Barapukuria coalmine

vehicle tried to get away making a U-turn, but we managed to catch it within a few minutes.

"The packed bodies of the two miners were recovered from beneath the seat of the vehicle", said the security officer, who was on duty during the incident.

According to the security officer, when asked the Chinese men replied that the bodies were being taken to Dinajpur hospital.

A member of the third probe committee set up by the China Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC)-- the Chinese firm constructing the mine-informed The Daily Star that they were aware of this incident. They also said they were convinced that the Chinese developers were taking the deceased to the hospital 'as per the norms in their country', during such situations.

But a member of one of the other two committees was far from convinced. "Dead men being taken to hospitals in plastic bags for treatment!" was what he said to express his doubts over the Chinese state-

A Chinese probe committee member said, of the two surviving witnesses one is a mentally challenged miner and none should depend upon his words. The other survivor is in hiding. Moreover, the Chinese developers denied all the allegations raised by the Bangladeshilabourers.

Two miners -- Kamruzzaman Zamal, son of Kafiuddin of East Sherpur village and Nirmal Mandi, son of Laxmiram Mandi of Ramchandrapur village in Parbatipur upazila-- were killed when the roof collapsed on them

The roof of the tunnel collapsed when the compressed air-driven drill machine was being greased for use in shaping a newly blasted tunnel into a secured concrete tunnel 430 metres below the

The mine will have an 18 kilometres long tunnel, of which about eight kilometres have already been

The US \$194 million coalmine project was signed in February 1994 and it came into effect in June 1994. Of the total project cost, US \$109 million has been arranged under the supplier's credit system at a five per cent interest rate. After the completion of the project, Bangladesh will have to pay back the loan in 11 consecutive years. The first three years will be free of any interest.

The construction of the mine began in June 1996. The project was scheduled for completion in June 2001. But the Chinese company had to redesign the project

five persons. Recovered were five

firearms -- three 303 cut-rifles, one

British-made 9mm submachine gun

and one revolver. At least 100

bullets were recovered from the hall.

were arrested and 12 bullets recov-

ered in raids on four halls of Dhaka

most of the arrested are general

students and were tortured. Among

the arrested was a canteen boy of

Of the total arrests, 28 were for

involvement in the gunfight over

tender-bidding and six others in the

Sony murder case filed with the

Lalbagh Police Station Saturday

Dhaka Central Jail. And the six

placed on a four-day remand for

interrogation are Mokbul Hossain

Mukul, Tajul Islam Pulak, Mahbubul

Kaiser, ATM Shamsuzzaman,

Sony was killed in a shootout among

various factions over the capture of

cultural organisations in statements

have condemned the killing of the

BUET student. The organisations

are Gono Forum, Sammilita Nari

Samaj, Jatiya Party (Monju),

Bangladesh Society for the

Enforcement of Human Rights, Ain

O Salish Kendra, BUET Officers'

Association, Bangladesher

Different political and socio-

Police in forwarding reports said

Aminul Islam and Shariful Islam.

a BUET tender.

The 28 arrested were sent to the

University.

the Jasimuddin Hall.

On Saturday evening, 47 people

Campus sources alleged that

BUET closed

coal per year and to reschedule the completion date following a sudden flood inside the mine on April 1998.

According to the project officials, about 60 percent work has been completed and since last April, the project developers have started extracting 40 to 50 tons of coal daily.

The project developers target to go on commercial production by ctober 2003 and after completion of the project in October 2004, the project is likely to start producing e million tons of coal per year.

About 83 per cent of the coa oduced will be used in the . Barapukuria 2 x 125 MW Power Project which is being implemented

with top priority.

The remaining amount of coal will be used in domestic markets. Meanwhile, on an average, 1.2 million tons of coal is imported every year and the brick field owners are

the major consumers. To check any unwanted flooding, the project developers have installed eight highly powered water pumps inside the mine. Of the pumps, five were installed at 260 meters below underground and another three were installed at 430 meters below. Each of the pumps is able to drain out 5000-cube water

Dacoits beat policeman, snatch away shotgun

A police havilder was beaten up and his shotgun taken away by dacoits Banglabazar in Companyganj azila Saturday midnight.

