The Daily Star

Road accidents kill 8 in Dhaka, Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least eight people were killed and 65 others were injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka and Sylhet districts yesterday.

Of them, five were killed in Sylhet and the rest three in Dhaka.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet reports: Five people were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident at Dakurmohal under Osmani Nagar police station on Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday morning.

The accident occurred when a Habiganj-bound passenger coach from Sylhet collided head on with a bus coming from Brahmanbaria at about 9-30 am.

Three persons died on the spot while two others succumbed to their injuries at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Of the injured, 20 were admitted

to the hospital. On of the dead was identified as Bidyut Chakrabarty, 42, of

Nayasarak of Sylhet town. The identity of two others could not be

Clash between 2 groups leaves 30 hurt in Sirajganj

UNB, Sirajganj

known

Some 30 people were injured in a clash between two groups of people at Chandrakona village in Sadar upazila here yesterday. Witnesses said the clash erupted

at about 3:30 pm when supporters of Mafzal of the village equipped with lethal weapons launched attack on his son-in-law Motaleb.

Motaleb had a quarrel with his wife Sufia on Thursday night following his third marriage. Thirteen of the injured were

admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital Condition of five injured people --

Motaleb, Abu Taleb, Milon, Abul Hussain and Moti -- was stated to be critical

A case was filed with local police in this regard.

police on the plea of searching it to

nab a terrorist. Taveb. Saikat said.

"One of them confined my mother in

a room and three others entered the

bedroom to wake up my sleeping

father. When my father woke up, he

was forced to come to the drawing

room. The killers asked him whether

Tayeb was inside our house" Saikat

FROM PAGE 12

said.

They killed my father

leaders UNB, Dhaka In Dhaka, three people were

killed and more than 35 injured in a head-on collision between two buses on Dhaka-Maowa road in Kadampur area under Keraniganj upazila vesterday. The identity of the dead could not

be known.

Keraniganj police said the mishap took place when an Ichapurbound bus from Dhaka rammed another bus coming from opposite direction, killing two on the spot and injuring at least 36.

All the injured were admitted to Sir Salimullah and Dhaka Medical College Hospitals and one of them died after admission. Police seized both the buses. A

case was filed with local police station. 8 robbers held in Savar

UNB, Savar

Police arrested eight robbers from different areas in Savar upazila Thursday night Acting on a tip-off, police raided Ghoshbagh area on Tongi-Ashulia

road at about 11 pm and nabbed four dacoits. There smuggled sarees worth about Tk 4.37 lakh were recovered from their possession. The robbers looted the sarees from various areas on the road. In another drive, police arrested

four more dacoits in the early hours of Friday from WAPDA road area in the municipality while they were preparing to commit dacoity at about 30 am.

The arrested were identified as Sajal, Milon, Humayun, Abdur Rab, Jahangir, Halim, Jalil and Mosharraf Separate cases were filed with the police.

Businessman

FROM PAGE 12 Following the killing, BNP supporters along with local people staged a demonstration and put up barricade on Bayezid Bostami road, disrupting traffic for two hours. Police, however, restored road

communication at about 4 pm after removing the barricade. A case has been filed with local police station in this connection

of copving by students during exam-

ination. "My father was a man of

strict principles and never bowed

good qualities and principles, the

college committee took him again in

1989 and made its principal. He

worked there until his assassina-

the then BNP government in 1993

for plantation work in and around

grab the college property. I think one

of the reasons for killing my father

might be to forcibly fell the valuable

"I feel proud that my father was a

during the War of Liberation,

Gopal Krishna set up a girls

school at his village Roshangiri

under Fatikchhari thana. He was a

former student of Nazirhat college.

He earned fame and respect from all

classes of people for his contribu-

tive of age, cast and creed took to

streets and staged protests

demanding immediate arrest of the

arrested four FIR-named accused.

Police are questioning the

killers and their punishment.

After his killing, people irrespec-

tions as a teacher.

"The vested groups were out to

tion" Saikat said.

trees

"In recognition to my father's

down to any pressure" Saikat said.

Hasina: blueprint

NEWS

FROM PAGE 12

PM hosts *iftar*

for political

Bhaban yesterday.

