

during the incident and the constable

"The government might carry out

Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman

Terming the attack a planned one that

expressed his surprise about how the

attackers could escape despite the pres

He called for bringing in international

Fire Brigade formed a three-member

Newaz Bhuiyan. It will submit a report in

examined the burnt objects, electric

evidence, talk with experts and sit later to

short circuit, he said: "We've found a break

in the (electric) circuit, but it cannot be

the 2019 competition. Besides

England will also host the inaugural

Twenty20 World Championship in

Australia and New Zealand co-

hosted the 1992 World Cup and had

been in line to stage the 2011 event

after Asia (1996), England (1999), South

Africa (2003) and the West Indies (2007

ratified by the ICC's annual conference

Sunday's decisions need to be

Meanwhile, according to

Bangladesh Cricket Board general

secretary Mahbubul Anam.

were each awarded the tournament.

identified as the cause of the fire.

Asia to host

FROM PAGE 1

About the possibility of an electric

cables, gas lines, and collected evidence.

Visiting the house, the committee

kill him and his son.

visited the spot.

ence of five policemen.

Chowdhury's) politics.'

determine the cause.

three days.

On May 9, they agreed to start formal

negotiations on May 25 and wind it up

by August 31 to clear the way for signing

of the investment agreement before

November 30, 2005. But they had to

review their set dateline due to compli-

Our Staff Correspondent adds

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said

the government will have to analyse the

rising oil price in the international

market when it decides about the

proposed gas price in Tata's revised

Asked who will approve Tata's

proposal, Saifur said, "After discussion

in the cabinet, senior ministers and the

Only after getting their recommenda-

tion, the prime minister will take the

Saifur Rahman is going to

Hyderabad, India to join an Asian

Development Bank conference tomor-

District ministers

The writ had challenged consti-

tutional validity of the government

notification issued on November

12, 2001, a month after the four-

party coalition government came

to power, empowering ministers

and others with charge of different

districts to take care of develop-

ment work and law and order in

The Cabinet Division issued the

gazette notification appointing 62

cabinet ministers, advisers to

ministries, chief whip, state minis-

ters, whips and deputy ministers to

discharge additional responsibili-

In support of his plea, Additional

AG Fida M Kamal told the court that

the rights and privileges of the

members of parliament had not

been curtailed by giving the respon-

sibility to the cabinet ministers,

advisers, chief whip, state ministers,

three-month ceasefire Thursday to

"motivate" political leaders to call

elections to a constituent assembly

mainstream political life.

their key demand for joining

The Maoists, who control large

whips and deputy ministers.

Koirala urges Maoists

cations in the process.

proposal.

final decision."

ROM PAGE 1

Hossain Maniu.

respective areas.

ties in 62 districts.

Fuel crisis

FROM PAGE 1

The BPC, however, informed the dealers that the supply of oils on the weekend, Friday and Saturday, and other government holidays will remain suspended as usual.

The schedule was relaxed for the December-April period being the high-irrigation season. As that season has expired, the distribution schedule will revert to the usual from May 1, the handout said.

The government requested the dealers to collect their required fuel oils on the weekdays and to keep adequate stock for selling throughout the week. **OIL PRICE DECISION WITHIN AWEEK**

A decision on the increase of oil prices would be taken within a week. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman told the press after a meeting of the cabinet committee on

economic affairs vesterday. Taking a decision in this matter is not easy, he remarked, as the government will have to consider the macro and microeconomic effects. The issue also needs to be thoroughly discussed with the people concerned, he said, adding after that a proposal in this regard will be sent to the prime minister.

On privatising oil import, Saifur said he himself has been suggesting this for long. But, he does not know exactly why it is not happening. He said a 'vested quarters' is standing in the way of privatising the petroleum distributing companies. CHITTAGONG SITUATION

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: Unusually long queues were seen at the main depots of all the three marketing companies of BPC, as the fuel supply to dealers resumed yesterday.

Tank lorries started lining up since Saturday night and by the morning their number went beyond a hundred at each of the supply depots, sources said.

With the supply resumed, all the petrol pumps in the port city started operating since 9:00am.

Sources said the supply resumed at 6,500 MT for diesel and 1,500 MT for kerosene a day.