Havildar Jahangir Alam along with two constables was on patrol at Banglabazar when the dacoits in a surprise attack held him and snatched away the gun.

The two constables who were yards away thought that armed miscreant surrounded them and fled

cued the havilder. But his gun could not be recovered. The dacoits looted a number of

Another police team later res-

shops in the bazaar. Police arrested Abdur Rahim Nur Alam and Jafar Alam. On their statement 20 people along with a fishing trawler were held suspecting

9 Sarbahara Party activists arrested from Chalan Beel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Police arrested ten Sarbahara men including their local commander Mozai, 37, from Chalan Beel areas n Shingra upazila yesterday.

Of them, three are accused in several criminal cases, police said. Policemen from Natore, Bogra and Sirajganj jointly launched the

operation in Chalan Beel area and nabbed the nine. They were produced before a

magistrate's court at Natore yesterday. The court sent them to jail hajat.

Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF in **Patgram**

UNB, Lalmonirhat

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) of Bejejama camp shot dead a Bangladeshi vouth on Kuchlibari frontier of Patgram upazila Saturday

Sources said Rezaul Karim, 22, son of Nabir Ali of South Kuchlibari was killed while he fishing in Giria river near pillar no 805. The body was taken away by BSF.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Rifles protested the killing of the Bangladeshi youth inside Bangladesh territory and continued company level contacts to bring back the body.

PM assures help

FROM PAGE 12 circumstances.

The family members cried as they narrated the incidents of murder to Khaleda Zia. Stirred by the emotion-charged environment, Newton's four-year-old child in the lap of her mother Misti also sobbed.

The prime minister also became emotional at their grief and shared with them their sense of loss.

The aggrieved family members of the victims demanded proper trial of the killers so that no such killing recur in future. They also urged the prime minister to punish the masterminds of the killings.

The families of the victims ncluded Sarika Sarkar, wife of Binoy Sarkar Bina, Ferdousi Ahmed Misti, wife of Saidur Rahman Newton, their fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and children.

They told Khaleda Zia that the two ward commissioners were involved in political, social and development activities in their respective areas, and had taken up a range of development programmes for welfare of the residents of their localities

The prime minister inquired about the well-being of the family members of the victims, including their present financial condition, saying that her government would stand by them.

Khaleda Zia said she would try to arrange for a suitable job for the wife of Binoy Sarker befitting her qualifications so that she could become an earning member of the family. She said her government would

also take steps so that the family members of Misti is not left alone and suffer hardship. DCC Mayor and Minister for

Fisheries and Livestock Sadek Hossain Khoka and Political Secretaries to the Prime Minister Haris Chowdhury and Mosaddek Ali

Potato chips

FROM PAGE 12

released, the World Health Organisation announced plans for a meeting of experts on the relationship between high carbohydrate foods and cancer, saying more study was required.

much is known about the effects of acrylamide on animals, there is far less information about its effect on humans. It said the Swedish findings did not change basic dietary advice to eat less fat and more fruit

types of foods identified by the Swedes as high in acrylamide as a basis for picking products from grocery stores in Oslo to be analyzed.

chips had the highest acrylamide level, 90 times higher than bread, which had the lowest level. The authority noted great varia-

tion between brands, indicating that production techniques can reduce the levels in a product "We are in a close dialogue with

food producers and have been informed that they are working actively to reduce the acrylamide levels in Norwegian food," agency director Gunnar Jordfald said.

The scientists also estimated that acrylamide in fried foods causes about 1 per cent of dietrelated cancer cases or about 30 Norwegians a year in the nation of



Wife of slain DCC commissioner Sayedur Rahman Newton meets Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

Turks in tatters

JAGPA, PNP, JP merge

It was all too familiar for the Turks, who gave away a penalty three minutes from time in their first game to hand Brazil a 2-1 victory.

It could have been even worse had Parks not missed a golden chance to get his second in injury time, a goal that would have put the Turks out of the tournament.

"It's always the last five minutes," lamented midfielder Umit Davala.

