Abduction of businessman

Attachment of partner's property ordered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday ordered attachment of movable and immovable property of Idris Mia, accused in businessmen Monir Ahmed abduction case

Kotwali police said they are preparing to execute the order as soon as it reaches them.

Monir was abducted at about midnight on April 24. Monir's family filed a case with Kotwali thana on the following day, accusing his business partner Idris Mia for the abduction

Meanwhile businessmen in Khatungonj, Chaktai and adjoining areas observed a two-hour strike yesterday protesting the abduction and demanding Monir's immediate

During the shutdown, they also held a rally on the premises of Amir Market, marched up to the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) headquarter at Laldighi and submitted a memorandum to CMP Commissioner Shahidullah Khan demanding immediate rescue of

The rally resolved to go for a three-day programme if Monir is not rescued within 24 hours.

The programme includes a sit-in in front of Chittagong Press Club on

chain in front of Agrabad Chamber House on Tuesday and a three-hour strike from 9 am on Wednesday.

The rally was addressed by, among others, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Farid Ahmed Chowdhury Hyder Chowdhury, Sagir Ahmed, Mahbubul Alam, Muzibul Haq Sirajul Islam and Abdul Mannan They demanded security to busi-

Shamsul Alam Master, chairman of Patiya Pourashava, from

Police also raided the residence of one Zahangir, a close friend of notorious Shibir cadre Nasir, yester-

Police arrested Idris Mia's sor Ibrahim Hasan, a student of Chittagong University of Science and Technology, on the night of April

press conference at the press club yesterday alleged that the 'abduction drama' was arranged by Monir to escape payment of his debts to many businessmen.

Filing of the case against her husband is part of a conspiracy to harass him she said and demanded

Nor'wester kills 12

The nor's wester that mainly swept the two upazilas was also reported to have damaged over 5,000 thatched houses, educational institutions and shops as well as

establishments were damaged in haats and bazaars. From Mymensingh, the UNB correspondent reported the storm swept the entire district Friday night leaving two old women dead and 50

crops in the district. Many shops and

Standing crops on about 5,000 hectors, many thatched houses and 20 educational institutions were damaged and a large number of

trees and electric poles uprooted. Safar Zan Nesa, 60, of Pachua village was buried under the fallen earthen wall of her house. Hasna Banu, 65, of Uthuri village of Gafargaon upazila caught fire from lamp and was burnt to death during

At least 40 people were injured in Gafargaon upazila alone while 10 people in Bhaluka upazila. Four were admitted to Gafargaon health complex and two to Bhaluka health

Traffic remained suspended for about four hours since 8pm as fallen trees at Bharaduba in Bhaluka blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. Transport movement resumed after police with the help of local people removed the fallen

UNB Brahmanbaria corespondent reports: At least two people were killed and 30 injured as nor'wester lashed Chupta and Kalikachcha unions in Sarail upazila

Besides, 800 thatched houses

Parvin Begum, 5, died when her

release of her son

nor'wester. Taiyab Ali of Kalikachcha was killed when a tree fell on him.

32, was admitted to Sarail hospital The rest were given first aid.

Local sources said some 300 people with their houses badly damaged were now living under the

World Cup

FROM PAGE 12

reserved the biggest cheer for the Cup. The 'big bowl' roared as the Cup entered the arena at around 3.30pm. There was a sense of nostalgia in watching a packed audience, which is almost a thing of the past as the popularity of football has dwindled over the last decade.

The World Cup mood was quite evident in the stands when some fans waved the Brazilian and the Argentine national flags. The two South American superpowers boast the largest fan following in

A friendly football match between the former stars of the two most on this unique occasion, also enthralled the crowd.

With the conclusion of the match it was time for the Cup to bid the BNS bye. On a special carrier, the Cup made a lap of honour before being escorted off the ground by

The World Cup will head back to Kolkata tomorrow.

