One killed in

A man was killed and four others

exploded at Dudhmukha Bazar

under Dagonbhuiyan upazila of

the district in the early hours of

was identified as Aziz, 45, a worker

22, Rahim, 50, Akbar, 41, and

Police and locals said the dead

The injured workers are Milon,

All the victims are from Borguna

They were working near the

Other workers of the mill com-

plained that the boiler exploded as

there was no meter for measuring

Valuables worth

At least 10 houses, a candle factory and valuables worth Tk 8.5 lakh

were gutted in a fire at city's Chaktai area early yesterday. Sources said the fire broke out at

round 2:00am at a thatched house

of Masjid Colony and spread fast

engulfing the adjoining nine houses

Six fire fighting units from city's

different fire stations rushed to the

spot and extinguished the fire after a

The fire was originated from

electric short circuits and damages

in the fire were estimated at Tk 8.5

Death anniversary

anniversary of

Hasina

Faruque, former teacher of

Tejgaon Govt

Girls' High

School and

the gas pressure in the boiler.

gutted in Ctg

Tk 8.5 lakh

CU CORRESPONDENT

and a candle factory.

wo-houreffort.

lakh, fire sources said.

oiler when the accident occurred.

boiler blast

in Feni

BSS, Fent

of the mill

Sekandar, 43.

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

11 killed in road accidents

At least 11 people were killed and 11 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Moulvibazar and Chittagong

Our Staff Correspondent reports: Four people were killed in separate road accidents in the capital yesterday.

Babu, 27, a bus helper, died

after falling from a Mirpur-bound speeding bus at around 10:30am near Mirpur Circle-10. According to witnesses, he fell from the bus after being hit by stones thrown by blockade activists.

In another accident, Yusuf Ahmed Polash, 24, was hit by a speeding truck while crossing a road at Badda Natun Bazar in the early hours yesterday.

An unidentified man aged around 50 was run over by a train at around 8:30am near Gandaria level crossing while walking on the rail line, witnesses said.

Another unknown woman, 33, was hit from behind by a private ment at around 10:00am while crossing the road.

All the four bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital UNB from Narayanganj says: A

young man and his son were killed and two of his family members injured in a road accident at Kanchpur on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday.

Police said Nurul Islam, 28, ward boy of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), and his son Joheb were killed, and his wife Nasima, 22, and their 13-monthold son Rahat injured as a truck ploughed through them in the morning.

They were waiting alongside the road for a tempo.

The injured were admitted to

the DMCH.

Outraged by the accident, locals damaged the truck and caught its driver and his helper. They were handed over to police.

The bodies were sent to Narayanganj General Hospital

Our Correspondent from Moulvibazar adds: Three people were killed and five others injured in a road accident on Moulvibazar-Fenchganj road under Rajnagar Police Station in Muolvibazar yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when one of two Sylhetbound trucks loaded with goods from Gaibandha tried to overtake other and fell into a roadside ditch at Telijuri, leaving three labourers dead on the spot and five others injured.

Few construction workers were also in the trucks. The injured were sent to Sylhet

Osmani Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

The identity of the dead and injured could not be known imme-

Police seized the trucks. CU Correspondent reports; Iwo people were killed and four others injured, one of them critically, in a road accident at Reazuddin Bazar in the port city

One of the dead was identified as Nazrul Islam, 45, a vegetable vendor, hailed from Char Fakir of Munshiganj upazila while identity of the woman aged about 28 could not be known. The injured are Mohammed Mizan, 35, Bilkis, 40, Shahidullah, 35, and Jahirul Islam,

Sources said the accident occurred when driver of a fishladen truck lost control on steering and ran over the roadside vendors and pedestrians at Reazuddin Bazar near Chittagong Railway Station at around 6:00am, leaving two, including a woman, dead and four injured.

The truck was going to Sadarghat from Satkhira district, sources said.

The injured were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Of the injured, condition of Bilkis was stated to be Police arrested driver Khokan

Gazi and seized the truck.

