Two students

killed in Feni

road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Two students of Jagannath

University College were killed and

five others injured in a road acci-

dent on Dhaka-Chittagong

Highway near Feni town yesterday

Police and hospital sources said

Cox's Bazar bound microbus

from Dhaka with eight students

aboard hit a roadside tree at Latimi

at about 9 pm, injuring seven,

The injured were rushed to Feni

Azad aged 21 years hailed from

Sadar Hospital where Azad and

Mollapara village of Begumganj

upazila in Noakhali district and

Kamran from Chandanbari village

of Monohardi upazila in Narsingdi

Zahirul Islam, Mahfuzur Rahman,

Rezaul Karim and the driver

Zainal were sent to Dhaka for

The injured students, Moti,

including the driver of the bus.

Kamran Khandaker died.

Bush warns

FROM PAGE 12 displays of sympathy and support in the wake of the terrorist attacks," Bush said. "Today, all three nations

are supporting our fight against On Friday, the North's state-run radio called Bush "the most evil and

of the United States South Korea's national police said they will go on alert because activists were planning demonstrations against Bush's trip.

war-crazed president in the history

"Bush is a war maniac and an international hooligan," 500 anti-US activists chanted in downtown Seoul on Saturday.

During his visit, Bush also

planned to give a boost to Japanese . Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, whose approval ratings have sagged along with that nation's economy. Koizumi has offered a painful program of changes designed to right the Japanese economy and banking system.

"Today, Japan is in the midst of

economic uncertainty and transition," Bush said. "But I have great confidence in Japan's future and in the unlimited potential of its people, and I'm confident that Japan will make the bold reforms needed to restore growth and opportunity, which will benefit the people of both

Bush also said he will prod the Chinese government to open up their markets to American agricultural products, and to embrace "the universal demands of human dignity, freedom of conscience and religion, and the rights and value of every life."

Haji Selim

FROM PAGE 12 the CMM's court on January 23.

The judge's court heard the appeal on February 5 and fixed February 16 for order on the issue

with case diary (CD). Santi, 32, a BNP leader was shot dead at Killarmor in the citv's

Lalbagh area on June 9, 1996. Victim's mother Sakhina Begum filed a murder case with Lalbagh

thana the following day, accusing JCD leader Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and 17 others. But the investigation officer (IO)

of the case submitted the charge sheet dropping the names of 14 FIR-named accused, including Pintu on January 20, as the allegations brought against them were not Selim was charge sheeted in the

case although his name was not in the FIR (First in formation report). Moreover, the complainant of the case, did not accuse Selim. Selim was shown arrested in the

case on January 22. In the charge sheet, 30 people were shown as prosecution wit-

The CMM's court accepted the

charge sheet on January 29.

to the US Sayed Hasan Ahmed in

the Oval Office on Thursday.

Ambassador Ahmed earlier pre-

sented his letter of credence to

President Bush, who welcomed and

wished him well for his tenure as

Bangladesh envoy to the US, an

successful holding of the October 1

general elections and lauding the

march of democracy in Bangladesh.

President Bush praised the new

government for the high priority it

had placed on strengthening the

rule of law and ending terrorism in

bilateral trade will increase in future,

but on investments he said, "Inves-

tors look for countries that have a

commitment to economic growth

and guarantee the safety of their

investment. "He also said that

Bangladesh and the United States

currently enjoy strong relations and

that he looked forward to deepening

and expanding the ties between the

The US President also described

He expressed the hope that

Bangladesh.

two nations.

Expressing his happiness on

official release said yesterday.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presents awards to members of the Ansar and VDP at their National Rally and Parade 2002 at Shafipur yesterday.

Meanwhile, the madrassah went on vacation until March 5.

people, including some local politi-

cal leaders. Eleven people, many of

whom are innocents, including a

degree candidate from nearby

Anwara upazila, were arrested in

connection with the incident on

formed a one-member committee

consisting of Additional District

Magistrate Golam Mostafa to

After cabinet's approval, the draft will be sent to the Ministry of Law for formulation of a bill to be placed at

the parliament.
Talking to The Daily Star yester

day, Minister for Environment and Forest Shahjahan Siraj said he would try his best to get the law

passed and enforce it as early as

Steps to reduce emission of black

Polybags

FROM PAGE 12

The district administration

Police filed a case accusing 21



Foreign delegates who joined the national convention titled "Crime against Humanity" called on Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina at Sudha Sadan yesterday.

