### BNP men take control

Army men stationed at six places are supplying water from 30 lorries and have distributed about 20 lakh litres of water until 12:30pm, he said. The distribution points are Barnomala Adarsha High School and College, Dania Zero Point, Zia Sarani, Goalbari Crossing, Nurpur, and Nayapur.

The brigadier said they would continue providing the areas with water until the water supply by Wasa (Water and Sewerage Authority) becomes normal and the crisis

The army also will monitor installation of three water pumps and repairs of another three, Nizam said citing a meeting he had with the Waša management yesterday

Though satisfied with the temporary arrangement, locals doubt whether the Wasa water supply would ever become normal.

"How long will they supply us water like this," a housewife asked while receiving water from an army

The government should focus on a permanent solution to the problem, some other locals observed. expressing mistrust about Wasa's capacity.
HENCEMEN OF MP

#### Local activists of BNP and its wings, led by cadres of MP Salahuddin and aided by BNP men from other areas,

took control of the entire trouble

zone at about 3:00am yesterday,

sources said. Though they chased the demonstrators away from the Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Friday evening, it took several more hours

to get a hold on all the areas. The ruling party men under the banner of "common people" took out processions in the areas chanting slogans against the demonstrators, terming them terrorists and

Awami League cadres, and

#### Low voltage

FROM PAGE 1 the operation because of a dispute

over the ownership of the land where the pump was installed, said an official of the public utility service. About one lakh people of the area

have been going through an extreme water shortage for the last four months. While the people across many

areas of the city have become fed up with water crisis, a section of crooked Wasa employees reportedly sells water at a much higher rate, cashing in on the public misery.

Some locals of Mirpur said according to the government rates, a lorry of water should cost Tk 250, whereas a Wasa engineer charges between Tk 500 and Tk 1000 for it.

The city is no stranger to power shortage. But when it is accompanied by water crisis, the situation gets even worse. Meher Afroze Chini. an accounting student, observed.

"Why all the fuss is about Shanir Akhra. Even a posh residential area like Dhanmondi suffers power snaps at least six times a day. So, you see we too are hit hard by power and water crises," she told The Daily Star.

Asked what would be the Wasa's Shanir Akhra, Wasa MD Ali Azam said they will soon inform the media of its plans to ensure adequate water supplies in the city.

Many of the Sangram Parishad members and other community eaders did not stay at home on Friday night. Some of them even left their localities fearing attacks on them, Parishad sources said.

The cohorts of Salahuddin warned the people not to talk to the press and kept a close vigil on the monstration organisers.

You better leave, as they [BNP men] may create trouble if they see me talking to you," said a shopkeeper to a group of visiting reporters. Many of the local residents also refused to talk.

The Sangram Parishad built a stage at Bottola to hold a press efing at 11:30am yesterday.

Some leading cadres of Salahuddin demanded to take part the briefing. Refused, they vandalised the stage, Sangram Parishad Convenor Mesbah Uddin Mashud told the press.

When he was talking informally with reporters at Goalbari crossing at about 1:30pm, a group of 20 men rushed to the spot and tried to take

But, as some locals resisted their attempt to take Mashud away, the invaders stayed at the place and asked the reporters to take their

One of them, named Shariful Islam, said the demonstrators should be punished for causing a loss of about Tk 100 crore to the nation by blocking the highway, and for misguiding the residents of the areas and creating chaos. PARISHAD VOWS TO

#### REALISE DEMANDS

The Parishad has vowed to launch tougher programmes if the locals demands are not met within the next

The demands include solution to water and power crises, repairing of the Shanir Akhra water pumps, construction of a foot over-bridge demolishing illegal establishments, unconditional apology of Salahuddin, compensation of the injured, and the assurance that no case would be filed against them.

"Friday's protest brought a primary success, but we will not rest until our demands are met," Mashud told the press.

He alleged the BNP is trying to give a political colour to the movement, although it belongs exclusively to the 800,000 residents of Govindapur, Mridhabari, Matual and other adjacent areas.

