUPTION

Ambassador Butenis said Bangladesh must defeat corruption other obstacles to economic growth while the Bangladeshi people might define their basic needs in many ways - supply of food, water, power, education and economic opportunity for everybody

"Meeting many of those needs depends on economic development. defeating corruption and the other obstacles to economic growth," she

Butenis said the critical issue of

Skid-mount plants

image of Bangladesh to the outside

Bangladesh's access to the

Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)

to get special funding from the US

government, she said the main obsta-

cle to Bangladesh's becoming a

She, however, said the US govern-

ment is working with Bangladesh to

The US Ambassador said in all coun-

tries, including her own, journalists are

sometimes ctiticised for being the

vibrant press is essential for any

country, that it shapes the debate on

key issues and provides the informa-

tion citizens need to make important

decisions for themselves and their

such complex and difficult issues as

the rise of religious extremism and the

campaign of terror waged by

threatened and attacked because of

vour work, so I commend you for

carrying on, even under very difficult

When asked if any incentives could

prompt Iran to reinstate a suspen-

sion of its nuclear work, he replied:

"We don't want anything. Let the

ant stance leaves it exposed to the

risk of UN sanctions. The United

States has also not ruled out the

possibility of taking military action

"I see it as unlikely that they

"Those two or three countries

against the oil-rich Islamic republic.

would be so unwise to do such a

thing." he replied when asked about

the impact on Iran's economy if

who are so against us have enough

sense not to make that mistake.

They cannot create limitations for

us. They will lose themselves. Our

economic infrastructure is strong,

"A military attack does not make

sense. Besides, our people are

powerful and can defend them-

situation will be very bad. This is all

psychological pressure and propa-

ganda that they use in the form of

words in the media to try make us

"If the US chooses the military

option, a disgraceful defeat worse

than the failure in Tabas desert

attempt in 1980 to rescue Americar

hostages in the seized US embassy

outrage last year with his call for

Israel to be "wiped off the map," also

continued his verbal barrage

under Gazipur Sadar upazila at

about 11:00am on Saturday.
Following Shaheen's informa-

against the Jewish state.

Rab killing

FROM PAGE 16

Ahmadinejad, who triggered

a stiff warning to Washington.

The regime's increasingly defi-

"I know that some of you have been

Jama'atul Mujahideen.

circumstances." she said

FROM PAGE 16

Iran rejects

Iranians live their lives."

sanctions are imposed.

Ahmadinejad asserted.

back down."

military action.

in Tehran.

"But we all know that a free and

member of MCA club is corruption.

ON BANGLADESH PRESS

combat corruption

country

messenger of bad news.

Asked about the possibility of

Other than the skid-mount plants, which will sell power to the government on rental basis, a few projects under implementation are also suffering delay or underperformance due to various reasons. The new Barapukuria coal mine power project with an inflated cost is generating only half its 250 MW capacity and is lagging behind schedule by months. The new 70 MW Mymensingh phase-3 plant, being built at a cost four times that of similar plants, is now five months behind schedule.

But even if these plants start generating power in full swing, there will be no respite from load shedding this year or even in the coming years, thanks to the lack of government action in this sector in the last four years. PDB sources said.

The PDB is currently generating "As I prepared for my assignment a maximum of 3.500 MW power to Bangladesh, I was impressed by the while it is officially claiming that the variety of the Bangladeshi press. I was demand for power is around 4.000 also impressed by reporting I saw on MW to 4, 100 MW.

> In its latest report to the parliamentary standing committee on power and energy ministry, the PDB said Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) and Dhaka Electricity Supply Company (Desco) demand 1,600 MW power and Rural Electrification Board (REB) 2,000 MW while it (PDB) needs 1,600 MW.

Desa officials however claim that Dhaka's present demand for power

is 1.800 MW. The demand for power should situation, consumption of diesel for power generation at individual level has drastically increased, which is yet be taken into account by the government. According to an apartment complex owner, spending on diesel for power generation for the apartments last year was Tk 1,4000. This year the apartment complex already spent Tk 36,000 in the last

growth. We are having a demand

growth of 10 percent a year. This

means, by next year, the demand

will exceed 5.700 MW.

Unfortunately, we don't have power

projects in the pipeline that can even

remotely meet this situation," sad a

Because of this grim power

top official of the PDB.

four months for the same purpose. "A major cause of the power crisis is the disproportionate and rapid expansion of REB's power network. The REB has doubled its consumer base in the last five years. which could have been a blessing for the country if power generation was adequate But now it is a curse.

said a REB source. The REB has six million subscribers, serving three crore people. It still has 4,000 kilometres of its distribution network waiting for power supply from the PDB. Despite this the REB continues to provide eight connections a day, for which the PDB is not prepared to provide

Kansat, police action

Talking to reporters at a news briefing, AL lawmaker Mohammad Nasim said he has already submitted ten notices to the parliament secretariat demanding discussions on Kansat killings, police atrocities on journalists and opposition activists, and the present state of militant kingpins.