Gillette, one of the major sponsors of the 2002 World Cup to be hosted jointly by South Korea and Japan, has arranged the trip of the Cup in Bangladesh.

CEC on low turnout

low in Dhaka, voter participation was comparatively higher in Raishahi and Khulna. But I hoped turnout would increase by afternoon.' He then asked journalists. "

did not go out in the afternoon. So. tell me how was it in then?" When further.

would investigate the allegations of rigging in the polls including that raised by 11-party Rajshahi mayor candidate Fazle Hossain Badshah.

suggest that the relationship between Syed and the ruling BNP has recently rolled into a cold phase over some 'serious disagree-

The CEC's negative comments on the law and order situation just a

Prior to the city polls, the CEC wrote two letters to the prime minister, seeking steps to improve the law and order condition. He however got

the government's grievances and anger against the CEC. The CEC has been asked not to talk on the law and order any further, sources said. Consequently, the CEC

When reporters yesterday asked him whether he intends to resign now since both the opposition and the government are already at odds with him, an irate CEC replied, "The people would judge my past

Police arrested one Muhit, driver

Sadarghat area in the city on suspicion of his involvement in the abduc-

25. Idris Mia is absconding. Idris Mia's wife Waliunnesa at a

The sedition case against Shahriar Kabir was filed with the CMM's court Dhaka on December 8

Monk murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's

Court, Dhaka yesterday rejected the

petition, seeking return of video

cassettes, seized from Shahriar

Kabir by special branch (SB) of

police, in connection with the sedition

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa

passed the order upon a revision

petition submitted by defence law-

yers Advocate Khondaker Abdul

Judge's Court following rejection

They submitted the petition to

The prosecution side opposed

After hearing both sides the court

The CMM's court on April 15

rejected the petition, seeking return

Meanwhile, the fourth Additional

Metropolitan Sessions Judge's

Court, Dhaka will pass an order on

the petition for screening of the video

Zia on November 22 last year on his

return from Kolkata police also

seized his passport and some video

Shahriar Kabir was arrested from

. Mannan and Zead-Al-Mahem.

order of the CMM's court. Dhaka.

he petition

ejected the petition.

cassettes on April 29.

of video cassettes.

FROM PAGE 12 expected to join the funeral.

A delegation of Bangladesh Sammilito Samajik Andolan led by its general secretary Hayat Mahmud visited the temple cum orphanage yesterday

During the visit the delegation demanded judicial investigation into the murder

Jamaat

FROM PAGE 1 wards 1 and 6, and by a notorious terrorist in ward 36.

Commenting on their party's poll debacle, Jamaat leaders in Khulna ascribed their dismal performance to the internal feud within the fourparty alliance, saying that their total defeat in the KCC polls was caused by the fact that Jamaat did not get the expected support from BNP.

Jamaat leaders in Raishahi have accepted the election results, as the polls they said were free and fair. Many Jamaat leaders have nowever alleged that local units of

BNP did not support their candidates, and that in most cases Jamaat's defeat were caused by BNP's 'rebel' candidates contesting They claimed that Jamaat worked sincerely for the victory of

BNP candidates running for mayor and ward commissioner, but they did not see BNP's seriousness BNP. however, denied the allegations saying that Jamaat, like in

the October 1 general elections, bargained with the BNP leadership for getting Jamaat men nominated as four-party candidates. BNP leaders said Jamaat's demand was unrealistic and it was clear before the election that most Jamaat nominees would suffer defeat.

Talking to The Daily Star vesterday, a senior BNP leader said election to local bodies is quite a different ball game, and unlike the general election a lot of factors come into play in the local polls.

'Jamaat without considering such factors fielded candidates in as many as 23 wards under the three city corporations that have caused its debacle," he said. "Jamaat should realise that alliance or any such unity in fact does not work in small local units like wards or union parishads.'