Ctg mayor's

call to

continue

UNB, Chittagong

ment, if necessary.

movement

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin

Chowdhury yesterday urged the

14-party workers to continue the

current movement and take prepa-

ration to oust the caretaker govern-

"The caretaker government has

so far failed to make any progress in

reforming the Election

Commission by removing the

controversial commissioners,

He was addressing a 14-party

Both the 14-party combine and

the BNP-led four-party alliance peacefully held their rallies in the port

city despite apprehension of violence.

foreign operators for modern

About the appointment of

including the CEC," he said.

rally at Laldighi Maidan.



British Minister of State for Trade and Investment Ian McCartney speaks at a discussion titled "Violence, Vulnerable Group and the Future of Human Rights in Bangladesh" at the residence of British High Commissioner in the city yesterday. On his left is British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury and on his right are Simon Lever, Shahidu Haque and Dr Hamida Hossain.

Taliban vow fresh attack after Afghan winter

offensive against foreign troops in

But the violence has tailed off sharply in recent weeks.

that's because the Taliban suffered heavy losses, particularly in fight-

eased off because the harsh Afghan winter had started earlier than

strategy for attacks on American and Nato occupation forces next

flowed with the seasons for

traditionally heralds a new round

like previous years, Taliban attacks have lessened," Dadullah said.

icy rain falling in valleys and snow on higher ground across much of the country in recent days.

fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar was in Afghanistan, personally leading the insurgency with other com-

Blockade relaxed at Chittagong port

cent of the cargoes are Dhaka

agents are disappointed with the

continuous blockade on the port.

Mainline operators (MLOs) might

take an unfavourable decision

regarding Chittagong port if the

He said two of his company's

"Why should we suffer for the

adding that the port is responsible

ships are waiting at the port for more

Ship owners and shipping

Afghanistan says Omar and other top Taliban members are

Most of the casualties have been of them were civilians. More than 150 foreign troops have also been killed, most of them American,

Fighting was particularly heavy the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar. Nato said hundreds of Taliban were killed in a two-week offensive in Kandahar in September.

attacks on the United States

Tamim's solo exhibition starts tomorrow BSS, Dhaka

The first solo painting exhibition of young artist Jalilor Rabbi Tamim will begin tomorrow at Alliance

The opening ceremony of the exhibition will be held at 5:30pm, said a press release. The exhibition vill run till December 7. Eminent art critic Prof

Burhanuddin Khan Jahangir will inaugurate the exhibition as the

Française in the city.

chief guest while renowned artist Shishir Bhattyacharya will be present as special guest.

for handling goods and they do not

care how and through whom it

handles the cargo. "We just want

the containers handled quickly,"

line operators take a negative

decision that will be bad for the

take any decision in this regard,

they are very likely to come up with

tough retaliatory actions within a

couple of days because they suf-

fered a huge loss due to the work

port also on a limited scale yesterday.

including Benapole, however

remained suspended stranding

hundreds of trucks on both sides of

the border. An immense amount of

perishable goods on the trucks are

Barakat said seven important

ministries will come under the

Election Commission after the

rotting, according to sources.

Cargoes were handled at Mongla

Activities at all land ports,

country's economy.

stoppage at the port.

Alam observed that if the main-

Although the MLOs have yet to



poet, litterateur and journalist Abdur Rashid Waseqpuri will be held at his village

Chehlum of

He passed away at the National Cardiac Institute and Hospital at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city on

Annual general

19th annual general meeting of National Polymer Industries Limited will be held. Venue: BETS Centre,

Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and civil society members will stage a demonstration as part of their 'Blue for Peace' programme. Venue: Rajuk

electoral reforms. Venue: Manik Mia Avenue. Time: 10:00am.