The government has met the primary demand of water in a temporary manner, but we want fulfilment of the other demands too some standing nearby echoed

#### Transport strike FROM PAGE 16

districts from Wednesday last demanding cancellation of state-run BRTC bus services on these routes.

The leaders of the associations yesterday urged the authorities concerned to meet their demand. otherwise, they threatened to enforce an indefinite transport strike in 21 districts of the southwestern

## From gallop to canter

1.000 a tonne.

even do not use the Power Development Board's electricity. Arguably, captive power supply is also cheaper than grid electricity (An estimate says it costs Tk 3 to generate one unit of power with a captive diesel generator while the PDB tariff is Tk 5). But few are their numbers. Disparate smaller industries are solely dependent on the state electricity system and they

N Amin Textile Mills of Tongi said it has no generator and remains idle for up to five hours a day, cutting

production by 12 percent. That is not the whole story.

The workers leave the factory when power goes off because noone knows when it will come back When the electricity is back on, the factory has to look for the workers.

Factories such as Fashion Compiler Ltd in Narayanganj do not even let their workers leave the plant premises even if the outage starts. Its workers have to work longer hours, adding to overtime

The garment sector has claimed a production loss of about 50 percent to power cuts although their export figures do not tally with the claim.

Exports of woven apparels rose by 6.83 percent in July-January while knit apparel exports rose by 28.57 percent. But the industry says the figures could have been much higher without the production loss.

The devaluation of the taka is generally perceived to help exports, as a 17 percent growth in July-January shows. Then again, economists argue the exchange rate has little to do with export rises.

The steel industry is another hard-hit sector where the production cost has shot up by about Tk 7,000 a

Of about 100 steel mills, three have captive generators and the rest suffer long hours of power outage. As the taka has lost its value, their import cost of chemicals and scrap iron has increased by Tk

The fallout weighed on the construction sector that contributes 10 percent of GDP. They have to wait for 15-20 days to get the supply of cement and rod.

In about a month, rod prices went up by Tk 5,000 a tonne, cement prices by Tk 70, aluminium frames by 20-30 percent and sanitary wares by 70-80 percent. The completion of projects is uncertain. The clients suffer.

The flat line has appeared in the service sector due to the contraction in electricity and water and moderate growth in communications and other services, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry says in its latest review of the economy.

Load-shedding in the electricity sub-sector associated with problems in rural electricity as well as the mismatch between urban demand and power supply plagued the

The pharmaceutical sector, one of the big contributors to the QIP. has been doing reasonably well thanks to its protected market and the cost shifting to the consumers. But the cost of fund that rose by 1 percentage point in the last one month and constitutes around 12-13 percent of the value addition, has hit the industry across the table.

There was a drastic fall in yearon-year credit growth to the private sector from 18.07 percent to 14.9 percent in December last year. As if all this had not been

enough, the cascading effect of the tax on tax is now taking toll on the industries. An industry estimate shows the effective rate of tax on inputs has increased by more than 100 percent because of the current budget implications. The impact is now felt all the more because of the

## Condition improves

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The condition of Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman, who was admitted to Yashoda Hospital in Hyderabad on Friday following complaints of breathlessness, yesterday improved remarkably and he is fully conscious, a doctor attending the minister said.

urinary tract infection and is being administered antibiotics, cardiologist C Raghu told The Daily Star on

The temperature of Rahman was normal yesterday, he said.

discharged in a couple of days, Dr Raghu said, adding, "He is likely to be moved out of the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital this evening."

He said Rahman is responding well to the treatment and his orienta-

## outages spark riots in India

Eighteen people were arrested as protestors attacked electricity stations and government officials over frequent power cuts amid soaring temperatures in northern India, police said yesterday.

Residents across northern Uttar Pradesh state took to the streets late Friday, damaging government offices and clashing with officials after going without power for up to 14 hours, as temperatures crossed 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

"At least 18 people have been arrested for power riots from different parts of the state," Ghulam Abbas, police spokesman told AFP Saturday in the state capital Lucknow.