Meanwhile, the central working committee of Jamaat will sit tomorrow to review the city corporation polls and discuss its election deba-

tion adding roughly 800 MW to the

FROM PAGE 12 other parts of the city," a witness

But Saif Ullah, the leader of the local shura, or council, routed Khan's forces in fierce fighting which left some 50 people dead, including 20 civilians.

Khan and appointed Wardak, from northern Badakshan province, as the new governor but Khan has never accepted the decision and has been mustering his forces ever

AIP on Friday quoted residents of Khost, a provincial capital 75 kilometres southeast of Gardez, as saying troops and tanks loyal to Padsha Khan were taking up strate-

It said the flow of traffic into Khost had been halted and rival groups had taken control of all routes.

"People are fleeing the city and shopkeepers have moved their items out of the city," a resident told

Khaleda accuses **AL** of resorting to violence

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has blamed Awami League for trying to hinder development process by resorting to violence instead of cooperating with the government.

'Massive programmes have been taken up to make the country self-sufficient in food and alleviate poverty', Khaleda said amidst applause from the audience at a public meeting at Shahid Ziaur Rahman Coastal College ground

She sought cooperation of all to implement the development programmes and carry out welfare

Earlier, the Prime Minister inaugurated the newly created Pecua

With Pecua, the number of country's upazilas stands at 467. The Prime Minister announced two new upazilas in six months of her government. Earlier on April 21, Zianagar (Indurkani) in Pirojpur was

brate the occasion. Some 150 cattle were slaughtered to feed (Meiban)

Khaleda said Awami League enforced four hartals in six months without any issue with an intention to create chaos and destroy public

they (Awami League) have chosen the path of destructive act, she told the rally.

During its rule Awami League did nothing for the welfare of people. Instead of development they have misappropriated public money and made their own fortunes, she

polling had closed, And, a 34,38 per

cent turnout in all the centres was

The EC officials said they did so

The CEC's conspicuous

absence from the two-day exercise

of compiling and announcing the

election results also raised ques-

tions. Other members of the four-

member Election Commission.

however attended their offices

briefly. In fact, EC Secretary SM

pointment at the low turnout in

Dhaka on the election day, but the

secretary spoke of a high rate as the

two talked to the press after polling

further exposed the EC's helpless-

ness even during the tenure of

political governments that had been

visible in the last decade of democ-

racy and it remains a "toothless

The city corporation elections

Election Commissioner M

Zakaria supervised everything.

to announce the results at the

declared

completed.

small number of MPs, she said.

erty in its five-year rule.

FROM PAGE 12

DU student

The Prime Minister said Awam

League has been isolated from the

people for its corruption, destructive

activities and grabbing public prop-

family members said Rozina had

gone up on the roof of their five-

storey apartment building at the

Paribag WAPDA Officers' Quarter at

about 8:45am to study for her final

exam scheduled to be held yester-

the wall of the roof when she acci-

dentally fell at about 9am, they said.

honours final examination.

Board (PDB), Dhaka.

Officers' Quarter.

Rozina was apparently siting on

Rozina was the second of three

zir Uddin Ahmed was at his office

Rozina was buried at the Mirpur

children of Azir Uddin Ahmed, Chief

Engineer of Power Development

during the incident while Rozina's

graveyard in the city after her

namaz-e-janaza at Paribag WAPDA

Besides study and journalism,

Rozina was engaged in various

extracurricular activities. She was

awarded a gold medal for English

poetry recitation competition during

the National Education Week this

mother was away in Chittagong.

mises of Namo Bhadra Primary

The arbitration was arranged to

went to the spot to quell the violence. He was admitted to RMCH with

at around 9:15 pm, police said.

of defeated commissioner candidate and AL leader Mokhlesur Rahman Khalil, AL activists said. In two other incidents, two house-

Sources said defeated commissioner candidate in ward 19. Nur Mohammad and his supporters entered the house of one Alauddinat at Shirail Colony in Boalia and beat

She was taken to the Dhaka She filed a case with Boalia Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared her Yesterday was the last day of her