The BPC at present has 126.972 MT diesel and 16,041 MT kerosene in its stock that can sustain the country for about 21 days and 11 days respectively, BPC sources said. Besides, an oil tanker laden with

20 thousand MT diesel and 10 thousand MT kerosene from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) is due to reach Chittagong Port within the next three to four days, they said.

Another oil tanker carrying the same quantity of KPC diesel and kerosene is also expected to arrive by May 6, they added **KHULNA SCENARIO**

Our Khulna correspondent reports: asbestos-lined luxury ocean liner SS A severe fuel crisis hit the consum-

of diesel, petrol, octane, and kerosene with a view to sell them on the black market, a BPC high official in Bogra said yesterday.

Mizanur Rahman Raton, general secretary of Rajshahi Division Fuel Oil Distributors Association, denied the allegation. He said the rationing system in supplying fuel oils has given rise to fuel crisis in some areas in the north. In some places diesel, petrol and

kerosene are being sold at Tk 2 to Tk 3 higher per litre than the government price.

Sources at the BPC northern control room in Bogra said at least 1.54 crore litres of diesel was in stock yesterday in the northern depots including the main depots at

Baghabari. Yet, a local journalist said, diesel is selling at Tk 2 to Tk 3 higher per litre in some areas adjacent to Baghabari depot including Pachakola, Birishalika and Coal Ghat. Petrol has been selling at Tk 50 a litre in Badalgachhi upazila of Naongoan district during the last three days, said an NGO worker posted in that area.

MOULVIBAZAR Our Moulvibazar correspondent says: Severe fuel crisis has persisted in Moulvibazar district with most of the filing stations kept closed.

Though a few filling stations were selling petrol, diesel and octane, but their owners said their stocks were too poor and they might be forced to stop selling at any time. SATKHIRA

Our Satkhira correspondent reports: Most of the filling stations in the district have stopped selling fuel for the last two days causing immense sufferings farmers, transport owners and other consumers.

Long queues of vehicles were seen yesterday at the filling stations but most of them had to go away empty-handed and in utter frustration

However, a few of the vehicles could get one or two litres of fuel. Taking advantage of the situa-

tion, a section of retailers are selling fuels at exorbitant prices. Petrol is selling at Tk 52 a litre. Some customers said they had to buy petrol at rates as high as Tk 55 to Tk 60 a

Govt bans

litre

FROM PAGE 16 Polembros Shipping Ltd of Greece in 2002. It was last anchored off St Petersburg, Russia on August 28

2005, according to Greenpeace. Kashem, who owns a ship breaking yard, later bought the vessel, he told the news agency.

Last February, the government Hossain. refused to allow the scrapping of the Norway in Sitakunda ship-breaking area, the second biggest in the world assailants. after Alang in India.

Six core areas FROM PAGE 1

The meeting primarily identified six core areas for its vision paper -- general economic issues, social issues, information and technology, external issues and globalisation, human rights, rule of law and institutional reforms, transparency, accountability and responsive-

ness at all levels of state activities. Presided over by Convener of Nagorik Committee 2006 and CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan, the meeting decided that the issues discussed in Mymensingh dialogue on Saturday would be carried forward in essore regional dialogue scheduled for May 13.

A list of citizens' aspirations was repared at the meeting and it will be placed before the participants at Jessore regional dialogue for prioritisation.

The meeting decided that the statement of expenditure made in connection with the civil society nitiative will be posted regularly on CPD website.

It will take cognisance of all the comments made in news media with regard to the initiative.

The Nagorik Committee 2006 solicited suggestions from people about their aspirations and vision for Bangladesh.

Comments on the six core areas may be sent to CPD office (House 40/C, Road 11, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1209) or through email <election07@cpd-bangladesh.org>). The next meeting will be held on

May 7 CPD Executive Director and Member Secretary of the Nagorik Committee Dr Debapriya

Bhattacharya, Prof Ajmilur Reza Chowdhury, Maj Gen (Rtd) Moinul Hussain Chowdhury, Dr Iqbal Mahmud, M Muiibul Hug, Dr Mahmuda Islam, Laila Rahman Kabir, M Hafizuddin Khan, Ambassador Abul Ahsan, ASM Shahjahan, M Syeduzzaman also attended the meeting.