Dr Awlad Hossain

ers.

party were not seen at the party.

secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim,

Workers Party leader Rashed Khan

Menon, GM Qader of JP. Samvabadi

Dal leader Dilip Barua, Gano Azadi

League president Abdus Samad JP

leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed and

Shafiul Alam Prodhan of JAGPA

attended the function, among oth-

Four-party coalition leaders, including Matiur Rahman Nizami of

Jamaat, Naziur Rahman of JP (MF)

and Shaikhul Hadith Azizul Hug of

Pro-VC of Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Pro-Vice Chancellor of Khulna

University Prof Zafar Reza Khan has

"I have resigned on health

ground and not under political

pressure", he told this correspon-

dent on Thursday night.

The prime minister exchanged

IOJ were also present.

Universitv

resigns

resigned

18.

November 21.

indicated.

and corrupt practices.

greetings with the guests.

as the coalition regime and its administration remained silent about the crimes of ruling party terrorists, resulting in terrible breakdown of law and order." Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hosted Victims are not getting any help an iftar for political leaders and from the administration or police

lawmakers at Prodhanmantri about redress for their sufferings, she observed. Opposition leader and Awami Turning to the country's eco-League President Sheikh Hasina as nomic scenario, the former prime well as other leaders and MPs of her minister said her government had put the economy back on the right The invitation card to the Awami track with positive and rising indica-League chief was reportedly tors in all economic and social received by her personal assistant sectors.

She mentioned the lowest infla-Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin tion at 1.59 per cent against 5.6 per Sircar, Gano Forum President Dr cent during the preceding BNP rule, Kamal Hossain, CPB president highest ever GDP of 6.5 per cent Manjurul Ahsan Khan and general against 4.5 per cent of BNP and the country's firstever self-sufficiency in food, during AL rule.

Besides, literacy rate went up to 67 per cent from 47 per cent and per capita income to US\$ 386 from US\$ 200. Prices of essentials remained stable.

Hasina also informed the WB executive that her government's reform and pragmatic steps had increased exports, revenue collection and developed human

Upazila election

'as soon as possible".

As part of the move, the EC at a meeting last month decided that it would announce the schedule for Upazila election on December 31. The EC has planned to hold the election to 463 Upazila Parisads in a staggered manner in 10 days.

Prof Zafar joined the university on June 14 this year as its first prore-empowerment giving it "absolute vice chancellor. He was asked by authority" to hold Upazila election. the chancellor to act as vice chancellor from August 29 to November According to sources, Prof Zafar tenure withdrawing the EC's "absowas 'pressed' to resign for 'political lute authority" to hold election and reasons'. Failing to put up with the heavy pressure allegedly by a group

aovernment ministry. of ruling party leaders, he sent his resignation letter to the Chancellor five-member high powered committhrough the vice chancellor on

FROM PAGE 1

Moudud says

Black laws may be scrapped in next JS session

Campus sources said, the pro-

vice chancellor incurred displeasure

of pro-BNP teachers for taking

'some bold steps' to free the univer-

sity administration of politicisation

UNB, DHAKA

"My father received awards from Black laws, including the much-talked-

reformed for smooth delivery of justice.

were given to the Awami Leaguers.

Referring to the qualities of Public

Emphasising the importance of appointing PP and APP from the specialist lawyers, the minister said the government

initiated steps to establish a free inde-

his native resources. Micro-credit and social village in schemes improved economic status of the poor and women and Munshiganj strengthened rural economy.

About privatisation, she said her UNB, Dhaka government privatised a number of

industries, including Machine Tools Factory at Joydevpur, Khulna Shipyard and some textile mills, which started making profit. Besides, monopoly on the telecommunications sector was removed allowing operations of several private mobile phone companies.

On a query about power sector, Hasina said the Awami League government also brought about reforms in this field encouraging

of electricity by 1200MW. Electricity was made available for 30 per cent of the population, up from the previous 15 per cent.

Representative Frederick Temple, Awami League International Affairs Secretary Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Press Secretary Jawadul Karim were present in the meeting.