In another incident, housewife Rekha Begum was injured when beaten allegedly by supporters of

shot dead at East Sheurapara under kafrul thana in the city yesterday following a feud over the just held Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)

Shahid, 22, a nephew of Abdul Kader who was elected commissioner from ward-14. Kader defeated four-party nominee

Violence

26. He later died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital at about 8 pm.

The clash took place at an arbitration meeting, held on the pre-

critical injury, hospital sources said. Extra police force from Boalia brought the situation under control

BNP workers attacked the residence

At about 10pm last night, some

wives were beaten and their houses looted in Boalia and Motihar areas

his daughter Fouzia Shahin as she resisted them.

thana, accusing 25 peoeple for the attack. Police later arrested three persons. Alauddin had supported Moniruzzaman, who was re-elected ward commissioner.

Mizanur Rahman Minu. They attacked the house as her husband supported FH Badsha who lost the mayoral polls in Rajshahi. Meantime, a young man was

The dead was identified as

Barge-mounted deals

plant-- have however been termed as contractual landmarks since these favour the PDB in terms of

The three barge-mounted power

gas supply would be ensured these plants would switch to gas-fired power generation and sell power at a lower rate outlined in the original contract. Of the three plants, gas has been supplied to only New England Power Company (NEPC). However, the NEPC did not reduce its power tariff in line with the con-

The RPC charges a very high tariff of Tk 2.15 per kilowatt hour of power under a controversial contract. The PDB buys this power and sells the same to the RPC's parent company, the Rural Electrification Board (REB), at a subsidised rate of Tk 1.84.

Besides, the RPC advisor is charging PDB nearly US\$ 10 million for maintenance though it is capable of generating only 140 MW power. In contrast, the maintenance of 360 MW Haripur plant costs nearly half that rate. The RPC also gets gas at a subsidised price.

Both Meghnaghat and Haripur plants have offered power prices much lower than the PDB's own tariff rate. Meghnaghat would sell power at 2.79 cents per kilowatt hour, while Haripur at 2.72 cents. Meghnaghat is also committed to providing free electricity worth US\$ 34 million to the PDB initially. This tariff structure has been termed as 'the world's lowest' by both PDB and ndustry insiders.

Moreover, the gas purchase tariff for Meghnaghat and Haripur plants has been set at \$2.4 a unit, more than double the gas bulk rate of \$1.12 a unit.

"Power purchase from the parge-mounted plants and the RPC have been disastrous for the PDB," said a source. "When barge-mount plants charge Tk 45 crore a month for 300 MW power the 360 MW

Gas committee

were initially scheduled to submit their reports within a month. The utilisation committee

academicians and energy experts. The reserve assessment committee headed by BUET Vice Chancellor Dr Nuruddin consists of members from Petrobangla, BUET and different energy related bodies. The committee however did not

looking into a number of issues including how the government should deal with Unocal's Bibiyana gas field which has a proven reserve

market is not expanding and therefore Bibiyana gas field cannot be developed soon, Unocal had submitted a proposal to the government to export gas to India through a

Padma

FROM PAGE 12

Delhi between prime ministers of the two countries, there has been no review so far. The experts suggested that

'quality' of the Ganges water, besides the quantum and its sharing, should also be taken up at the review and included in the treaty for 'observation' The Ganges is known as the

Padma after entering Bangladesh in

Chapainawabganj district and it flows into the Bay of Bengal jointly with the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. Sources said since the quality of Padma water was monitored for

years only at the Mawa point, which is far away from the river's entry point in Bangladesh, experts suspect that the water is highly polluted at the upstream. It is now being monitored also at the Hardinge Bridge point at Bheramara, Kushtia, to find out the extent of pollution. But data from the Hardinge Bridge point was not available.

The WDB is also monitoring the rivers in and around the capital.

In the Buriganga and Shitalakhya rivers, presence of chromium and other heavy metals like sodium chromite, copper, iron and sluphate has been detected.