"We could not sleep the whole

night. We stayed awake waiting for the electricity, but it did not come," housewife Mini Banerjee said. Some others slept in air-

conditioned cars. "Children were crying. We made

said Rukmani Sharma.

prayers to a deity revered as the goddess of power. Officials blamed the cuts on soaring demand because of the

temperature. electricity against its requirement of 6200 MW. This paucity of 800 MW of electricity is leading to frequent power cuts." said Akhilesh Singh. a

Three power units broke down because of mechanical failure, adding to the paucity, officials said. The riots broke out shortly after the New Delhi government issued orders to offices and industries in the Indian capital to save electricity to cope with increasing demand.

Offices in New Delhi were told to unplug air-conditioners at 6:30 pm and shops ordered to shut down at

The warning came as India's Supreme Court asked the city and federal governments to say within two weeks what steps they would take to improve the power situation

#### BSF abducts

district from Baliamari border under Bangladesh territory when he went to the field for harvesting in the morning, reports a correspondent from Kurigram.

BDR's Baliamari BOP commander Sharif Uddin protested to the BSF on the matter and proposed a flag meeting. But the BSF did not respond or return the Bangladeshi.

## Jubo Dal leader

went out of his house Friday morning and he was missing since then, his family sources said.

His family members came to know about his death in Rab 'crossfire' from television news

Rab sources said following a tip off a Rab team around 12:30pm on Friday arrested Tapan from Chunkuthia Bazar in Keraniganj. On his information the team went

on a drive to recover illegal firearms with Tapan in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area yesterday where his accomplices opened fire on the team. Rab men retaliated and Tapan

somehow fell in the line of fire in an attempt to flee. He was bullet hit and he died on the spot. Rab recovered a revolver, two

rounds of bullet and a cartridge from Rab sources said Tapan had

several cases filed against him with Tejgaon Police Station.

## Voter roll controversy

every eligible person is enlisted. The difference between the numbers of voters on the draft and the final lists is very little. Possibility of deleting names from the list is also very little unless any specific allegation is lodged," a senior officer of the EC Secretariat told The Daily

Giving an example he said the draft voter list prepared in 2000 preceding the last general election had 7.48 crore voters and finally the total number of voters on the final list was not decreased, rather increased a little, although the list triggered a controversy of having over one crore fake voters on it.

"People are not interested to examine the draft list to identify fake or ghost voters and lodge complaints against those. So if one's name is enlisted, eligible or not, chances are very little of dropping his name from the list" said a district election officer wishing anonymity. In formal discussions on several

Secretariat confessed that some people register their names on the voter list suppressing information about their ages. The enumerators and supervisors are tasked with field level jobs of collecting information about

prospective voters and scrutinising

those. "If they do not check the

occasions, senior officials of the EC

information about prospective voters carefully, chances of inclusion of fake voters remain high," said an EC official. But the EC can force the enumerators and supervisors to check the information about prospective voters carefully in case of any detected negligence in discharging

their duties. It can also take punitive

actions against them. About any breach in discharging duties in connection with the preparation of electoral rolls, the Electoral Rolls Ordinance says he or she will be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to Tk 1,000 or with both for making false declaration during the preparation, revision and correction of an electoral roll.

The EC can take punitive actions

against any person if he or she provides false information to be

enlisted as a voter. If any official involved with the preparation of the voter list fails to perform his or her duty properly, he or she shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to Tk 5,000 or with both, says the Electoral Rolls Ordinance.

The preparation of the fresh voter list that began on January 1 triggered a controversy and has been challenged legally. Due to the enormity of the controversy the enumerators face difficulties in collecting information about prospective voters as there has been a heated debate on whether the electoral roll should be prepared afresh or the existing one should be

Besides, the enumerators and supervisors are in uncertainty from the beginning whether they will get remunerations for the tasks, which gave rise to insincerity in their jobs. For this, a large number of eligible people might have remained out side of the list and some ineligible persons might have got enlisted, district election officers said.

Like a significant number of eminent persons that includes Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil and some other AL lawmakers, many people in general have been left out of the draft list.