FROM PAGE 12

After the October 1 general election. the FC in consultation with the Local Government and Rural Development Ministry initiated a move to hold the Upazila election

ity" to hold Upazila election. Young man FROM PAGE 12 gossiping at Wireless Gate at about

12:30 am and started firing on them Meanwhile, the government is considering a bill seeking EC's indiscriminately. The gang left the scene, leaving the three injured with bullets The immediate past Awami Sources said the incident took League government passed a bill in place following a rivalry among the parliament at the fag end of its

gave certain powers to the local The government has formed a

Zimbabwe win first ODI

Wishart and Carlisle stabilised the rocking boat, putting on 105 runs for the fifth wicket. The stand was a lesson for the

reckless Bangladesh batters about how to graft and then pick up the pace.

The entertaining Wishart also hit the game's two sixes along with eleven boundaries. Besides, he also blasted 17 runs off spinner

The rot started with the fall of young opener Ashraful, who was run out after a terrible mix-up with Al-

Debutant Tushar Imran struck a beautiful four through the covers off paceman Heath Streak, but paid the price of playing one too many a shot.

Sanwar Hossain struggled to make five in his comeback match after three years and Khaled Mahmud, recalled after his

three wickets apiece for Zimbabwe.

Both teams returned to Dhaka last night to play the remaining two day-night affairs on November 25-26. Bangladesh selectors meanwhile have made no change in their 14-man squad for the second

(Scoreboard and other stories on Page 13)

Shahriar sent to jail

court yesterday afternoon.

Sources said he was questioned

A number of people, including

ment at the airport, but nobody,

including family members, were

The police officials failed to give

In a hurriedly called press confer-

ence at the National Press Club

yesterday afternoon, the leaders of

Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee

strongly condemned the detention

of Kabir and demanded his immedi-

Blasting the government for the

ay Kabir was harassed without

Terming the detention as undem-

any specific charge, they expressed

ocratic, they threatened public

protest if Kabir was not released

soon. "We will also go for legal

action against his detention," Prof

the people know on what ground

Kabir was arrested. "We also want

to know why people tried to conceal

the government and is not expected

in a democratic country," he said

and added that the democratic right

of Kabir has been seriously violated

Prof. Muntasir Mamun, Tagore

Awami League General

Secretary Zillur Rahman in a state-

ment yesterday strongly con-

demned the arrest and harassment

of Kabir without any specific

charges and demanded his immedi-

Bangladesh Hindu, Bouddha

Christian Okiya Parishad has

decided to observe countrywide

'protest day' on November 29 to

demand the release of writer-

columnist Shahriar Kabir and pro-

meeting of the executive body of the

Parisad held at Dhakeswari Mandir

vesterday. The meeting expressed

deep concern over, what it termed.

the post-election attacks on minori-

also condemned the arrest and

demanded immediate release of

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi

The decision was taken at a

test the attacks on the minorities.

xponent Wahidul Haq and Prof

He wanted the government to let

"This is an autocratic action by

Kabir Chowdhury said.

the incident.

ate release.

grave concern over the incident.

any official version of his arrest till

allowed to see him.

Friday afternoon.

ate release.

FROM PAGE Central Jail.

Shahriar Kabir was detained by on different political issues, particuthe Special Branch (SB) of police at larly the reasons of his Kolkata trip the Immigration Desk of Zia and the comments he made on the International Airport on his return issue of atrocities on the minority in from Kolkata and confined at the the country. airport police station without any specific charge on Thursday night friends, relatives and family mem-He was sent to the jail yesterday bers of Kabir desperately tried to afternoon after being produced contact or meet him since confinebefore the CMM's Court.

Airport police sought onemonth's detention. But the Magistrate M M Mamunur Rashid, sent him to jail pending decision by the District Magistrate. In his order, the CMM said that

leader as head of state in their the District Magistrate's Court was the proper authority to pass detention order. "As the District Magistrate's Court is closed today, the decision regarding the issue would be finalised on a working day," he said.

When contacted, airport police President Chowdhury went to his said that Kabir was arrested under family graveyard and prayed for Section 54 of the CrPC. They said salvation of the departed souls of his that SB confined him on his arrival from Kolkata and was kept in their He offered his Juma prayers at custody. The duty officer of the Majidpur Daihata Mosque and thana added that they were yet to returned to the capital in the afterbring any specific charges against noon, said a Bangabhaban press him.