HC bench skips FROM PAGE 1

petition 'not-press' in that bench comprising Justice Awlad Ali and Justice Zinat Ara, He told BDNEWS that he could further submit the petition before another bench of the High Court.

After hearing the petition, the High Court bench declined to pass any order in the case on the plea that an appeal regarding the case has been pending in the Appellate Division. That is why I made the petition 'notpress' in that bench. I will mention the matter in another bench," he said.

Karwan Bazar FROM PAGE 16

The body was later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) planned way. morgue for autopsy. Police could not arrest anyone as of

3:30pm yesterday. Hanif often received death threats

over cellphone from criminals and rivals after he was elected joint general secretary of KBBKS Super Market about a year ago, said his brother Jonaid

Some local traders said that Shahadat, an accomplice of top criminal Pichchi Hannan, was among the

Mysterious blaze

FROM PAGE 1

The fire in the first floor bedroom burnt phoned from the intercom. It also didn't documents, books, other papers, clothes, originate from the gas stove because carpet and foreign and local currencies. nothing was gutted in the kitchen," he Prof Chowdhury's family said the fire said caused a loss of valuables worth Tk 4 to 5 lakh.

made to reap political benefit. "I don't The fire was first noticed around have personal enmity with anyone. But 5:05am yesterday. "I saw the curtain at the Bikalpa Dhara men have been targets of northern side of the ground-floor drawing ruling party attacks since our launching room burning and immediately phoned and we've been attacked almost everytheir domestic help, Jyotsna, who was where when we organised any meeting or sleeping inside," said an on-duty police rally. constable, Masud, who was then sitting near the gate of the house 'Mayabi' on more heinous attacks on us and this Road No 12 in Baridhara diplomatic incident has strengthened that apprehenenclave.

Jyotsna immediately knocked on the bedroom door of former president's son, Mahi B Chowdhury, on the second-floor

of the three-storey building. "Hearing screams, my wife Ashfa Haq Lopa woke me up. I opened my window to Sramik Janata League chief Kader see smoke all around," Mahi told this Siddiqui, Dhaka Metropolitan Police correspondent. As he opened the door, he saw dense toxic smoke had covered the

whole house. "I brought my daughter Sherejad and son Arash Talesh who were struggling to breathe in the adjacent room to my room and rushed to recover my father from the firstfloor."

Mahi said he saw the drawing room and a first floor bedroom burning. "It was so hot that I felt like I was inside an oven."

He brought his father and mother, Hasina Warda Chowdhury, to his bedroom and came down with his family members before the blaze could reach his

Informed by the on duty police, Hamid, the supervisor of four police constables who guard the house in threehour rotation shifts, and three other constables brought plastic pipes from an under-construction building just west to Chowdhury's house and poured water to douse the fire.

A Rab-1 patrol car that was passing by the house informed the fire brigade that reached few minutes after the policemen and three domestic helps brought the fire under control. Mahi said they suspect the arsonists

set the fire through two windows on the ground floor and through a window and a ventilator of the toilet on the first floor. "Most of the damage are beside the windows and the windowpanes are broken. The attackers used the see-saw as a ladder to set fire on the first floor."

Mahi and his wife told reporters that they smelt toxic gas during the fire and they were feeling itchy, which indicated that the fire did not originate from any electric short circuit.

"Experts said there is smell of phosphorus and that gunpowder have been used," Mahi told reporters.

During a news briefing later in the afternoon, Mahi said, "There is no doubt that it is an attempt to kill the former president with all his family members in a

Bangladesh are expected to host six "The fire didn't originate from a short World Cup matches -- three in the first circuit because my television was on round and three in the second.

Essentials turn 30pc

in July.

to make profit from selling vegetables. I shot up steeply. At the Karwan Bazar fish buy vegetables at Tk 6 per kg, but it has market 1kg local variety catfish was

Security guards FROM PAGE 1

Mosharraf Hossain said they closed the shop at 9:05pm on Friday and did not come to the shop on Saturday, as the market remains closed on that day.

"We came to the shop at 10:00am today and found the lower part of a Prof Chowdhury said the attack was shutter and a grille broken." Mosharraf yesterday said, adding that the uniform of a security guard was found inside the

On information, police rushed to the spot, and sealed the shop where broken pieces of ornaments lay scattered.

Police seized pieces of iron rod, screwdriver and other equipment used to break the shutter and grille.