"Perhaps we were overconfident but it was exactly the same as Brazil. We had chances to score the second goal but didn't and it cost us. "We've now lost three points in

two games. We are new to the World Cup and it shows we still have a lot to learn.' Turkey are appearing in their first finals since 1954 and coach Senol Gunes agreed that the long

absence was a contributory factor in their late lapses "It's a bitter disappointment but I think maybe we have suffered

"Time is running out. But still there is

time to curb these menaces by

restoring good administration," he

He urged Khaleda Zia to fulfill her

election pledges. "Otherwise," he

said, "people will force you to step

down from power through a massive

The JP chairman, however,

criticised Awami League's demand

for a mid-term election, saying that it

is not the time to judge a govern-

ment, which has been in power only

for eight months. "More time should

be given to this government," he

forced to quit power following a

mass upsurge in 1990, said both

BNP and Awami League had tor-

tured and thrown him into iail. He

blamed AL for breaking up his Jatiya

Party into three factions after com-

He said he handed over power to

Justice Shahabuddin for the sake of

democracy and good governance,

but democracy could not take

institutional shape yet and parlia-

ment could not be made effective

evil forces might capture power,

Ershad said: "It is not a good sign for

democracy... Jatiya Party will not

for fiscal 2002-2003, the former

President called it "highly ambitious

to implement this budget, he said.

"Where would the money come from

when export and industrial produc-

tion have gone down, and donors

Turning to the proposed budget

The government will not be able

Mentioning a rumour that some

due to boycott by the opposition.

support any such move."

are unwilling to give aid?"

was fully merited.

Frenchman Troussier.

and fanciful "

ing to power in 1996.

The former president, who was

FROM PAGE 12

movement.'

experienced." he said. Midfielder Yildiray Basturk was

"We lost concentration and we

also frustrated as he watched the points slip away after being substituted 10 minutes from time.

defended too deep," he said. "It would be fine if games lasted 87 minutes but I'm sorry to say that they Turkey must now beat China in

their final game and hope Costa Rica lose to Brazil, who are already quaranteed a second round berth after winning their first two games. But even if both results go the

right way for Turkey, qualification will depend on them overhauling Costa Rica's current goal difference advantage of three, possibly scraping through on goals scored. "We cannot worry about the

Brazil game but only our own match," said Gunes. "It could have been easier if we

had won today but we still have a chance of qualification and we

intend to take it. "We know we need to create

more chances and score goals but I am confident we will get the result we need to qualify."

Gunes will have Alpay Ozalan and Hakan Unsal available again following their one-match suspensions for being sent off against Brazil, but is lucky not to have been deprived of Emre Belozoglu, who was fortunate to escape with a booking in a volatile The goalscorer pushed a Costa

Rican official who was about to roll the ball back on to the pitch for a throw-in a minute from time, sparking an unsavoury shoving match involving a dozen players and officials from both sides. But Gunes played down the

incident. It was merely "the heat of the moment in an important match,"

three and from Rajshahi City Corporation

towns, sources in the DPHE said.

DPHE said a plan for removing arsenic from supply water in the four towns was submitted to the planning cell of the LGRD ministry on March 3 this year. But it has not yet been approved, he said.

municipalities and in Rajshahi was also contaminated with arsenic.

Manikganj, Noakhali, Bhairab, Gopalganj, Faridpur, Satkhira and Among the seven municipalities,

the highest level of arsenic was found in Gopalganj, which was 0.38 mg/L, followed by 0.21 mg/L in Faridpur, which are dangerously In all the seven municipalities

measures to remove arsenic. It has installed arsenic removal plants, shut down contaminated deep tube wells and sank new wells at deeper aguifers for supply of safe water. But in Faridpur and Bhairab the

pipeline water is not yet free from arsenic. DPHE engineers are working there to supply safe water. the sources said Experts say long time use of

der and skin in humans.

found involved in such crimes. "I have heard that in her bed

War cloud

Pakistani authorities on Saturday summoned an Indian diplomat for a sharp dressing-down over the incident and Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar also urged restraint.

Washington, meanwhile, late Saturday welcomed the announcement by Armitage that India was ready to respond to Musharraf's commitment to rein in Islamic miliants operating from Pakistani soil.