Patiya gunfight

purchased land after the court lifted the injunction on the land, which was imposed following the dispute.

"There was no reason of clashes centring the land issue. Rather, a vested quarter instigated the local people to cash in on the issue for reasons unknown to us," said the madrassah authorities at a press conference in the city Thursday afternoon

Rector of the madrassah Moulana Harun Islamabadi alleged that some local miscreants were making propaganda against the institution, but the madrassah students showed restraint.

local influential BNP leader was held hostage by madrassah students, the rector added.

purchased the disputed land on November 5, 2000 from one Ambiya Rahman also claimed his right to the land, resulting in a dispute. Noor Ayesha Begum, daughter

of Ambiya, claimed that her mother owned the land and had all legal documents. Later, she sold the land to the madrassah authorities at Tk 4.86 lakh to be paid in instalments and Tk 1.5 lakh has already been paid in two instalments.

nite period following the incident

smoke, river encroachment, noise pollution and other environmental hazards will be taken very soon, he

Sources said the highly profitable polybag manufacture and marketing **Bush praises Dhaka** in the capital continue unabated despite a ban since January 1 and repeated requests by authorities concerned to manufacturers and traders to gradually close down their Bangladesh as a positive example businesses considering the adverse effects of polythene on health and for others as the country seeks to

BDR 'excess'alleged

DU campus yesterday evening upon his release from the Ramna

He said the BDR personnel demanded from him nothing in particular and threatened to throw "When they came to us at the Mohsin Hall at 5:00am on Friday, they told me and a friend of mine to

go to Pilkhana with them for some questioning, saying that we would be released unharmed," Farid said. But at the Pilkhana, Farid and his friend were tied up and blindfolded and kept inside a room for more than 18 hours. Farid said there were many others there like him who had

to endure the same torture. Apart from the 85 arrested from the DU area, the rest of the total 291 arrested were picked up from different parts of the city in a similar

"We thought a robbery was in progress in our house when the BDR men broke open the collapsible gate at the dead of night," said a resident of Arambag who wanted to remain anonymous.

Sources said the BNP-led coalition government, in view of the declining credibility of police, assigned the BDR jawans to arrest criminals and recover firearms from the Dhaka University campus, keeping the decision of Friday's raid a tightly guarded secret all the while so as to catch criminals unawares.

But Friday's raid proved to be a miserable failure as none of the 23 listed top terrors could be netted even after two months of police

Ahead of the 'massive' raid at the DU dormitories, the BDR men were provided with a list of troublemakers and the probable numbers of their rooms, campus sources said.

A good number of terrorists allegedly belonging to the ruling party backed JCD were at the Mohsin hall along with their firearms but only a few of them were arrested, added the sources.

Most student organisations on the campus strongly denounced the government for harassing innocent students in the name of raid. alleging that the real criminals had escaped scot-free.

"Any raid aimed at arresting criminals on the campus is repressive for the resident students, but the BDR has surpassed all others in their brutality," said a student of Islamic History who had also been

Many on the campus expressed their strong resentment about the BDR atrocities for the second day yesterday. Many opined that the BDR should not be involved in such a drive. "That they are inexperienced and cannot tell terrorists from genuine students was clear from riday's raid," said a student of Public Administration.

The BDR personnel also misbehaved with the police deployed at

Meanwhile, Ramna thana yesterday released all the arrested except 12 people who were shown arrested under section 54 of the CrPC. They were identified as Shamsuzzaman, Abdul Mannan. Zahedul Islam, Shamsuzzoha, Niaz, Aminul Islam, Kamrul Hasan, Ashrafur Rahman, Apel Mahmud, Kamruzzaman, Abdul Haq and Ariful Haq Chanchal.