Bangladesh Homeworkers Women

Medicine launch

Police club activists of Jatiya Party (Ershad) at Bijoy Nagar in the city yesterday during the blockade programme Resist conspiracy

abstention RU CORRESPONDENT

RU employees

continue work;

All the academic and administrative activities of Rajshahi University (RU) came to a halt as university officials and employees yesterday passed the 4th day of the five-day work abstention to press their five-

Several hundred agitating officials and employees of RU under the ban-ner of 'Officers and Karmachari Oikya yesterday staged a sit-in in front of the Administration Building.

The demands include immediate confirmation of the jobs of 31 employees who were appointed on January 15, 2002, extension of service age to 65 years and cancellation of the decision of 20 per cent reduction in pension.

Parishad leaders criticised the authorities for not realising their demands for a long time. Parishad President Mirza Wazed

Hossain Beg and General Secretary Ayub Ali addressed the rally. Meanwhile, RU Public Relations

Office yesterday issued a notice that says that the RU authorities met the agitating officials and employees' demands. But Parishad President denied any settlement with authorities.

against polls

Professionals urge people

Leaders of Sammilita Nagarik Andolon and Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad yesterday called upon all to continue their movement for resisting anykindofconspiratorial election.

They urged the caretaker govnment to act as an independent and neutral entity and not to stand as the adversary of the people by acting as subservient to the vested They also demanded holding of

a free and fair election reforming the caretaker government and election commission and withdrawal of all appointments and transfer in the civil and police administration done by the BNP-Jamaat alliance government on political consideration.

The demands were made at a rally held in front of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) on the third day of the third phase of their agitation programmes for realisation

ble election in the country.

14-party leaders Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haq Inu and Nagarik Andolon and Peshajibi Parishad leaders Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Nasir Uddin Yusuf, Dr Quamrul Hasan Khan, Prof ARM Faruque, Golam Quddus, Dr Neem Chandra Bhowmik, Dr AFM Ruhul Haq, ex-Ambassador Waliur Rahman, Agronomist Nazrul Islam. Nazmul Haq Pakhi, Shafiqul Bahar, Abul Kashem Palash, Rina Akhter, Dr Iqbal Arsenal, Fakir Sheikh Ziauddin Ahmed, Principal Mohammad Ali Chowdhury, Engineer Abdus Sabur, Eng Yafes Usman, Abdus Samad Pintu and Mohammad Humayun Kabir addressed the rally.

The speakers criticised the role of the chief adviser and said that the people of the country would not accept any election under the blue printleft by the BNP-Jamaat alliance.

noted that human trafficking is a

significant problem in Bangladesh

where the poor and the vulnerable

groups are the victims of exploita-

has already been forwarded to the

the ticket of four-party alliance.

In his resignation letter dated November 16, the judge has cited personal reasons for his resigna-

On October 3 last year, he narrowly escaped a powerful bomb attack by militants in his

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Social worker Golam Sarwar greater Bakalia Ward Mostafizur at around 12:30am yesterday at the He left behind his wife, three

sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his After a namaz-e-janaza on

at noon, Mintu was laid to rest at the Barodighi Graveyard near his

expressed deep shock at the death of Mintu and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

summer ... The suicide and other REUTERS, Spin Boldak attacks will intensify as the weather The Taliban are plotting a fresh gets warmer," Dadullah told Reuters by telephone from an

Afghanistan when the bitter winter ends early next year, a top Taliban commander said yesterday. The Taliban have this year

unleashed the worst violence against the Afghan government and foreign troops since the hardline Islamists were ousted from power in late 2001.

Afghanistan's Nato force says

ing in the south in September. But Taliban commander Mullah Dadullah said their attacks had

"The Taliban are drawing up our

undisclosed location. Afghan fighting has ebbed and

decades, tailing off during the late November to March winter when mountain passes get snowed in. The melting snow in the spring

of violence. "It's difficult to stay longer in the mountains in winter ... that's why,

Winter set in early this year with

The one-legged Dadullah said

directing the insurgency from sanctuaries across the border in Pakistan, Pakistan says no Taliban leaders are there. More than 3,700 people have been killed in Afghanistan this year,

according to a recent report drawn up by Afghan and foreign officials.

militants but more than a quarter British and Canadian.