> Police also seized Kabir's passport, five video cassettes, some audio CDs and cassette, his camera and film and are examining those.

Despite repeated calls, officials at the Immigration Department at the airport declined to make any comment on this issue. Neither the Home Minister nor any SB high official could also be contacted for their comments on Kabir's confinement till late Thursday night.

through this incident. Additional Inspector General SB Masudual Had confirmed to The Daily Star last night that Kabir was arrested at midnight Thursday on Anisuzzaman spoke on the occasion, among others. They all concharges of his involvement in antistate activities. He however did not demned the incident and demanded offer any details about this. Kabir's immediate release.

nigh. The dead was identified as When asked under what law Shahriar Kabir was arrested, Rezaul Karim Hashu, 33, former auditorium secretary of BAU stu-Minister for Law. Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Moudud Ahmed who was attending Two others, identified as a workshop at the Dhaka Reporters Mahbubur Rahman and Minto, were Unity yesterday told the journalists that he did not know the details Campus sources said the clash

about the case began when Hashu and his support-Shahriar Kabir went to Kolkata ers were attacked at Jubber More on November 11. While there, he on the campus at about 7-30 pm. gave an interview to the BBC radio Both the groups exchanged at least on the minority issue in which he 30 bullets during the clash, sources claimed that many Hindus have crossed over into India after the Additional police have been recent incidents of attack on the deployed on the campus to avert minorities. This has irked the gov-

ernment, sources speculated. On Thursday night, after interrogation at the airport thana, Kabir was taken to the SB headquarters at Malibagh at about 11:45 pm where he was interrogated for another couple of hours, sources said, Kabir was kept at SB office overnight and was produced before the CMM's

Taliban in Kunduz

Kabir.

FROM PAGE 1 ment approved by a traditional Loya Kunduz to oversee the surrender. Jirga (grand assembly) and repre-"Our troops are on the way to Kunduz," Dostum said yesterday

senting Afghanistan's many rival ethnic groups. Four rival groups will retire to a hilltop hotel in Bonn for up to two weeks of talks aimed at naming a small interim council to oversee the transition from the defeated leader-

members of the gang over capture of Wireless Gate Tempo Stand. Montu's elder brother Abdur Rahim filed a case with Gulshan police station in this regard, but none was arrested till filing of this report last night.

the EC. **OUR CORRESPONDENT,** A ruling party source said the Mymensingh current session of parliament will pass a bill seeking re-empowerment A leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal of the EC giving it "absolute author-

tee to review re-empowerment of

midst The president shook hands with them, inquired about their welfare and assured them of his cooperation in solving local problems. He also had talks with some UP chairman, members and other personalities of the area.

World Bank Country

power generation in private sector and increased additional generation

DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2001

President visits

President A Q M Badruddoza

Chowdhury yesterday visited his

native village, Majidpur Daihata, in

Sreenagar upazila of Munshigani

district for the first time after his

People of the area from where

Chowdhury was elected MP five

times were jubilant to see their

ascent to the presidency.

ancestors.

dents union

added

shot during the clash.

Intra-party feud

JCD leader

aunned down

on BAU campus

(JCD) was shot dead and two others

were injured in a gunfight between

two factions of the ruling party

backed student organisation on

Agriculture University campus last

father saying I am the principal of Nazirhat College, I will not tell a lie. I college campus don't know anything about Tayeb", Saikat narrated

"Before the firing, I heard my

Replying to a question Saikat said his father might have been killed because of disputes in the college

"Actually, my father did not tell us about any problem in the college. freedom fighter who fought in Sector He always advised us to be devoted to studies Saikat said

"My father also used to advise others to be very careful about studies. He helped many poor students of the college. Every year he gave money from his pocket to 10-12 poor students to fill in examination forms. My father did not allow students to do politics on the campus. This angered some vested groups there'

Saikat said, "My father became principal of Nazirhat College in 1989 and brought about some changes which were widely acclaimed Saikat said

They are three teachers of Nazirhat Gopal Krishna Muhuri had joined the college in 1964 as a teacher. College and a suspected killer. But he left it 1976 following a dispute Police have started a manhunt to nab the other killers. with the then principal on the issue

VC of BSMMU removed

FROM PAGE 1

and Dr Abdul Mannan. Professor of Pediatric Hematology and Ontology Department of the university, have been made pro-vice-chancellors.