The criminals might have chosen sion," he said demanding a judicial probe. Bikrampur Jewellers as it was full of gold He said they had received phone ornaments, a staff of a nearby jewellery calls and letters earlier threatening to said, adding that there are around a dozen jewellery shops on the first floor of Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, the market. Nazibul Bashar Maijbhandari, Krishak

Officer-in-Charge of Paltan Police Station said he told Jhalakathi police to arrest the three missing guards who hail from the district. On August 28 last year, burglars took

away about 4,000 tola gold ornaments is of very grave concern, Dr Kamal and other valuables worth about Tk 5.15 crore, breaking through the ceiling of Venus Jewellers situated on the third floor of 15-storeyed Navana Shopping Complexin Gulshan-1.

experts and for an in-depth probe imme-In another big heist on February 4 diately. "The attackers have expressed the 2004, robbers took away some 4,000 tola reaction of those who do not like his (B gold ornaments and Tk 3 lakh in cash from two jewellery shops at the upmarket Karnaphuli Garden City in departmental committee headed by Shantinagar. Deputy Director (Operations) Selim

In both the incidents, police could hardly recover any looted gold orna-

Mastermind Declining to make any comment or FROM PAGE 16 the cause of the fire. Selim Bhuivan told recent Mediterranean Sea boat The Daily Star, "We'll first examine the capsize tragedy.

> An official announcement vesterday said the arrested are ringleader Mizanur Rahman and his accomplices Abu Yussuf Muhammad, Haydar Hassan and Mustafa Kamal.

They were involved in "illegal trafficking of Bangladeshis through Morocco" over to the western world according to an official press release from Dhaka.

These manpower smugglers let down many job seekers who had either landed in prisons or perished at sea.

Following information from Bangladesh Embassy in Rabat, the Moroccan authorities dismantled their smuggling network in the course of which nine different nationals, including the four Bangladeshis, were apprehended.

A Bangladeshi called 'The King' Mizanur Rahman, ran the network and was reported to have relations with security and administrative offices in different countries.

The arrested Bangladeshi nationals are being tried in a Moroccan court and if found guilty will be sentenced to imprisonment for a certain period of time before they are deported to Bangladesh.

As per information received from ment and seized total power in Morocco these traffickers had

Tata ups gas price

requirement of 2.14 trillion cubic feet (TCF) gas during the entire period of the

project. The company was also firm in their stance favouring international arbitration in settling dispute.

Board of Investment (BoI) Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman said the new proposal was more in line with the country's terms.

"I think the government will react positively to the proposals," said Rahman, also the Energy Ministry Adviser.

"We will have to examine their The BoI will send the proposal to the proposal taking all the related matters negotiation committee headed by into consideration," Saifur told the Communications Secretary Shafiqul journalists after a Tata team led by Alan Islam and the negotiation committee Rosling met him at his secretariat office will examine it before submitting to the and presented him a copy of the revised ministerial committee headed by proposal yesterday. Motiur Rahman Nizami

"These are really win-win proposals which any government should accept with alacrity, speed and grace," Alan committee concerned will discuss it. Rosling said.

The group wants the government to say "yes or no" to the proposals by June 31 and set August 31 as the deadline to sign a full agreement.

The team comprising Tata's Executive Director Alan Rosling, Bangladesh Project Director Manzer Hossain, directors Sukran Sing, Makarand D Desai, Alok Tvagi also met Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Kamal Uddin Siddiqui and Communications Secretary Shafiqul

Islam They presented details of their proposal at an evening meeting at a city hotel.

The Tata group had signed an 'expression of interest" on a two billion dollar investment proposal with the Bangladesh government in October 2004 but negotiations over the proposals fell through over natural gas pricing.

Tata had sought gas for its plants at a rate cheaper than the Bangladesh domestic market rates, prompting the government to reject their initial proposals

The Tata deal is worth five times

Tata on April 20 last year formally

submitted the \$2.5 billion investment

proposal for setting up a 1,000MW

power plant, a steel mill with an annual

production capacity of 420,000 tonne

and a one million tonne capacity ferti-

several times before, appeared frail

but stood to read the oath without

any assistance during Sunday's

short ceremony, before he was

Gvanendra sacked the govern-

guided by Gyanendra to a seat.