They were produced before the CMM's Court, Dhaka yesterday with a prayer for one months' detention. The court however sent them to the Dhaka Central Jail on one months

Ctg BCL leader | Proposed NHRC arrested

BSS, Ctg

President of BCL Islamia College unit was arrested here on Friday

Acting on a tip-off, Doublemooring thana police arrested Mohammad Sazzad, 24, a listed criminal, from the city's Badamtali area, according to CMP

A number of criminal and arms cases are pending with Doublemooring, Kotowali and Bandar Police stations against Sazzad, the release added.

Pirates killed

FROM PAGE 12
Two bullet-hit Bangladeshi pirates, Ferdaus, 30, and Afzalul, 28, of village Pankhali in Shyamnagar upazila were handed over to police by the fishermen. They were admitted to hospital at Satkhira

According to police, pirates of both the groups exchanged more than 200 rounds of bullets during the Extra forces have been deployed

in Matidanga village and other areas ad-joining Chunkuri river, apprehending further gunfight A case has been lodged with

Shyamnagar thana in this connec-

Hundreds of bawolis and fishermen have left the Sundarbans out of

Hunters and forest guards are reported to have taken shelters in the areas adjacent to the Sundarbans, said officials of two Range offices of Sundarbans Forest

FROM PAGE 12 maximum from a single cattle

market last year. This year we are getting only Tk

28 lakh for the market (Nawab Yusuf Market) through we floated tender twice", said a DCC official. Similar things also happened in

leasing out the Jhigatola-Hajaribagh Math and Postogola-Swashanghat, Khilkhet Tanpara and Kawran Bazar cattle markets. When asked a top DCC official

seeking anonymity said, "The understanding (between bidders) is taking place outside the Nagar Bhaban where DCC has nothing to do other than going for re-tendering in a bid to increase the amount of revenue. DCC is getting only Tk 14.91 lakh

from Karwan Bazar cattle market against last year's Tk 21 lakh. Last year, a top thana unit leader of Awami League was the lessee of the market. This year a top thana unit leader of BNP has taken lease of the market at Tk 14.91 lakh only.

According to sources, the AL leader did not bid for the cattle market this year following an understanding with the BNP leader. DCC, however, did not go for re-

tendering to lease the Karwan Bazar cattle market. When asked, DCC's Chief Estate Officer Fazle Elahi told The Daily Star yesterday that it was not possible due to 'time constraint'. " We opened the tender only two or three days back. It is not possible to go for re-tendering as the cattle market will start from Tuesday next".

Bangabandhu FROM PAGE 1

The Law Minister promised repeatedly that hearing of the case would start 'very soon'. The hearing remained sus-

pended since August last year after a judge expressed his embarrassment to hear the case. Later, due to shortage of required number of judges for hearing the petition, the stalemate continued The Bangabandhu murder case

was filed on October 2, 1996. On November 8, 1998, the trial court in its verdict gave death sentence to 15 of the accused. Later, the High Court upheld the death sentence of 12 of the 15. Of these 12, only four are in jail. These four appealed to the Appellate Division against the High Court verdict. But hearing of the leave for appeal could not take

Members to be selected as per JS body suggestion

Members of the proposed National Human Rights Commission will be selected as per recommendation by the parliamentary standing committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. The President would give final

appointment to the members as per proposals to be made by parlia-

The decision was taken by a high-powered Cabinet Committee, assigned with formulating a law for setting up the National Human Rights Commission, in its fourth meeting held yesterday with Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed in the chair.

An official announcement quoting the meeting decision said the NHRC would comprise five members,, including a chairman with the status of Chief Justice.

The cabinet committee also decided that at least one woman member would be inducted in the commission. Matters related to definition of

the law, appointment system of the commission and its work-plan also came up for discussion before taking the decisions.