More than 40,000 foreign troops

are in Afghanistan, the most since US-led troops routed the Taliban in the weeks after the September 11

says a press release. She was the wife of Dr ASM Humayun Faruque, former direc-tor of Mittord Hospital and the Institute of Public Health

Relatives, colleagues, admirers, friends and students have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Shaheed Anwar Girls' High School,

Masudur Rahman



controller of Rationing Department and exheadmaster of Ghorasal Pilot High School, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil, Qurankhwani and discussion will be held at Ghorasal.

Chehlum



Waseqpur at Sonaimuri in Noakhali tomorrow, says a press release.

October 13. Friends, and admirers are requested to attend the chehlum.

DHAKA TODAY

meeting

Dhanmondi, Time: 11:00am. Blue for peace

Avenue. Time: 4:00pm. Human chain Campaign for Good Governance will form a human chain demanding

Workshop

Association will organise a workshop titled 'Identity cards of home based workers'. Venue: Shawnirvar Bangladesh, Lalmatia. Time: 9:30am.

ICDDR,B will launch a medicine for the

treatment of diarrhoea named 'Baby Zinc'. Venue: China Bangladesh Conference Centre. Time: 12:30pm.

of their demands for holding a credi-Accountable leadership vital

programme on human rights. The traditional friendly nation can also provide more funds for human rights-related programmes, McCartney said, adding that the British businessmen can also contribute to the process.

The British minister made the

observations following open dis-

cussions by the human rights

activists on the human rights situation in Bangladesh. Taking part in the discussion, Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK) Acting Executive Director Hamida Hossain said extra judicial killings by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and by the police were serious violation of human rights in

Bangladesh in recent times. Noting that partisan administration and use of illegal arms during the elections are the reasons behind political violence, she added that electoral reforms and corrections in the present voter list are the major issues at present for reducing violence in the next polls. Only a few cases of bomb and

since 1990 were investigated and the culprits convicted, Hamida Hossain said, adding that the links of many ministers with the Islamist militants were not revealed. Endorsing the speech of Hamida Hossain, The New Age Editor Nurul Kabir said one of the major reasons behind the rise of

Islamist militants in the region is

Anglo-American foreign policy in

grenade attacks in the country

political parties of the country have compromising attitudes towards the religion-based political parties, he alleged adding, "We need a total reform of education system, including that of the curriculum." Hindu, Buddhist, Christian

Unity Council General Secretary Dr

Nim Chandra Bhoumick said there

are discriminations in the civil and

military services and in the admission process in the universities. A good number of people from the minorities are excluded from the current voter list and a large number of Hindus have left the country in fear of persecution, he said. They are persecuted on regular basis even today, he further

Talking about the condition of indigenous people of the country, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong said that they are subject to regular exploitation. The influential people and even the government snatch away the traditional land of the indigenous people, while their cultures are not given due respect by the majority, he noted.

Drong also said that the indigenous people do not have constitutional recognition and are deprived of social and political representations, adding that the major articles of the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord were not implemented. International Organisation for

Migration (IOM) Regional

Representative Shahidul Haque

test postponed BSS, Dhaka

Health Economics (MHE) of the session scheduled to be held tomorrow has been postponed. Fresh date will be announced

MHE admission

He also suggested recognising river erosion as a natural disaster and take actions accordingly as a number of people become internally displaced every year due to

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) Executive Director Salma Ali suggested more coordination between the ministries and police trainings in implementing the support services for the women and chil-

dren victims of violence. Simon Lever of the high commission, Advocate Adilur Rahman of Odhikar, Suman Sengupta of Save the Children UK and Advocate Akram Hossain Chowdhury also spoke at the programme.