Bangladesh's total foreign direct invest-

ment last fiscal year

liser unit in Bangladesh.

FROM PAGE 16

ers in Khulna district, as petrol pumps could not supply diesel on Saturday and until 6pm yesterday. Transport owners could not buy diesel from any of the 26 filling stations in Khulna City before vesterday evening.

According to dealers, over 500 petrol pumps in Khulna division were out of diesel, hampering the road and river transport services in the last two days.

Not a single drop of diesel is now being smuggled out of the country, said Khulna dealers and agents, because they are now united against the smugglers to safeguard their business. BOGRA

Our Bogra correspondent writes: Some oil dealers and filling station owners in the northern region have allegedly hoarded a huge quantity

Opposition lays

FROM PAGE 16

police and the BNP activists intercepted an AL procession heading towards local electricity office. Both the groups equipped with firearms and lethal weapons fought on the streets for about four hours.

Angry protesters attacked a nearby police outpost, ransacked the local Press Club and damaged at least 20 houses and 15 shops during the clash. Police charged batons, lobbed more than 30 teargas shells and fired 20 rounds of rubber bullet to disperse them.

In the capital, the opposition combine staged demonstration and brought out a procession. Addressing the rally, the opposition leaders accused that the BNP-Jamaat alliance government could not add a megawatt of electricity to the national grid due to corruption and mismanagement.

The opposition line-up laid siege to the electricity supply office in Khulna city from 11:00am to 11:30am yesterday, reports our staff correspondent in Khulna. The halfan-hour siege was followed by a rally.

The opposition activists also laid siege to the Narayanganj and Kishoreganj electricity supply offices protesting power shortage, report our correspondents.

That ban came a day after French President Jacques Chirac had ordered the asbestos-lined warship Clemenceau, on its way to India for scrapping, back home from the Indian Ocean.

Ship-breaking yards in Bangladesh dismantle up to 80 ships, mostly oil tankers, a year. Operating on Sitakunda beach, 25 kilometres or 17 miles north of Chittagong City, they directly or indirectly employ 300,000 people.

3 get death FROM PAGE 16

section 9/3 of the Women and Children Repression Act, 2000 for causing injury to Tania, a college student, and raping her after

three were also found guilty under section 302/34 of the Penal Code for conjointly murdering the victim. Their double sentences to death

shall run concurrently and be subject to confirmation by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, the judgment added.

The verdict was announced after examining 38 witnesses, the autopsy report and confessional statements of the accused in 13 working days. Tania's parents relatives, teachers and friends expressed their satisfaction on the verdict and demanded their immediate execution.

Earlier, human-chains, processions were organised and memorandums were submitted in Dashmina and Barisal demanding capital punishments to the killers. Processions were also brought out demanding immediate execution of the sentences after the verdict.

student of Dashmina Abdur Rashid Talukdar College. She was doing her studies from her uncle's home at Goalchini of Dashmina upazila. On September 20 last years, Tania became missing as she did not return from a private tuition at

ered on September 23 near a canal. Miraz and according to his confessional statement arrested Jafar and Nur Alam later

Shahadat was angry with Hanif as he (Hanif) drove Shahadat off Karwan Bazar and barred him from collecting jhut (garments by-products) from a garments factory of the area, a source said.

Some other sources said the accomplices of Pichchi Hannan might have killed Hanif as he helped police arrest Pichchi Hannan in 1998. He was in jail for eight months. Coming out of the jail on bail Hannan announced Tk 10 lakh reward if anyone could bring him the head of Hanif, the sources added. As the news of Hanif's murder

PT INKA has to supply 50 broad

gauge carriages for Bangladesh

The contract with IRCON, India is

for modernising the signalling and

interlocking system to a turnkey status

at 12 railway stations in the Akhaura-

Earlier, the cabinet committee on

purchase had turned down these

proposals and referred them to the

cabinet committee on economic

The communications ministry at

vesterday's meeting argued that the

proposals yesterday. One of them is for

relaxing the obligation of observing the

Public Procurement Regulations (PPR)

in leasing aircraft on an emergency

current fiscal year.

Force

spread, leaders and workers of AL and its front organisations along with several hundred traders brought out a procession at Karwan Bazar demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the killers.