Experts attributed presence of chromium in the rivers to tanneries which use it for processing hides. The Buriganga is getting polluted with chromium from the tanneries at Hazaribagh in the city. It is dumped in the river untreated as the tanneries are not equipped with waste treatment plants.

In the Ganges also, presence of chromium suggests that wastes are dumped in the river at the industrial states upstream in India, experts

Haripur AES plant charges around

Dogged by a never-ending bill collection problem, different organisations owe the PDB over Tk 5500 crore in arrears. Power pilferage by a section of metre readers and bil collectors and total mismanagement at DESA have worsened the PDB's health over the years. Donors have many a time forced the PDB to unbundle, but so far they never focussed on reforming the sales

Spl trial courts

HC rule on posting of magistrates

The High Court yesterday issued rule asking the government to show cause why the posting of Magistrates to constitute the speedy trial courts should not be declared illegal.

The rule is returnable for eight

A division bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Mohammad Arayesuddin passed the order upon a writ petition filed with the court. Advocate Idrisur Rahman filed

the petition challenging the legality of posting Magistrates to constitute speedy trial courts. The Ministry of Home Affairs by a Gazette Notification dated April 16, 2002, established speedy trial courts with four Metropolitan

Magistrates in Dhaka Metropolitan

Magistracy without consulting the Supreme Court as mandated by the Constitution. Law and Order Disruption Offences (Speedy Trial) Act, 2002 was passed in the second session of the eighth Jatiya Sangsad

Magistrates were posted under

section 8(1) of the Act Barrister Rukan Uddin Mahmud along with Dr Shahdeen Malik Advocate Idrisur Rahman Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan and Advocate Ruhul Kuddus Babu moved the petition on behalf of the petitioner while Assistant Attorney . General Mokhlesur Rahman stood

Tragic death!

ing on both the sides of the New Airport Road to see the trophy. One such vehicle carrying the 18 hapless passengers and speeding toward the city overturned as one of its tires blew off near cantonment

Nine of the injured were admitted to the Combined Military Hospital

class eight, Bappi, student of class six, Farook Hossain and Mahmudul Hasan, students of class 10 of Ramiz Uddin High School, Nurul Amin of class six of Blue Bird Academy, and Shahadat of another school. Condition of Farook Hossain

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Cantonment Police Station in this

flat levy of Tk 4,000 on SIM card replacement and reconnection fees and an import duty of Tk 4,000 on each cell phone. The Tk 4.000 levy had replaced the 67 percent tax including import duty, VAT and

Telecom Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB) submitted a memorandum to government to review the decision. It had said that those would make cell phones expensive and hinder growth of the sector. The four private mobile phone

operators in the country have some

700,000 subscribers against

590,000 fixed phone lines provided

by the state-run Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB). NBR officials said the withdrawal

aims at preventing tax evasion and increasing revenue

handsets will still be burdened.

house at village Rasulpur in Chupta union collapsed due to the

press said, "Although turnout was

iournalists said it was still a verv poor show, he did not push any The CEC noted that the EC

Meantime, some press reports

day before the elections have reportedly infuriated some influential policymakers of the government

no response to any of the letters. Later, a BNP leader close to the prime minister talked to the EC secretary and let him know about became perturbed and stayed away from office, they added.

Meanwhile, the returning officer of Dhaka officially announced the city corporation election results at an empty EC Secretariat. The result

FROM PAGE 1

national grid. the new government to form a

The committee pointed out that the agreements compel PDB to buy electricity from IPPs at much higher rates than its own generation cost. On the other hand, the IPPs enjoy the subsidised gas price at the cost of Petrobangla.

reaching any future deals with IPPs. It felt that the two alternative venues for dispute settlements

England and Singapore -- would be

expensive and inconvenient for

Bangladesh's agencies. It also

suggested that the existing law of the land, instead of English laws, should be the guiding principles for settling disputes, as agreed upon in The recommendations of the committee earlier submitted to the Energy Ministry would now be placed to the Cabinet for consider-

ation, an official of the ministry said.