The admission test of the Master of Institute of Health Economics of Dhaka University for 2004-05

soon, said a press release.

gantry cranes at the seaport, he demanded immediate cancellation of the agreement signed with Saif Power Tech to this effect. "Export-import through the port will be allowed for three days if the agreement with Saif is cancelled," he said. Loading and unloading at the port continued yesterday amid the block-

ade, but delivery of goods remained

suspended since the 14-party

enforced its 3rd spell of siege Monday. Chandpur judge tenders resignation to

contest polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur Deepan Dewan, a joint district judge in Chandpur, has tendered his resignation recently with a view to contesting the forthcoming general election from his

hometown Rangamati, court sources said yesterday. He has submitted the resignation letter to the government through the District & Sessions Judge, Chandpur and the letter

higher authorities. The sources also said that he is likely to contest the election on

tion, official sources said.

Mintu, son of former chairman of Rahman, passed away due to old age complications at his residence

Master School premises at Bakalia

of caretaker government himself, the BEAgeneral secretary said. City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, former minister fails to do his job properly, he is Abdullah Al Noman, Chittagong answerable to the president. But Press Club President Abu Sufian, when the president himself is the caretaker government chief to Chittagong Union of Journalists whom he will be made answer-(CUI) President Shahid-Ul Alam able?" he added. and General Secretary Reaz Haider Replying to queries, the BEA general secretary said five deputy

at the jetty, according to sources. situation does not improve imme-Over 70 vessels are waiting at the diately, said Captain Shah Alam, jetty and at the outer anchorage for managing director of Vega Marine loading and unloading. Out of those, Shipping Agent. 26 are container carriers while the

Bangladesh Economic Association President Dr Kholiquzzaman Ahmad

speaks at a press conference at National Press Club in the city yesterday.

The situation at the port is very than 12 days and another one is bad as discharging of goods at the scheduled to arrive on November 24. outer anchorage was also slowed Alam said the shipping agents down as those goods could not be are also annoyed about the existing The port is also overburdened deadlock at CCT centring the

dispute over operating the gantry with a huge stockpile of containers in the yard. Around 18,000 containers are stockpiled in the container yard. dispute between port workers and private companies?" he asked Allowing delivery of goods up to Chittagong city will not help much

Meanwhile, the port became

almost inactive due to the ongoing

Handling of goods continued on

limited scale yesterday but no

goods were delivered. Two ships

left the port and two other arrived

to ease the congestion as 90 per-

The BEA, however, said there is still

possibility of holding a free and fair

election and it depends on the

neutral activities of chief adviser of

critical by becoming the chief adviser

election commissioners out of nine

at the divisional level have associa-

Whenever the chief adviser

the caretaker government.

now and its possible solution.

rest are general cargo carriers.

delivered from the city.

Changes in local admin important tions with immediate past government while most of the deputy commissioners who will become

returning officers during the elec-

tion also have the party affiliation. Of nearly 1,107 election job BEA General Secretary Dr Abul related people who are posted at different levels from the Election Barakat presented a paper at the press conference delineating the Commission to thana/upazila, critical situation the country faces majority are party activists and they can be utilised to implement The president has made the the election engineering plan of the present political situation more immediate past government, he

> (upazila nirbahi officer) were appointed by the Public Service Commission during the four-party alliance government, he said, add ing that about 25 per cent of them were accused of criminal offence. "There is still possibility of utilis ing the present set of officials work-

the four-party alliance," he said.

ing at different levels of the government to exercise their power to do

As many as 324 of the 450 UNOs

announcement of the election schedule and five secretaries of these seven ministries have party connections. This is a part of the previous government's plan for election engineering, he said. Asked about the publishing of a

the immediate past government, Barakat said the last caretaker government chief initiated such a move at their first advisory council meeting. Changing the chief election

commissioner is now less impor-

tant than who will replace him, BEA

President Quazi Kholiquzzaman

white paper on the corruption of

Ahmad said. Now it is very important to hold a free and fair election in the country to overcome the economic the election engineering in favour of crisis, said the BEA president who presided over the conference.