Professor Mobin Khan Chairman of Hepatology Department of BSMMU, became new treasurer in the shake-up to the top order of the varsity administration.

The government handout said President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, also the chancellor of BSMMU, appointed the VC under Section 12 of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Act 1998 while the pro-VCs under Section 15(1) and the Treasurer under Section 16(1).

Earlier, the president and chancellor "cancelled the appointments" of BSMMU Vicechancellor Prof Dr Mahmud Hasan Pro-Vice-chancellors Prof Rashide-Mahbub and Prof Kazi Mesbahuddin and Treasurer Prof Dr. Pran Gopal Dutta.

The chancellor rescinded their appointments in exercise of powers vested in him under the relevant sections of the university law.

Nursing staff and class-3 and class-4 employees of the medical university at the call of Sarkari Karmachari Samannaya Parishad (SKSP) had gone on a strike a week ago demanding restoration of the

hospital's previous status and protesting the death of a nurse owing to wrong treatment.

The SKSP, however, called off the strike on Thursday following a "consensus" between the Ministry of Health and the union on restoration of the hospital's previous status as IPGMR, better known as PG Hospital.

Incidentally, the change came in a row of restructuring of the administrations of different universities of the country, under the new BNP-led coalition government.

L/C margin FROM PAGE 12

those importers who opened the L/Cs during this period.

After receiving the order on November 13, the Bangladesh Bank issued a circular to all commercial banks, asking them to follow the order from the next day.

The items include cement, motor vehicles of 1800 cc and above television, refrigerator, deep freeze, washing machine, fan, microwave oven, cosmetics, ceramic tableware, biscuit, chocolate, air cooler CI sheet, footwear etc.

these items used to be fixed by banks depending on bank-client relationship.

The L/C margins for other items imported for commercial purposes were about 50 per cent.

in the next session of the new parliament Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed

half-century, the big-hitting "It's our election pledge and we are Zimbabwean should have scored addressing the concluding ceremony of a three-day workshop on Crime Reporting his second hundred in 19 matches had Bangladesh total been a little at Dhaka Reporters Unity office yesterday healthy. He was later adjudged His predecessor, Abdul Matin Khasru of Awami League, also spoke at the man-of-the-match and received a function where both the leaders agreed that the country's judiciary should be cash award of 1,000 dollars.

The match was however a disappointment for a packed holiday 44 crowd since it never came close to being a ball-bashing contest.

Prosecutors, the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Barrister Moudud, said that under the past Awami A youthful Bangladesh team League regime, appointments to PP and Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) posts under new captain Khaled Mashud were struggling as soon as Carlisle And for that precedence, now BNP is also under pressure to appoint party men to the posts of PP and APP. put them in.

Most of the top-order batsmen threw their wickets when a good partnership was needed to negotiate a surface that was rather moist.

pendent and neutral prosecution system. Barrister Moudud said a growing Bangladesh lost three wickets inside the first fifteen overs, and tendency that nothing would happen to one even after committing an offence is one of the major causes of rise in crimes. the match as a contest was virtually over when they crashed to 59 for

Announcement regarding hold-

ing of the 24th BCS examination

was scheduled to be made early this

results of the 21st BCS examina-

uncertain now. the sources said.

government.

Daily Star said yesterday.