"Coming after the visit of Armitage to the region, we are pleased that the government of ndia has noted the progress being made. We look forward to the steps that the government of India has said it will take shortly," State Department spokeswoman Mary Thomas told the news agency. Meanwhile, Pakistan yesterday

welcomed India's reported decision to take steps within the next few days to defuse a tense military stand-off over the disputed state of "Pakistan welcomes reports that

India was considering military and diplomatic gestures to de-escalate tension between the two countries over the Kashmir issue, Information Minister Nisar Memon said.

"It seems the situation is heading towards improvement," state television quoted him as saying.

Memon also expressed hopes that the two countries would be able to begin a dialogue on "all important issues including Kashmir".

Indian and Pakistani newspapers yesterday interpreted the latest

Akbar: Hasina FROM PAGE 12

Akbar pointed out that the police recently arrested an aide of the opposition leader on charge of conspiring against the BNP-led coalition government. "The Awami League had conspired against the (previous) BNP government in 1996 and it is again doing the same thing, the minister said.

He warned that the AL would be held responsible if democracy or the parliament ceases to function because of its conspiracy.

Accusing the main opposition party of being involved in the politics of killing and terrorism, he claimed none of the BNP ministers was

room there are 16 portraits of her family members who had died an unnatural death. If that's true she must not be in her senses... I wish she continued as the chief of Awami League and went on speaking the way she does, because it would guarantee the BNP stint in power, said the shipping minister

The shipping minister also castigated the AL and its frontline leaders whom he accused of being involved statements as a sign that war clouds were receding

"Finally, peace gets a chance," read a headline in the Indian business newspaper The Economic

Pakistan's respected Dawn newspaper said tempers were cooling on both sides. "Both Islamabad and New Delhi should be thankful to world capitals for making concerted efforts to defuse the tension in the subcontinent," the newspaper said.

Govt trying to procure 2 more steamers for **Dhaka-Barisal** route

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain informed Parliament vesterday that the government was trying to procure two more steamers for the Dhaka-Barisal route to provide safe journey to thousands of southerners who usually travel by river trans-

While replying to a call attention notice by ruling party lawmaker Rustam Ali Farazi, the minister also listed 15 tough decisions taken by his ministry regarding safety in the river transport sector for implementation within a short time. The minister also informed that

the government was also trying to replace the old steamers plying between Dhaka and the southern districts including Barisal and Khulna with new and modern ones. The ministry's decisions came following the two tragic ferry acci-

dents last month that claimed at least 600 lives. "Once the decisions are implemented, no accident caused due to man-made errors should take

place," the minister said. He said a high-powered committee comprising naval architects from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) would survey all the 2000

water vessels to find out whether their structural designs are right. Quoting the ministry's decisions the minister said the vessels in operation have to introduce radar and wireless communications system within next six next months so that operators can communicate

He said special training would be provided to the staff on board so that they can tackle any odd situation

Saifur: Bankers

However, bankers say, the problem short shipment of exports, EPZ exports and non-repatriation of export-proceeds

"We are trying to build the capac-

ity of Bangladesh Bank. We want to make it an independent central bank," the finance minister told newsmen, emerging from the meetina. He said the central bank has the

huge task of monetary management, foreign exchange management and oversight function to deal So, the organisation should be

strengthened with empowerment of officers and furnishing it with modern equipment to bring dynamism in its activities. "We are examining how we can improve efficiency of the bank effectively," he said.

Saifur said he would again sit with the central bank executives next week to review the problems in

Bangladesh Bank, he said it had already been enjoying autonomous status. "We don't want to interfere in its activities.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr.

sory authority of the central bank over NCBs by making necessary amendments to the Bangladesh Bank Order, the Banking Company (Nationalisation) Order.

sions in the balance of payments, he said they were working on the problem to find out how the problem can be managed and hoped for a solution shortly.

Finance secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan was present in the meeting.

Housing sector

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman in

On the other hand, real estate and housing companies said the proposed fiscal measures will have a positive impact on this sector.