A proposal was presented in the

Pearl's abduction Eid cattle markets | Pak cops now suspect a plane hijacker

Delving deeper into Pakistan's murky Islamic underworld, police searched yesterday for a man suspected of having helped spring reporter Daniel Pearl's selfconfessed kidnapper from an Indian jail two years ago Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh,

who on Thursday confessed in court to Pearl's kidnapping, and two other Islamic militants were exchanged by India in December 1999 for passen gers aboard an Indian Airlines iets that was hijacked to Afghanistan.

rejected Saeed's claim that Pearl is Police now suspect one of those

hijackers identified as Mansour Hussain is involved in Pearl's kidnapping too, a police official said on condition of anonymity. Hussain is believed to be using at least two false names: Haider Ali Farugi and Imtiaz Siddiqi, the official said. The use of aliases is common in

the twilight world of Islamic militancy. Militants here have come under increasing pressure since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States, as the government has sought to shed Pakistan's image as a hotbed of extremism.

meeting for formulating "Humar Rights Protection Act 2002" rather than enactment of particular law for

setting up the commission.

The committee members reached a consensus on matters regarding proposals for setting up the national human rights commission as per a clause of the act.

Anyone who cannot go to the court for justice can inform the commission abut one's complaints 'The commission on its own can look into the matters of violation of human rights," the meeting decided.

LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mohsarraf Hossain, Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and Information Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan attended the meet-

Cabinet Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Law Secretary Afzal Hossain and senior officials concerned were

AL programme on Mother Language Day

The Awami League has chalked out a five-day programme to observe the International Mother Language Day on February 21.

Party chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the programme at the Institution of ngineers at 3 pm on February 17.

On Feb 18, a memorial programme will be held at the Institution of Engineers at 3 pm. AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman will chair the programme. Sammilito Sangskritik Jote will arrange a cultural function at 7 pm on the day.

A memorial programme will be held at Mahanagar Natya Mancha at 3 pm on Feb 19 to award some language movement veterans. Sheikh Hasina will attend programme as chief guest.

On February 20, children will form a human chain in front of National Press Club to protest what Awami League calls distortion of nistory. A rally will be organised at Paltan Maidan in the afternoon.

On February 21, party and national flags will fly at half-mast and black flags atop all party offices. Party leaders and workers will join a mourning procession at 7:30 am to place wreaths at the mazars of language martyrs at Azimpur graveyard and at Central Shaheed

Joy Bangla Sangskritik Jote will arrange a cultural programme at Paltan Maidan at 3 pm on the day.

Ershad repents quitting 4-party It was widely discussed in politi-

He replied in the negative when asked whether his return home indicated that he has reached an understanding with the government. However, he added that he did not know if his party made any such understanding.

Ershad said his party would play the role of opposition in the parliament and as per the party policy, it would not boycott parliament session. It would also participate in elections The JP chief was greeted by

party leaders and workers at the airport. Ershad had left the country for London all of a sudden, the after the October 1 election in which his party failed to achieve the result it hoped for. From London, he went to the Middle East and India before returning home. His party won 14 seats in the parliament in the last cal circles that Ershad would not return home without making an understanding with the ruling BNP, which was aggrieved at his party's departure from the BNP- led alliance prior to the election. Following BNP's election victory, it was apprehended that Ershad would be arrested on some pretext. There are 14 graft cases and a

murder case against the former military ruler Explaining why he had left the country immediately after the

October 1 election, Ershad said yesterday, "I was saddened by the defeat. In addition, I needed to go abroad for treatment. I never intended to leave the country for The JP chairman also urged

Awami League to accept the election results and join parliament

Poverty increased

Khan also said: "Macroeconomic stability of the Bangladesh economy-- an object of praise for the impetus for economic growth."

industrial growth estimate in the 1990s and said it was calculated much above the actual figure due to faulty calculation procedures.

"It is alleged that the BBS [Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics] growth estimate of large-scale industries in the 1990s is seriously overstated due to an inappropriate revision of the industrial index. It is also stated that the actual growth rate is probably no more than threefifths of what has been estimated, Khan said.

He also mentioned that the acceleration in growth in the second half of the 1990s was "more than entirely due to the higher growth in agriculture, a phenomenon that itself is inadequately understood possibly due to questionable statistical procedures.