The law minister told reporters that he five would like to take all legal measures so hat none could sneak out through loop-

month

holes of law. Focusing on law points of crime reporting, Abdul Matin Khasru said journalists could play a great role against any kind of misdeeds through their

tings. Dhaka Reporters Unity president Anwarul Hug presided over the meeting while its general secretary Motaher Hossain Masum, advisory editor of Ajker Kagoj Naimul Islam Khan and attorney FROM PAGE 1 Some 15,000 youths appeared at written tests under the 22nd BCS general Hasan Arif also took part in a examination for jobs against about discussion 1500 vacant posts. The results Tension prevails were scheduled to publish this

In Araihazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

psychological tests of those who Tension is prevailing in and around passed written examinations were Narandi village in Araihazar upazila scheduled to start from November following Thursday's clash in which three villagers were killed in police 11. firing and over 200 people including

40 policemen were injured. Araihazar thana police vesterday

The road barricades in the area

No case was filed till yesterday.

were also removed.

handed over bodies of two of the victims --Hossain and Billal -- to their relatives.

The villagers laid a siege to the thana for about an hour in the afternoon demanding handover of the body of another victim. Monir. Police

said the body could not be handed over due to lack of some official formalities. The siege was withdrawn following intervention by local MP Ataur Rahman Khan.

Earlier, L/C margin for many of

The local MP is likely to file a case against police, sources close to him said

Sanwar Hossain's one over. Though it was his fifth one-day

dismal Test debut in Dhaka, was out for four when he tried to go over the top In-form Habibul Bashar was the

only batsman who kept his nerve in the crisis.

An otherwise free-scoring righthander, Bashar chose to be sedate and scored just two fours in a 91-ball

He shared 50 runs for the sixth wicket with his captain Mashud. Mashud celebrated his appoint ment as skipper with a 78-ball 40

that included two fours. Mohammed Rafique enjoyed a

good outing in a lost cause Back in the side after touring

Zimbabwe in April, the southpaw scored a cameo 15 that included three boundaries. The leftarm spinner also bowled impressively, finishing with figures of 10-4-25-1

Right-arm paceman Travis Friend and Gary Brent captured

Thousands to lose eligibility

Setu -- who completed vive voce

"After obtaining graduation, youths usually look for government jobs through BCS examinations. They have to go through a appear for vice voce and psycholog-

Talking to The Daily Star. many youths who appeared at the 21st, 22nd and 23 rd BCS examinations expressed deep frustration over the whimsical decision of the new

"We are neither Awami League men, nor of BNP. We are eligible for government cadre service jobs. We want the jobs whichever party is in the power," one youth who appeared for viva vice under the 21st BCS examination told The Pre-paid cards FROM PAGE 12 try for a fresh order today

Cards worth Tk 1,200 are now available with a small number of GP sales outlets. Those worth Tk 300 and Tk 600 are also available in certain outlets allegedly on payment of 'extra money.'

Pre-paid cards are made outside the country and there are about 1,200 GP agents for distribution of those

Meanwhile, GP has produced a small number of paper cards locally to ease the situation.

Some subscribers alleged that they had to buy cards by paving 'extra money' even during normal time due to a persistent scarcity of cards. "GP should take effective steps to make cards available at fair price. Subscribers must not suffer due to bureaucratic tangle," one subscriber said.

According to anti-Taliban commanders, the deal would give Taliban fighters from Afghanistan free passage out of Kunduz, but would imprison the thousands of Arabs. Pakistanis and other foreigr fighters loval to Osama bin Laden who are with them.

"They have agreed to hand over the foreign fighters to us. That is settled." Dostum said.

Those foreigners would be placed in camps until the alliance and the US-led coalition can deal with them, but alliance officials ruled out turning them over to international courts

Meanwhile, Mullah Mohammad Omar, spiritual leader of hardline Taliban, has moved into hiding, and appointed his deputy to run the affairs of embattled militia, a Taliban official said yesterday.

"Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Usmani has been appointed the deputy of Mullah Omar," Mullah Sayed Mohammad Haqqani, Taliban security official in charge at the border town of Spin Boldak near Pakistan, told Reuters.

He said the decision was taken after a meeting of the top leadership of the Taliban on Thursday in southern Kandahar, home of reclusive Taliban leader.

"Mullah Omar has shifted to an unknown place for security reasons," Haqqani said.

But another report adds: Mullah Omar retains control of his stronghold Kandahar and is believed to remain in the city.