Court rejects prayer to get back Shahriar's video cassettes

yesterday afternoon.

upazila by unveiling the plaque. The upazila consists of five unions --Rajkhali, Barobakia, Toitong, Mognama and Pecua -- having population of more than two lakh in 139 squire kilometer area.

made upazila. People from all walks of life in a festive mood assembled to cele-

"Being isolated from the people

Poll count controversy More alarming aspect of the electoral outcome is that amid a public reluctance the elected representatives that include some notori-

ous criminals who are supposed to issue character certificates to diligent and decent citizens. This happened mainly due to two reasons: there was a clear dearth of alternative candidates with a fair background and a low turnout that enabled the listed criminals to come out victorious leaving the electorates with little choice. The losers alleged irregularities in the form of forged voting that, according to them, mattered more in

ulating the elections. But as the electioneering itself had gained little momentum, a higher turnout was least expected. The sad part of the elections and the results is the lack of participatory

blamed the ruling alliance for manip-

democracy though the city corporation election is a non-partisan one as far as law is concerned.

each other make any sense? What

boycott it and what could the BNP government, too, really do? Nothing if all these three sides want to avoid their responsibility to join a unified electoral process Since the main parties continue wrangling with each other, where does lie the responsibility of the

could the EC have done to convince

the AL to take part in the election

when the party was adamant to

electorates to participate in the spiritless electoral process? Now the elected representatives have an advantage -- that is people will expect less of them. And the downside is that they have little support from the citizens obsessed with the reluctance to voting, which may ultimately alienate the people

from the establishment. Many a voter, who staved away from the election, rather asked journalists what is the point of voting. This goes to show that the people in general still prefer democracy to work effectively so But does the practice to blame that they can have their true repre-

regardless of the matters or issues on the web. owners of Bytes and Bites, revealed that those who come to browse the sites only for entertainment mostly

tend to maintain their privacy.

give their café a new look. A few of them have introduced some indoor games like hand soccer, billiard, and

of WOW Cyber Café. Apart from games and mouthwatering foods, some owners have launched different products like Tshirt. CDs. audio-cassettes and gift items in their cafés.

Savs Nazir Ahmed Tapas of C-Net:. "In recent times, there is a fall in computer sales. Therefore, we think that a cyber café will bring us

urban youths. Being an Internet buff is the in-thing in recent times. For the young generation, cyber café is like the magical world of Harry Potter where reality does not

rear its ugly head.

FROM PAGE 12 were formed in January and they

Azim Uddin Ahmed consists of two Petrobangla directors, economists,

meet regularly. Arguing that Bangladesh's gas

connection.

SIM card From Page 12 The NBR on March had slapped a

licence fees.

The mobile phone operators however expressed a mixed reaction to the government decisions. pointing out that users of cheaper

further to make handsets affordable for the commonman, he said. An official of another mobile

complex. popular local giants --Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra -- arranged

were damaged

may be gazetted today. IPP deals

With the change of power, allegation of inconsistencies in the agreements, especially in the areas of implementation and power purchase, started surfacing, prompting committee late last year to investi-

While recommending amendments to the existing power purchase agreements, the Committee called for thorough analysis of tariff structure and other aspects before

gic positions in the area

Afghan forces

Padsha Khan, an ethnic Pashtun warlord, tried to storm Gardez in January after interim Afghan cabinet leader Hamid Karzai appointed him governor of Paktia to replace the ormer Taliban rulers

Karzai blamed the fighting on

Escape to cyber reality

expensive, too. Members of that café were mostly foreign nationals. But now there is a shift in the "These days we have to attend at least 100 users a day whereas very few people used to come in the first six months." said Mizanur Rahman.

one of the owners of the Blueplanet

Cyber Café, second ever cyber café

user when it started off in 1997.