At the briefing AL lawmakers alleged they are not being able to discuss the irregularities and misrule of the government in parliamentary standing committees as those bodies have been ineffec-

selves," he argued, before firing off "Law and order related issues could be discussed in the parlia-"If they even talk about it, their mentary standing committee on home ministry. But the chairman of the committee has not convened its due meetings fearing criticism from opposition lawmakers," Iran's defence minister also alleged Mohammad Nasim, also a warned the United States that it member of the parliamentary risked a "disgraceful defeat" if it took standing committee on home

ministry Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid said committees on other ministries also remained silent awaits them," Mostafa Mohammad about irregularities and corruption Najar said, referring to a failed US in the ministries.

"As we can not talk for people's welfare in the parliamentary committees, we want to discuss the issues in the House," he said. The session however is

expected to be a very short one as Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar has earlier hinted that the session might have only four or five work-

The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) will sit prior to the beginning of the session to fix its duration.

Sources in AL said they are likely to join the meeting of BAC to raise their demand for discussions on various burning issues.

"We apprehend that the government will not allow any discussion. But we will raise our voices and protest misrule of the government using the floor on the issue of point of orders." a senior lawmaker of AL

The main opposition AL joined the parliament on February 12 ending a year long House boycott and submitted its proposals for reforms in the system of caretaker government, Election Commission and electoral laws. AL lawmakers are expected to raise the issue of reforms in the parliament as no significant progress was seen in the last two months

JS BODY INEFFECTIVE

The parliamentary standing committee on home ministry held its last meeting on February 8. The chairman of the committee has not convened any meeting since then ignoring the rules of procedure, which say the committee will sit at

Mohammad Shajahan Mia vesterday admitted that the meetings were not convened and said he Shajahan Mia told reporters.

Mohammad Nasim at the news briefing blasted the chairman for not convening the meetings regu-

"I will seek interference by the speaker if the committee chairman does not convene a meeting immediately," he said. "I wanted to discuss the Kansat issue in the last meeting on February 8. But the committee chairman did not agree. Now it has been proven that the committee chairman, elected from Kansat, is responsible for the

Kansat killings," Nasim alleged. AL lawmaker AKM Jahangir Hossain who is a member of several parliamentary bodies also expressed his dissatisfaction over the ineffectiveness of the commit-

Nasreen Huq meets

FROM PAGE 16

a wall as she was waiting for the car at the car park. She was first taken to Bangladesh Orthopaedic Hospital

CMH sources said she also had a cardiac arrest while she was at the Orthopaedic Hospital.

She had received severe injuries to her head, legs and hands. She lost a huge amount of blood due to continuous bleeding as arteries and veins of her legs were crushed. The doctors gave her more than 20 bags of blood as they could not stop the

Nasreen had her 15-month-old daughter in her arms at the time of the accident but her daughter did not receive any injuries, sources

sources said. Nasreen did her masters degree

in nutritional sciences from the University of California at Berkeley.

Bangladesh Nasreen had been an activist and a leader in Naripakkha. a women's rights organisation in Bangladesh, since 1988. She founded and led the Campaign Against Acid Violence, one of her Naripakkha's Health Team and Safe Motherhood Programme and led other campaigns and events. She was also employed as a senior policy advisor at Helen Keller

She held positions on numerous national and international committees, including the Gender Advisory Committee of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; the Gender Advisory Panel, Special Programme on Human Reproduction at the World Health Organisation; and the Advisory Committee on Asia. Pacific Research and Resources on Women and Health

She was wife of Nurul Islam Bhuiyan Chotan, managing editor of Dainik Jay Jay Din.

BSF kills 1

FROM PAGE 16 The BDR also asked its Indian coun-

terpart to hand over the body and hold a flag meeting to defuse border tension. The Indian side did not respond as of 6:00 pm yesterday.

without the floating of any tenders.