"Four people in our house are eligible to be enlisted as voters. But enumerators did not come to enlist us " Shifat Mawla, a schoolteacher who lives in Gulshan-1, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"It is a hassle to be physically present at the election office to enlist my name, the situation is rendering me deprived of the chance to exercise my constitutional rights. I am a voter on the existing list, then why my name will not be on the next voter list," she queried.

## Road accidents

director of the non-government development agency Samata, was heading with his family members for his village home in Pabna. When their car was on Tangail Bypass, a bus going to the opposite direction at a breakneck speed suddenly veered and rammed into it.

In Kader's opinion, "It was entirely the bus driver's fault." But no one has been punished so far for the untimely deaths of four young Thousands of others like Abdul

Kader lose their dear ones in deadly road accidents every year in the country. With the number of vehicles ng the frequency of road mishaps and casualties are also on the rise, say experts, referring to official figures. According to government statis-

tics, on an average, road accidents claim more than 10 lives a day. The official figure of deaths in such accidents a year is about 4,000. while many more are injured. Road accidents also cause an annual loss of over Tk 5,000 crore to the econ-

But, experts reckon the actual frequency, casualties and economic loss in road mishaps are far more than the government records. "Even the government figures show a rising trend of accidents," notes Prof M Mazharul Hoque, director of Accident Research Centre (ARC) of the Bangladesh University of

Engineering and Technology (Buet). Compared to three or less than three out of every 10,000 vehicles suffering accident a year in the developed countries, the figure is as high as 85.6 (for every 10,000 vehicles) in Bangladesh, shows the data of Road Safety Cell of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

Among a horde of factors, experts identify overloading and unfitness of vehicles, lack of awareness about road safety, and poor traffic management, law enforcement and training of drivers as the main causes of such a high rate of accidents.

inform the transport operators about the safety measures to reduce the number of accidents. But the police are responsible to ensure that those really are observed on the roads, says BRTA Director (Admin) M Shahidullah, adding, "We don't have the manpower to apprehend vehicles or check everyone's driving licence.'

He also admits that, in most cases, the people responsible for accidents go unpunished.

Shahidullah savs. "The trial and punishment of a driver or someone go for it."

**COLLUSION BARS JUSTICE** The post-accident role of police typically goes against the interests of passengers and victims, some transport owners tells The Daily Star

us. So, they prefer to protect the vehicle owners from legal and financial troubles and penalties, and thereby to make a fast buck." "We pay the police on a regular basis to safeguard our interests after accidents. The payment is

tion is beyond their control," a passenger coach owner claims. He says, "If the driver kills anyone, the protection money is usually

Tk 10,000." If the driver can flee the accident spot quick enough, before the

"But, if the bus or truck that met with the accident can't be evacuated faction to take it away. Otherwise, they would call in a wrecker and we have to pay a lot for the towing service," he details the inner workings of the nexus between police and transport owners.

#### Hasına

FROM PAGE 16

has let loose its "armed cadres" to resist the movement of people in Demra-Jatrabari area and then innocent people, including the AL

workers, are being arrested. "The local MP has created a reign of terror in the area. But the government doesn't know that oppression cannot stop a mass

Hasina urged the countrymen to wage a tougher movement to oust this coalition government.

#### PM flies

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Principal Secretary to the PM Kamal Uddin Siddiqui and Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin will accompany the prime minister.

Saifur Rahman, who was also on the PM's entourage, might not be able to go to Kuwait as he fell sick and was hospitalised in India during Khaleda will meet the Emir of the

programmes. oil-rich Gulf State, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, on May 8. The crown prince and the prime minister of Kuwait will be present at the meeting. Khaleda is expected to return home tomorrow night.

#### IOJ faction quits

FROM PAGE 16 with a 19-point demand.

The new party comprises Nezame Islam. Jamaatul Ulema Islam and Islami Sangram Parishad which were components of the IOJ, he claimed at a press conference.