Several Afghans, some of whom were in contact with Taliban commanders, confirmed that Omar was still in charge and had not relinguished power despite persistent. unconfirmed reports to the contrary opposition spokesman Ahmed Karzai said

Prof. Mostafa Chowdhury said the Karzai, whose brother Hamid is government order came at a time believed inside Afghanistan organwhen PSC was planning to publish ising resistance to the Taliban, said final results of 21st BCS examinahis assessment was based on reports from trusted Afghan sources who arrived in Quetta on Thursday "We were at the stage of publishand vesterday.

ing results of written tests of 22nd A Paris report says: Rival Afghan BCS and planning for viva voce and leaders meet far from the battlepsychological test of 23rd BSC this fields of their homeland on Monday month. We are surprised at the to seek a formula for national unity order." He said schedule for the 24th but even the talks' UN sponsors BCS examination was due to be have little hope of rapid success. "I don't think we should have took

high expectations that they are "Besides creating an administragoing to meet and immediately tive tangle in PSC, the order will agree to the kind of plan we put cause immense sufferings to thouforward at the (UN) Security sands of youths who appeared for Council," said Francesc Vendrell, the United Nations official who "This is the first that the governpersuaded the rivals to meet, in İslamabad on Thursday. ment scrapped the appointment

The UN has put forward a twoyear plan for setting up a govern-

ship of the fundamentalist Taliban. Meanwhile, Russia, fearing instability in Central Asia, has moved into diplomatic high gear ahead of next week's talks on Afghanistan, seeking to keep its Northern Alliance allies at the heart of a future government purged of the Taliban.

As the squabbling Afghan factions prepare to thrash out the future in Bonn from Monday, a high-level Russian delegation has been in Kabul to make sure Moscow's interests are not forgotten.

A staunch ally of the US-led antiterrorist campaign, Russia disagrees with the United States over US wishes to see "moderate" Taliban in a power-sharing interim administration that would govern for two years.

Roadside iftar FROM PAGE 12

city restaurants over the last three months regarding strict quality control; but no effective steps have yet been taken by the DCC to ensure the safety of Iftar items being sold by vendors at the makeshift open shops.

Most of these roadside vendors, as this correspondent found out, are engaged in other professions throughout the rest of the year and selling lftar food is only a seasonal occupation they take up during Ramadan.

Enforcement of rules and regulations governing such ventures being absent and with virtually no establishment cost, their aim is to derive maximum profit with as little investment as possible and very little or no

care for consumer health. For example, cooking oil is used over and over again for frying, which according to doctors harms the digestive system.

Besides, some ingredients used for preparing lftar might be also harmful to the human body. Chief Health Officer of DCC Ashraf Uddin told The Daily Star that unless processed properly, Kheshari lentil flour, known as Beshon, might

cause long-term poisoning. Sometimes these seasonal Iftar sellers save their unused ingredients for the next Ramadan, which according to experts is a very unhealthy practice with deadly potentialities. For example, they say certain kind of poisonous fungus may develop in ingredients like Kheshari lentil flour when they are stored for a long time.

in 21st BCS examination said, nation every year. Of them, only 10 to 15 thousand are selected for written test. After that, one has to

Applicants for the 23rd BCS lengthy process under the present examination are sons and daughsystem. But all their hopes have ters of freedom fighters. Viva and been shuttered by the government decision."

ble, he said. "In case of failure in the 21st BCS, I could apply for the 24th BCS. But it is also uncertain now. If it (24th BCS) is delayed, my age limit for government job will expire. Now I have no way but to carry on with an

uncertain life." Khorshed Alam was preparing for the 24th BCS examination after completing his MA from Dhaka University. "Getting a government cadre service job is my ultimate

suspension order immediately considering the fate of thousands unemployed youths. Liton is now a

ical test to be finally selected for a government cadre service job, which usually takes more than two The "illogical" decision has made When contacted, PSC Chairman

tion.

announced this month.

cadre service jobs.

process through PSC."

lives of thousands youths misera-

month after publication of final tion. But this has also become

goal. But I am very much disappointed as the 24th BCS examination has become uncertain," he said. Liton, who has been waiting for announcement of the schedule for 24th BCS examination said the government should withdraw the

Another youth--Setaful Islam private tutor after completing his university education. Around one lakh youths sit for preliminary test in BCS exami-