"Due to these measures, a person intending to buy an apartment in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas will require to pay around Tk 3 lakh less now than the earlier rate," Toufig M Seraj, president of Real Estate & Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB), told The Daily Star yes-

lakh for transferring an apartment valued at Tk 40 lakh. Now he will require to pay a little over Tk 5 lakh. This will help create a healthy environment in this sector, he said.

of the value of an apartment as registration and transfer fees and

Due to high charges, hundreds of apartments have not been registered. At least 1500 apartments have remained unregistered only in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara

Tax officials raided offices of some leading real estate companies recently and seized documents for alleged non-payment of VAT and other fees. They demanded the payments immediately after booking of an apartment by a buver.

They also issued notices to WASA, Titas Gas and DESA not to provide connections to the project sites before the payments People buy apartments only after

completion of the projects and gas, water and electricity connections in apartments, other REHAB officials The new measures will also help

housing sector. A sector does not grow without a secondary market, thev said. Now, there is no resale value of apartment because of high transfer

charges. If a person buys an apartment today and wants to sell it after a year, he will definitely incur several lakh taka loss, they mentioned.

PDB, DESA, BPC power sector's finances and allow tions, the chief guest at the seminar, its faster expansion to reach more State Minister for Energy AKM farmers sooner. Mosharraf Hossain, said govern-Prof Moinul Islam, president of ment is not giving any subsidy to gas

or petroleum sectors. Rather, there has been 'price distortion' in the sectors. Regarding subsidy in the gas sector, the state minister said, " We have imposed 55 per cent tax on gas. Then how can one think about subsidies in the sector? Rather, we are giving subsidy to IOCs (interna tional oil companies)." The government is purchasing power from

at a lower price, he added. Mosharaf also said the independent power plants (IPPs) are given subsidies, 'which is a problem in the country's power sector'. " This Mosharraf blamed the WB for

IOCs at a higher price and selling it

changing its stand on the subsidy "From the very beginning, the World Bank was dead against subsidy. And now they are saying to

Temple suggested withdrawal of subsidy in power supplied to the agriculture sector to strengthen the

give direct subsidy in a transparent

Communist Party and Bangladesh

They strongly criticised the government for its failure to control the law and order situation. They set down the killing to an internal bickering of the JCD over tender-bidding.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visited the residence of Sony at Uttara yesterday afternoon and consoled her parents. Hasina blamed the BNP for patronising 'party criminals' and demanded punishment to the killers.

French Open

It was the first Grand Slam final for both men and the 12th title for 26vear-old Costa who had not won an event in three years and who was ranked as low as 40 in the world last

Costa, who ousted defending champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil and last vear's runner-up Alex Corretja of Spain on his way to the final, moves into second place in the Champions Race as a result of the

On his 26th Grand Slam attempt

Costa finally found the winning

touch with his best previous perfor-

mances being quarterfinal appear-

ances at the 1995 and 2000 French

Open and the 1997 Australian Open

Bangladesh Economic Association

and also a designated discussant at

the seminar, opposed Temple's

views saying, "I would not mind if the

subsidy goes to our farmers who

have given us food autarky, but I

would definitely mind if it goes to a

note paper has overestimated the

subsidy in the power sector while

the amount of subsidy in the gas

sector is more than that mentioned

spite of enough stocks. If there was

any change in import duties, they

should increase the prices only after

traders about the hiked prices of

some commodities like powder milk,

sugar and soybean oil. They did not

increase the previous prices,

Some companies informed the

getting new supplies, he said.

though, Mujibur said.

He also observed that the key-

company like KAFCO."

Essentials

in the paper.

FROM PAGE 1

After the Swedish study was At the time, WHO said that while

and vegetables. The Norwegian agency used the

They study found that potato

concerned, our victory was fully

He criticised imposition of tax on computer and ban on the import of reconditioned vehicles Welcoming JAGPA and PNP leaders and workers to his party, the

leaders and workers, who deserted his Jativa Party, to return to its fold. Just dissolved PNP chairman Shawkat Hossain Nilu claimed that Khaleda Zia had given her word to foreign oil companies three months before the last general election that she would allow gas export, if

JP chairman also called upon the

Shafiul Alam Prodhan, pointing at massive killings, sharp rise in criminality and government misrule said that for this government, three months would make a year instead of 12 months.

agreement could become "white' now, he demanded of the government to scrap it immediately. JP presidium member Shah Moazzem Hossain critcised the proposed budget for next fiscal year and said that with the announce-

ment of the budget, prices of essen-

Wondering how the "black" CHT

not be able to bring welfare for the people, he observed. Referring to the proposed ban on the import of reconditioned cars Moazzem alleged that it is a conspiracy to make Bangladesh a market

for Indian automobiles. Shahjahan and JAGPA vice president Rehana Prodhan also spoke at the conference held at the Engineers Institute auditorium.