Misbahur said BIOJ might join the Awami League (AL) led 14-party opposition combine before the next general election. "We had discussions with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina,

and we may join 14-party alliance to

free the people from the grip of

Khaleda-Nizami government. We

have some ideological differences

with the 14-party but we are ready to

compromise on those in the greater interest of the people," he said in reply to questions. He also said his party will go for a series of programmes from May 15 to August 15, protesting misrule of this government and demanding removal of the chief election commissioner and two other election commissioners to ensure free and

Terming the two Jamaat-e-Islami ministers war criminals, he demanded their ouster from the

The BIOJ plans to publish a white paper on 'ill activities' of Jamaat-e-Islami for about 60 years and make it public from a grand rally at Paltan Maidan on September 21, Misbahur

point demand includes trial of all political killings, adequate supply of gas, water and electricity and new Those present at the press conference included BIOJ vice

The newly floated party's 19-

chairmen Nurul Islam Khan and Mokhlesur Rahman Talukdar, and party leaders Maniruzzaman Rabbani, Firoj Ahmed, Yusuf Siddique, Sanaullah and Azaharul

asked the speaker to hold discus-

sion on the issues in the House, but

opposition lawmakers raised the

issues on point of order in every

#### JS body FROM PAGE 16

the speaker ignored it. During the ongoing session of parliament

working day.

Ctg taces FROM PAGE 16 to a record low. The Power Development Board (PDB) officials fear if the level went down any further the Kaptai Hydroelectric

Power Plant would shut down

completely, which it had experi-

enced 27 years ago. In 1979 the

plant was completely shut down due to falling of water level for 11 days. Four out of five units of the plant are out of order plunging millions in Chittagong and adjoining areas into

darkness. Chittagong received 360 MW of power yesterday against the daily demand of 510 MW, sources said.

Yesterday the lone functional 50 MW unit of Kaptai plant generated only 20 MW while Shikalbaha 60 MW plant supplied 40 MW. Rauzan Unit-1 and Unit-2 provided 170 MW and 120 MW and the two units of Shikalbaha Barge Mounted Plant capable of 28 MW each delivered

only 10 MW, sources said. They said the generation capacity of all these plants, provided they function to the full capacity, is 766 MW but the plants never reached their full capability owing to chronic mechanical glitches.

The units of Rauzan have a capacity of 210 MW each but mechanical faults and poor quality of machinery crippled the two since its inception. One of the two Shikalbaha Barge Mounted units is not functioning for years.

#### RU students

FROM PAGE 16

Sources said, at around 9:00am the students of the department brought out a protest procession on the campus followed by a sit-in in front of the department chairman's office They shouted slogans against Prof

RU VC Prof Altaf Hossain was going past the sit-in programme at about 11:00am to attend a freshers' reception in the same building when the students obstructed him demanding publication of the probe committee report and removal of the teacher responsible.

When the VC informed them that

the report, due to be made public yesterday, will be published within next 48-hours, the students became furious. At one point, they chased RU VC, proctor and other officials

chairman's office of the Zoology department where they remained confined for six hours. At around 5:30pm, students adviser Prof Zahid Hossain and Dean of Social Science Faculty Prof Sadekul Islam informed the agitating students that the VC has agreed to call an emergency syndicate

forcing them to take shelter at the

The protestors then let the VC go, but rejected the proposal and vowed to go with their movement until removal of the teacher respon-

## British chopper

stones from members of the crowd. who jumped for joy and raised their fists as a plume of thick smoke rose into the air from the crash site. The crowd also set at least one British

tank on fire. The chaotic scene was widely shown on in Iraqi state television and on the Al-Jazeera satellite

In violence elsewhere, a suicide bomber wearing an Iraqi army uniform entered an Iraqi base in Tikrit and detonated an explosives belt, killing an Iragi lieutenant colonel, a major and a lieutenant, and wounding a lieutenant colonel, said Iraqi Defence Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Abdul-Aziz Mohammed