Internet was unfamiliar then and

in the country which was launched in 1998 The growing popularity of cyber cafés lies in the fact that most people cannot afford to spend a minimum of Tk 30,000 to buy a PC. Besides, there are additional expenses of Internet connection, electricity charges, and telephone

charges in case of dialup ISP con-

They find it more convenient to

enter a cyber café and use the Internet for Tk 30 to 35 an hour. The majority of the users in these cafés are students. Some of them visit these cafés to collect information on current affairs for academic purpose, or to print or scan some-

A significant number of employ-

ees from different small NGOs and

other offices also come to the cafés

for official and personal reasons, as

Chatting on the Net has also

changed the attitude of the young

people. Exchange of scented billet-

doux or conversation over tele-

phone between lovebirds is now

outdated. Express your feeling

there are insufficient Internet facilities at their offices. But most frequent visitors to cyber cafés are young people, who come in for browsing, chatting or Searching the web for library checking e-mail. references is also not very uncom-

through web-based messenger service - that's the trend. While chatting on the Net, one can convey his thoughts more

agreeably than he would have done

otherwise, said Zubair, an under-

graduate student.

"Ecstatic," said another, while describing the moment the girl he likes said 'yes' to his proposal during an Internet chat. "It seems fairytales sometimes come true in Things become more exciting

when you chat with a stranger. The

opportunity to communicate with a

person from an exotic place has

given a new dimension to the cliché-

"It really works like a refresh-

ment," said Liton, a regular visitor to

ridden idea of pen friendship.

Bytes and Bites Cyber Café at Iqbal Road. He loves to chat even while doing mail marketing for his business products. Very few cafés like "C-Net Cyber Café" at Kalabagan provide the opportunity of video chatting where the image of the person one is

chatting with is visible through a

webcam. It has become more

widened the horizon of our knowl-

edge as some people think. They

The range of web sites has

attractive to the cyber café-goers.

are motivated to browse web sites for various purposes. Bipasha, a Dhaka University graduate who aspires to go abroad for higher studies, browses the web for academic information.

Job seekers take the advantage the worldwide web to avoid the hectic procedure of searching job. But most browsers are inclined to browse at their leisure. To some

mon at a cyber café

extent they have developed up a passion for settling down in front of the monitor and click, Talal Zulyadayen, one of the

Increasing number of users has

widened the scope for owners to

"There is always a rush for billiard. Even the girls are coming as we always try to maintain a better atmosphere," says Rashed Abedin, an IT graduate from the United States who is one of the proprietors

The idea of cyber café has given a new colour to computer business as well. It has led some computer traders to establish a café of their

immediate return. Cyber cafés have brought a noticeable change in the life of

From Page 12 issues, the two national committees Hundreds of others were also stand-

headed by former energy secretary railway station at about 11:15am leaving 17 of the passengers

> (CMH) while the rest were released after first aid. One of the injured whose identity could not be known succumbed to his injuries at the hospital at about 3:30pm. The injured schoolboys were identified as Shafiul Kabir, student of

is stated to be critical.

After imposition of the taxes, the

"We welcome the government decision," said Mehboob Chowdhury, Director Sales and Marketing of GrameePhone. But taxes on cheaper handsets are still high. Those should be reduced

phone company said about 90 percent of the cellphone subscribers use cheaper sets. The telecommunication sector will grow fast if lower and middle-income groups can afford those, he said.

plants capable of supplying 300 MW settle a dispute between AL and oil-fired power were pursued with an BNP workers following a clash on aim to provide power on an urgent basis. The government agreed on a At least 10 persons were injured power purchase rate of 4.5 cents in the clash "So people were waiting to give per unit. Moreover, the PDB had Dudu's death sparked fresh reply through ballot and they agreed to subsidise the raw matetension in the area, resulting in rejected them in October 1 election. rial, imported oil, for these power People removed Awami League plants. Constable Ferdous was injured from power for its corruption and It was however agreed that when when police from Talaimari outpost terrorism. Now Awami League is ashamed of joining parliament with