JP secretary general ABM

team and did a great job. But asked if he could pick out any

tournament that solidarity would be the key word for Japan because obviously we had to play as a team. Japan have four points from two games, one more than Russia, who were a major disappointment in yesterday's game, which warmed

up after a tepid first half. Belgium,

who play Tunisia today, have one

player for special mention.

Troussier said: "I would rather

praise them all. We knew before this

point, with the north Africans on In their first appearance in the finals in 1998 in France Japan lost all three group games and went home after the first round, having scored just one goal. Hidetoshi Nakata should have

without captain Ryuzo Morioka through injury, in front after 27 minutes but fired wastefully over the bar when the ball fell to him 12 metres out. Russia offered little, although 19year-old Marat Izmailov looked

Nakata almost made it 2-0 after 71 minutes, rattling the bar with ferocious 25-metre drive. lively and almost scored after 15

DPHE

The samples were tested at the laboratory of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

But the DPHE has neither taken any measures to remove the poison from pipeline water nor shut down the deep tube wells in the four When contacted, a high official at

In the tests, it was found that pipeline water in seven of the 99

The seven municipalities are

and in Rajshahi. DPHE has taken tials have gone up. This budget will

arsenic contaminated water damage the lungs, liver, kidneys, blad-

Japan jinx over

"With four points, we should logically qualify. "I'm very proud to be head coach of this team. Obviously this is a very important moment for the entire nation and Japanese football," said

fabulous people, these marvellous people how important the confidence they gave us these last four years was and to show them it was verv special for us.' "We had lots of pressure on us and we saw a very brilliant

Japanese team playing tonight,

especially in this second game

when we needed the victory.

to win," said Troussier

"We wanted to show these

Japan have four points from two games, one more than Russia, who were a major disappointment in Sunday's game "It was an extraordinary match against a very good team who came

"We saw a great Japanese team

and as far as the match was

merited. We played together as a

put Troussier's side, who were netting when he should have scored after rounding the goalkeeper. Japan deserved to hang on for their win, though, and Hidetoshi

minutes when he curled a delightful 20-metre effort just wide of Seigo Narazaki's far post. Russian coach Oleg Romantsev,

who did not risk his unfit playmaker

Alexander Mostovoi, brought on

lively 18-year-old Dmitry Sychev at

the start of the second half, making

the combined age of his strikers just 37 years. But it was Japan who struck the only goal. Koji Nakata played a diagonal ball into the penalty area that Atsushi Yanagisawa diverted into Inamoto's path and the midfielder took one touch before slamming the ball into the net past

Ruslan Nigmatullin.

Romantsev introduced his most experienced striker, Vladimir Beschastnykh, but the out-of-form Russian immediately contrived a shocking miss, hitting the side-

purchase of land and apartment will remove the bottlenecks in getting connections of utility services. A buyer had to pay around 30 per cent

with the authorities concerned wher

especially at the time of northwester or inclement weather.

About autonomy of the

Fakhruddin said autonomy of the bank would be reinforced with implementation of the new budgetary proposals. The budget for 2002-2003 proposed strengthening the supervi-

Act and the Bangladesh Bank's Referring to errors and omis-

the proposed budget for fiscal 2002-03 said, "The tariff value on brickfield sector was fixed in 1991, and taking the price increase of goods into consideration, I propose to increase the present tariff value on bricks by 50 per cent. At the same time, I propose a tariff value on a similar product --'ready-mix'-- on a proportionate basis."

A buyer had to pay around Tk 8

Withdrawal of VAT on sale and

develop a secondary market in the