The US command also

announced that an American soldier

was killed by the roadside bomb in Baghdad on Friday. At least 2,417 members of the US military have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003. Britain has about 8,000 troops based in the mostly Shia Basra area, and southern Iraq has long

been much less violent than Baghdad and western Iraq where Sunni Arab-led insurgents and al-Qaeda in Iraq launch many attacks against Iraqi civilians and US and But Grand Ayatollah Ali al-

Sistani, the Shia religious leader,

hasn't always been able to keep

growing anti-coalition fervour among Shia radicals under control. In September, British forces arrested two officials of Mahdi Army, the Shia militia loyal to radical Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, raising tensions in Basra. About a week later, militiamen and residents clashed with British troops after two

were detained by Iraqi authorities. British forces launched a raid to free the men and an Iraqi judge issued a homicide warrant for their arrest. British officials said that the warrant was illegal under Iraqi law and that their personnel were mmune to prosecution in Iraq.

British soldiers disguised as Arabs

The bomber in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit tarpolicemen. Police also found the geted a group of Iraqi army recruits bullet-ridden bodies a father and who had just finished their training and were being dispatched to another area of Iraq, Jassim said. Officials in Tikrit said the bomber apparently told guards that he wanted to see one of the officers and was admitted to the base withmiles northwest of Baghdad

The attack in the Sunni Arab city 80 miles north of Baghdad appeared to be part of a campaign by Sunni-led insurgents to discourage Sunnis from joining Iraqi security forces. The Bush administration hopes that newly trained Iraqi soldiers and police can one day improve security in Iraq enough to begin withdrawing US forces from the country.

In a bid to counter the US efforts. Sunni militants have targeted Sunnis who cooperate with the government, including Iraqi army and police.

Earlier this week, a suicide bomber killed two policemen and 13 police recruits in the Sunni city of Fallujah, police said. At least seven Sunnis who completed army basic training in Habanivah have been found dead in their hometowns of Ramadi and Khaldiyah, police said.

A roadside bomb also exploded Saturday near a Polish convoy in Diwaniyah south of Baghdad, wounding three soldiers. Poland's Defense Ministry said. Poland has about 900 troops in south-central Iraq, where it commands an international force.

In other developments Saturday according to police:

Suspected insurgents kidnapped seven Iraqis, including three paramilitary policemen, near the town where a roadside bomb killed three US service members the day before. Roadside bombs hit two Iraqi

one officer and wounding two policemen and six civilians. Two rockets or mortars were fired in northern Baghdad, one hitting a home and killing two chil-

Police in Baghdad found the

police patrols in Baghdad, killing

bodies of seven Iraqi men, five of them relatives from Iraq's Sunni Arab minority, who had been kidnapped and brutally killed. A roadside bomb in the northern city of Mosul wounded two Iraqi

dren and wounding a woman.

son who had been kidnapped earlier in the day. Iraqi and US forces searched shops for weapons and imposed a curfew in Rawah, a Sunni city 175

## **BSCIC** units hit

FROM PAGE 1 production losses. Factory owners said load shedding has become a part of the production process in the Tongi industrial hub. They said the power crisis has decreased production in the BSCIC area which is exacerbated by the fact that load shedding happens several

They said load shedding creates pressure on the durability of valuable machinery and hampers normal activity of the industry Small industries with little investments cannot afford expensive alternate power generators, they said.

times a day without any notice.

Pickers Ltd, a weaving and twistng factory, bought a second hand 40kv generator recently. "Load shedding occurs for three to four hours daily during our 20-hour working day. So we have no alterna-

tive to buying a costly generator," said Md Awlad Hossain Khan, manager of the company.

He said, "The power crisis has ncreased our production cost by Tk10,000 a month in the form of maintenance of the alternate power generator, while production has gone down to 15,000 pieces from our usual capacity of 30,000 pieces."