Govt to break FROM PAGE 1 abduction. The judge also said the if the prime minister approves, for

Railway.

Sylhet section.

affairs.

carrying out four railway projects under the communications ministry, decided vesterday's cabinet committee meet

The Chinese company has been contracted to supply 80 metre gauge railway carriages under two contracts -one for 50 and the other for 30 carriages.

before the government imposed the bar against advances, and so the bar is not Tania Akter was a first year applicable for these particular projects. The cabinet committee on eco nomic affairs also approved two other

the college. Her body was recov-On suspicion police arrested

found selling at Tk 400, ruhi at Tk 420, small ruhi at Tk 110-120, koi at Tk 400-450, and taki at Tk 110.

Onion is being sold at Tk 25 a kg, which is Tk 5 higher than that of previous week, pulses at Tk 58, Tk 6 higher, gram at Tk 52, Tk 7 higher, garlic at Tk 110, Tk 20 higher.

Prices of almost all vegetables saw a sharp rise mainly due to shortage of supply and the lean season, traders at different kitchen markets said. Prices of potato, tomato, aubergine,

carrot, chilli, papaya went almost 20-25 per cent higher in just one week.

Traders and common people identified price hike of fuel and agriculture products including fertiliser and seeds as the major reasons for price hike of essentials. Hoarding of essentials by unscrupulous syndicates has also contributed to the hike, they said.

Siddique Hawlader, a vegetables trader at Karwan Bazar who buys vegetables from Savar and sells in the city, said, "It has become harder for us

May Day today

Chicago, USA, at the height of a prolonged fight for eight-hour workday. The day is a public holiday.

Trade unions, professional organisations and political parties in Bangladesh will observe the May Day by organising rallies, processions of workers and seminars in the capital and elsewhere in the country.

In 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions passed a resolution stating that eight hours would constitute a legal day's work from and after May 1, 1886. And that was achieved with blood spilled in a vigorous movement in Chicago.

The unions called a general strike tenders for the projects had been floated to achieve the goal, as the workers were being forced to work 10, 12 and 14 hours a day in the heydays of industrial boom.

> In Chicago, the heart of the movement, police and militia fired into a crowd of strikers at the McCormick Reaper Works Factory, killing four and wounding many on May 3, 1986.

The agitating workers called a basis to carry Hajj pilgrims in the mass meeting the next day at The other proposal is to waive the Haymarket Square to protest the obligation of abiding by the PPR in brutality. Police again fired into the procuring arms, ammunitions and crowd, killing one more worker and explosives for the Special Security injuring many others. A bomb was thrown at the police, leaving a police-

as customers are buying less at such high price. Now, if I sell the vegetable at less than Tk 8, it will not yield any profit."

Restaurant business is also suffering in the wake of price hike of vegetables, rice, meat, fish and other essentials.

"Despite the high price of food items we cannot increase the price of meals. So, to make some profits we try to adjust by lessening the quantity. Nevertheless, the profit is much less now," said Arif, a restaurant owner at Karwan Bazar.

Shortage of fuel supply halted movements of around 60 per cent inter-district vehicles on Saturday, mainly from the vegetables rich north ern districts.

vegetables supply until yesterday, but the impact may be severe if such situation continues for another two or three days, traders at Karwan Bazar

man dead.

Hares Miah, village Domra Kandi of President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Banchharampur of Brahmanbaria Minister Khaleda Zia and Opposition district. Leader Sheikh Hasina have given The four injured persons are separate messages on the occasion.

The president in his message said the May Day is a significant day for the workers of the world to celebrate the establishing of their rights. "The day has always been considered as the eternal source of inspiration for the workers to realise respect for their work." he added.

In a separate message the prime minister said in spite of a surprising progress in machines and technology, workers are still important in the areas of development, production and construction.

"To respect the status of workers is the politics of development-

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina called upon the workers of the country to form a united movement to save the countrymen from the existing mis-

Workers of Bangladesh Apparels Worker's Federation, National Garments Workers Federation and other organisations will hold separate

allured helpless Bangladeshi youths over the last four years by promising them a safe passage to Europe in exchange for money.

Many of the victims who went through various travel agencies remained stranded after being abandoned by their local agents and all of them sought to return home. Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment said in the press release.

At least 15-20 Bangladeshis met their tragic end on the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea while trying to reach Europe in makeshift boats.