"Some unscrupulous CDA officials are involved in the irregular ities," a member of the House body alleged. "Officials of the CDA and the contractors have shared the money among themselves without completing the work."

corruption has projected a negative

3 secys apologise

FROM PAGE 1 this regard. He claimed to have never attended any official or unofficial meeting in this regard ever since he had joined the prime minister's secretariat in October 2001, adding that he was not in any way involved [either as a member or as a supporting officer] in the cabinet subcommittee on separation of the judiciary from

the executive. According to allocation of Business (Schedule 1 of Rules of Business 1996) of the Government, the respondent-petitioner's job description does not cover issues relating to separation of the judiciary,

Citing article 48(3) of the constitution, it says in case of the prime minister tendering any advice to the president on the separation issue, the content is beyond jurisdiction of not only the respondent-petitioner but also of any court. So, except for placing the matter before the prime minister [which he did], the respondent-petitioner has no role to play in

this regard. Saving that he has not shown any wilful disregard or disobedience to the court or its orders and directives, the reply adds: "The respondentpetitioner, however, pleads for infinite mercy of this court and begs pardon for his unintentional mistakes and lapses, if there be any, in performing his official duty and undertakes to be more cautious and diligent in all his

future dealings.

secretary's reply, Barrister Rafiqul Huq said Siddiqur Rahman had no knowledge about the matter (separation of judiciary) before joining the ministry as finance secretary in October 2005. He submitted that neither a file regarding separation of the judiciary is on his [Siddigur's] table now nor

has he received any such file since

Briefing reporters about the finance

"He received the file of Judicial Service Pay Commission on Saturday and his office sent it to the law ministry the same day for vetting Still, he apologises [to the court] had he done any unintended mistakes," he said. Barrister Abdur Razzak said his

client Alauddin Sarder joined as the

law secretary on June 3, 2004 and he

should not shoulder the responsibilities for things done in the previous period.

"The law ministry has formed iudicial service commission and formulated rules for it. The ministry has prepared other rules as well in line with the Supreme Court directives and placed a bill in the parliament for CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) amendment After passage of the bill, the rules will be issued to separate the judiciary,' Razzak said, quoting from his client's

"In spite of these, I pray for mercy for any unintended mistakes," the law

secretary said in his reply. Establishment Secretary Dr Mahbubur Rahman in his reply explained in detail the proceedings of drafting service rules for separation of the judiciary, TH Khan yesterday

The establishment secretary said

he joined the post on November 30,

2005 while the Judicial Service

told reporters

government.'

Commission was formed on November 23, 2004. Two rules regarding Bangladesh Judicial Service were sent to the PMO on February 16, 2005.

He said though all the develop-

ments in this regard took place before

he had joined the ministry, he prays for acquittal on the charge. Asked about progress in implementation of the SC directives, Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali told the court, "I believe that the 12point directive will be implemented during the tenure of the present

Meantime, TH Khan on behalf of nine senior government officials facing contempt rule for distorting the judgement of the Judiciary Separation case since November 2004 appealed to the court to relieve the officials from having to appear in person before the court. But the court turned down the

Barrister Amir-UI Islam, the coun-

sel for contempt petitioner

Chowdhury Munir Uddin Mahfuz,

was present during yesterday's

tion. Rab men accompanying the criminal went to Polashona of the union at 1:00am vesterday to arrest his two accomplices Humayun and Shamsur and recover illegal arms. When they reached there, Shaheen's accomplices opened fire

at the Rab men who retaliated.

Trying to escape, Shaheen He was sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital where doctors declared nim dead, Rab said, adding that two Rab members were also injured during the encounter. Rab recovered a shotgun, a pipe gun, four bullets and an axe.

> district, Shaheen lives in Gachha union where he has been conducting criminal activities for a long time, He is also accused in three

robbery and two carjacking cases.

Hailing from Bakerganj in Barisal

Nepalis

FROM PAGE 16 The parties said they planned 1,000 marches, mass meetings and effigy burnings Monday as a curtain raiser to the main protest throughout the Kathmandu Valley, the area encompassing the capital and home to 1.7 million people, according to reports.

King Gyanendra, in a bid to thwart

new protests, set a new curfew in

central Kathmandu from 11:00 am

(0515 GMT) until 6:00 pm, state television said, warning anyone who violated the order could be shot on sight. A United Nations human rights expert on Monday urged the government to halt the policy saying it could be a crime against humanity.

"The government is, in effect,

instructing its forces to shoot innocent

people, in complete disregard for the

right to life," said Philip Alston, the UN

special rapporteur on extrajudicial,

summary or arbitrary executions, in Geneva Kathmandu was suffering shortages of fuel, food and other essential goods as piles of festering rubbish littered the streets

Large sections of the ring road were covered with burnt tyres and roadblocks from nearly three weeks of daily protests as the king has struggled to quell the escalating calls for his removal.

be viewed in the context of its rapid

least once a month. Committee Chairman Prof

> could not convene the meetings as he was busy. "I will convene a meeting in a couple of days,"

tee system.

and later shifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka where she slipped into a coma. She died at 8:00 pm there.

bleeding.

The driver became shellshocked following the accident and was undergoing psychological treatment; he was also injured in the accident, Action Aid Bangladesh

Before joining Action Aid

projects in Naripakkha.

JS body FROM PAGE 16