However, two former finance ministers SAMS Kibria and M Syeduzzaman differed about his observation

"I do not think there is any reason not to understand the agricultural growth phenomenon. There is also no reason to raise questions about statistical procedures. Basically, we followed a very conservative esti-

ate past finance minister said. He also maintained that high agriculture growth was achieved due to the last government's targeted efforts and different incen-

mation method," Kibria, the immedi-

tives offered to the sector. Earlier, Khan in his presentation also mentioned that manufacturing growth declined sharply and service sector growth remained unchanged in the second half of the 1990s.

but for the higher agricultural growth during the second half of the 1990s, which can hardly be attributed to any growth impulse due to Bangladesh's integration with the global economy, there is no sign of increased economic growth due to globalisation, he said.

He also stressed the need for effective governance, maintenance of law and order and efficient delivery of public administration for economic growth.

work independently so that the elite class cannot influence it to offer incentives and controls at the cost of the society's welfare.

investigate the matter. The probe committee has been asked to submit its report by March 11. The same miscreants said a Security was tightened at Patiya with deployment of police forces and the paramilitary BDR.

The madrassah authorities Khatun. But Ambiya's uncle Abdur

The Section 144 had been imposed on Thursday for an indefiwith a tense situation prevailing in

reinvigorate the SAARC as a forum for strengthening ties within the region, the news release said. Ambassador Sayed Hasan Ahmed after handing over his letter of credence to President Bush said his main task would be to further

strengthen the existing friendship

and cooperation between Bangladesh and the United States. He also highlighted, among others matters, Bangladesh's recent parliamentary elections and its commitment to democracy, priorities of the new government, duty-free and quota-free access of the RMG to the US market, regional cooperation, commitment to counter terrorism, the situation in Afghanistan and the Indo-Pak

The ambassador extended an invitation from the President and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to the US President and his wife Laura Bush to visit Bangladesh. Bush said he would favorably consider the

invitation, the message added.

international development agencies-- was largely a result of a low He also questioned the country's

The conclusion seems to be that

Khan suggested some incentives for local industries for a limited period to help them withstand the pain of globalisation.

Khan stated that the government

FROM PAGE 12

Zalmay Khalilzad, US President George W Bush's special envoy for Afghanistan, told the "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" that he spoke with Karzai, who described the killing of Abdul Rahman as "a conspiracy involving some security officials from the (Afghan) intelligence

agency and the defense department.' Abdul Rahman was pulled off an airliner at Kabul airport on Thursday and beaten to death, highlighting the problems facing the interim government grappling to reconcile rival ethnic groups and rebuild a

volatile and wounded state. Khalilzad said Karzai told him the killing appeared motivated by resentment that Rahman had belonged to a different Northern Alliance group than the suspects during the alliance's war against the

former Taliban leadership. But he downplayed the risks of such in-fighting for the Afghan

Murder of Afghan minister leadership, saying Afghanistan was generally in a much situation now

than it was during the past two AP from Kabul adds: Karzai accused six senior government officials of killing Rahman and said they were motivated by a long-

standing feud. Abdul Rahman was killed Thursday in what appeared to be a mob attack on his plane at Kabul's airport by pilgrims angry that they had been unable to travel to Makkah. Saudi Arabia. Witnesses and officials had said pilgrims beat the minister to death and tossed his

body to the tarmac. Karzai, however, said the attack

"has nothing to do with hajjis" or those making the pilgrimage. "He was killed by people who planned it," Karzai told reporters at a hastily called news conference. "We are asking the Saudis to arrest them and bring them back. ... We will try them. We will put them behind bars.'

It was unclear whether he was

suggesting that the officials incited the mob and whether the pilgrims gave cover to a deliberate attack. Rahman was going to New Delhi India, with a delegation on government business.

Before Karzai spoke, Information Minister Abdul Rahim Makhdoom gave journalists the names of five men he said were wanted in con-

nection with the attack on Rahman. The minister said three were believed to have left on flights for Saudi Arabia along with pilgrims traveling there: Gen Abdullah Jan Tawhidi, the deputy intelligence chief; Gen Kalandar Beg, deputy of the technical office of the Defense Ministry; and an official of the Justice Ministry for whom only one

name was given, Halim. Three are already under arrest in connection with the case; one was identified only as Abdul Rehim.



With a week to the Eid-ul-Azha, cattle markets in the city are getting larger.