Khurshed Ali, village Sungair of

Chhatak upazila of Sunamgaj dis-

trict, Mahbub Alam, son of Abdul

Latif, Tarakpur village of Mirzapur

thana of Tangail, Salah Uddin, son of

Abdul Majid, Palamganj village of

Dohar under Dhaka district, Shafiqul

Islam, son of Altaf Khan, Longodhala

Halim, village Purba Shasalia of

Chatkhil upazila under Noakhali

district and Mohammad Rezaul

Haque, son of Fazal Chowdhury,

Madham Mohishal of Bhedarganj

Friday on a bridge near Jeddah when

a bus was transporting them to

Madina

FROM PAGE 16

spoke at the rally.

21 a success.

The accident took place early

upazila under Shariatpur district.

Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 16

February 2005, accusing the administration of corruption and saying it had done too little to tackle the Maoist insurgency.

But the Maoists and a sevenparty opposition alliance joined together to mobilise hundreds of thousands on the streets during April in protests, which were often violently suppressed.

One man died in a New Delhi hospital Saturday from injuries sustained during a protest in Kathmandu nine days earlier, bringing the total killed in the 19

days of clashes to at least 16. Last week, Gyanendra buckled under the nationwide protests and agreed in a televised address to reinstate parliament dissolved in 2002, after earlier asking the opposition to name a premier.

Maoist rebel forces announced a

Power, water supply

village of Horirampur upazila of FROM PAGE 16

Manikganj and Based Miah, son of Suranjit Kumar Saha, regional director of Meteorological Department of Chittagong, said intermittent downpour is occurring at Cox's Bazar, Feni, Azhar Ali, son of Saher Beparai, Chittagong and Noakhali and the village Meghola of Dohar, Kader shortfall of rain is 10-17 percent. Dewan. son of Abdul Khaleque, 'We can expect rain within 10-15 village Charbeshanal of days," he said. Munshiganj, Ahmad, son of Abdul

Water transport between the district headquarters and 6 upazilas out of 10 including Naniachar, Longudu, Baghaichhari, Barkal, Jurachhari and Bilaichhari also snapped a week ago, resulting in miseries for commuters. The prevailing situation is hampering official business due to people's inability to reach their destinations on time, sources said.

Obaidul Quader Meanwhile, large launches closed down their operations due Bimal Biswas, Syed Zafar Sazzad, to fallen level of water in Kaptai Dilip Barua, MA Gani, Abdur Lake, Bangladesh Inland Water Rahman and Mofazzal Hossain Transport Authority (BIWTA) Chowdhury Maya, among others, sources said. Only small engine boats are plying with utmost The opposition leaders urged the caution from the district town to party leaders and activists to make different upazilas. Md the Dhaka siege programme on May Mohiuddin Selim, owner of a launch company, said, "We are

parts of the countryside, are seen as key to any long term solution to Nepal's problems.

There was no immediate word from them after Friday's short first sitting of parliament. The deputy speaker said that legislators would on Sunday discuss plans for elections to a new body to redraft the 1990 constitution.

The current constitution gives the king powers to dismiss the government and take control of the 90.000-strong military.

Banners at rallies have warned politicians that they are being closely watched to ensure there is no repeat of the king's power grab.

But analysts have warned of months of continued wrangling and potential instability because of the complex constitutional issues. The

king's future role remains unclear.

incurring heavy loses due to

disruption of launch communication in six upazilas." He said a three-member team of BIWTA, from Dhaka and

Chittagong visited Kaptai Lake two days ago. "We urged them to take immediate measures for dredging the lake.

Water supply by Public Health Engineering Department (DPHE) has also been disrupted for the last couple of days in the town, DPHE sources said. Executive Engineer of DPHE Md Abu Khaled told The Daily Star that they are continuing to supply water in an very difficult situation. "We have announced on Friday that the town residents should limit their use of water and not waste it," he said.

He said they are supplying only 7,50,000 gallons of water now instead of their usual supply of 16,00000 gallons to the town due to unexpected fall in the level of lake water and disruption in power supply. If heavy rainfall does not occur within a week, water supply will completely shut down, he added.

important to us, as we are confident in

production," she added.

rule

rallies in the city to mark the day

feared.

It did not have any impact on