"I don't have the ability to afford an

alternate generator for my factory, Delwar Hossain, manager of N Amin Textile Mills said expressing his disappointment over frequent load shedding. N Amin Textile Mills has no generator. It depends on electricity pro-

company's monthly production

capacity of 80 thousands yards of

vided by the government.

textile products has gone down to 70 thousand yards due to the power Its 56 looms lay idle during a load shedding, the factory manager said. "For example some days ago power went out for 10 hours in the

area. My factory was shut down during those hours," he said. The power crisis is also hampering the concentration of workers in the production process. Most of the workers return to their homes during a load shedding. Delwar said, "This is another

problem I feel, the workers go to their

homes while power is unavailable in

the factory area. So, sometimes my factory faces shortage of workers when power comes back. Eastern Packaging Industry Ltd is also facing production loss due to the power crisis as it has no alternative

#### BNP lawmakers

Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain told the meeting that the bill should review the media's access about personal life of judges and criticism of court verdicts. Referring to the sensational

meeting as well as requested them Sharmin Rima murder case, he to withdraw their agitation said, "Sometimes the media tried to influence court verdict through their reports. The meeting, however, finalised

report on the Supreme Court Judges (remuneration and privileges) Amendment Bill 2006.

The company supplies packets to some renowned companies like ACI, Uniliver Bangladesh, and Reckit and Coleman. It usually produces 50 thousand packets a day which now

has come down to 30 thousand due power shortage, said Masawir lossain, manager of the company. As the persistent power crisis have been causing production losses in the BSCIC area, most of the com-

power generators in their factories. Companies like National Fans Ltd, Akij Printing and Packages Ltd and Uttara Apparels Ltd installed expensive generators to continue their production.

National Fans Ltd, one of the local fan manufacturers, installed two generators of 500kv and 200kv to tackle the acute crisis. The company manufactures 15000 fans daily during the peak season. It now spends Tk 50,000

extra a month for maintaining the generators, said an official of the "As the government has failed to provide us with smooth power supply, decided to use gas-run alternative power generators instead of government-supplied power in my factory with a production capacity of 50 lakh packets," said Md Shoyeb Kabir

assistant factory manager of Akij Printing and Packages Ltd The company installed two gasrun generators with capacities of 260kv each. It does not use government-supplied power for their pro-

After installing the generators the company was faced with a gas crisis few months ago. "During that time gas pressure was so low that packet production in my factory went down o 20 lakh pieces from 50 lakh a day,'

Shoyeb said. He, however, said now everything is all right. "I use gas instead of oil to run my power generators, price of gas is cheaper than oil."

#### Nagorik Committee FROM PAGE 1 sectors of the vision paper to its expert members.

At its meeting with the chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR) tomorrow, the committee wil raise the issues relating to use of black or undeclared money in the elections and the responsive role of NBR in handing relevant information on a candidate over to the Election Commission. Co-convenor of the Nagorik

chaired the meeting attended among others by Laila ັ Rahman Kabir Mahmudul Islam, Dr Mahmuda Islam M Hafizuddin Khan, Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Dr Iqbal Mahmud, Latifur Rahman and M Mujibul Huq. Dr Debapriya Bhattacharva

Committee 2006 M Syeduzzaman

executive director of CPD, attended the meeting as member secretary of the Nagorik Committee.

## tonne.

of Saifur

Rahman was diagnosed with

phone from Hyderabad.

"The minister is likely to be

# Power

In Lucknow, many people stayed up the entire night waiting for elec-

them sleep in the car with AC on." In Kanpur city, residents offered

The state gets 5400 MW of senior engineer with Uttar Pradesh Power Corp Ltd.

"We provide the guidelines and

Explaining the situation

else responsible for a road accident requires a lengthy investigative and judicial process. As most people know not the process so they don't "Besides," he points out, "as this is Muslim-majority country, in most

cases where the people killed in

accidents are Muslims, relatives

avoid, don't allow or even forcefully

resist autopsy of the bodies, though

t is essential for proving the guilt in

COPS-TRANSPORT **OWNERS** 

on condition of anonymity. And why is it so? In response. one of them says, "If police can help us evade trial, they get money from

made at a fixed rate per accident, unless it's too severe and the situa-

passengers, locals or law enforcers can catch him, he is saved -- rarely anything happens to him, another transport operator quips. from the spot before police arrive, we have to pay them to their satis-

movement," she said.

Finance and Planning Minister M