**Electrocution toll** 

angry people staged a demonstra-

tion at the bazar yesterday demand-

ing punishment of the persons

Energy Iqbal Hasan Mahmud during

a visit to the spot on Wednesday night

declared one lakh taka compensa-

tion each for the families of those

Local MP and Textile Minister

Abdul Matin Chowdhury and high

officials of Power Development

Board (PDB) and Rural Electrification

shopkeeper at the bazar, the trans-

former in the 440 KV power line

exploded at around 7:45pm on

Wednesday. The live wire of the high

voltage line tore and fell on a shop

first, gutting it in a few seconds. The

wire then fell on the ground, instantly

started running and many of them

jumped into the pond nearby. But

unfortunately the water of the pond

also got electrified as a stretch of the

live wire also fell into it.

The horrified people at the market

killing two persons standing there.

According to Almach Bepari, a

Board (ERB) accompanied him.

killed and Tk 50,000 for the injured.

Deputy Minister for Power and

responsible for the tragedy.

# **DU** reopening

a hurriedly called Syndicate meeting Wednesday night, describing the campus situation not conducive.

According to the August 29 decision, residential halls were supposed to be open to students from September 8.

Talking to a group of journalists in his office yesterday, the acting VC read out a report published in the daily Inquilab on Tuesday. "A certain quarter is very active to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere of the campus before the university reopens," the acting VC quoted the daily as report-

"Conspiracies are already there to create an unrest and sponsor undesirable incidents on the campus. Certain NGOs and student organisations are giving financial support (to the move)," he quoted

Sources said the BNP wants to make sure that the JCD is potent enough to deal with any possible student unrest before the university reopens. The inability of the JCD, the central committee of which has remained suspended for 10 months, to tackle the recent student unrest on the campus and its organisational weakness have prompted the BNP leadership to decide to reinvigorate the student organisation by instituting a new leadership.

Both the university authorities and the government are wary of a spillover of the ongoing student agitation at BUET onto the DU campus, the sources said. They believe that fresh movement at the DU may further embarrass the

Home secretary, who is a member of the DU syndicate, does not usually attend syndicate meetings if the record of the last 10 years is anything to go by, sources said. But the incumbent Home Secretary Omar Faruk attended Wednesday's meeting on a government directive. the sources added.

Meanwhile, an unprecedented instance was set to pass the syndicate resolution on the reopening of

Sources said the chancellor of the university removed three Awami League-leaning members from the syndicate on Tuesday as per the General Clauses Act of 1897. Sources said it was done to get rid of any possible opposition in the highest decision-making body of the university. Dr. Forash Uddin, Prof. Nazrul Islam and Barrister Shawkat Ali have been replaced by BNPleaning teachers Prof. Kamrul Hasan Chowdhury and Prof. Aftab Ahmed and BNP lawmaker Khandakar Mahbub Uddin, the sources added.

Four of the 11 members of the syndicate who attended meeting said the decision was in violation of the Dhaka University Ordinances and Regulations 1997. All the four

#### Alamgir

Fertilizer Limited (CUFL), increas-

ing its production capacity and protection of the environment there. Mohammad Abdus Sobhan, an officer of the Bureau of Anti-

Corruption (BAC) filed the case

against Dr Alamgir on May 13. Alamgir was shown arrested in the case on August 13 following a petition submitted by the IO of the

case. But he (Alamgir) was granted bail in the case on August 24. Earlier, Dr Alamgir was granted bail in five cases, including the

Janatar Mancha case (Sedition case). But the chamber Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stayed the bail order on August 26. Dr Alamgir was arrested under

Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure code (CrPc) from the Zia International Airport on March 15 on his return from Singapore. (Later, he was shown arrested in

the Sedition case and four other

atest decision.

Syndicate member Sharifullah Bhuiyan, also general secretary of the Dhaka University Teachers Association, said the decision was n clear violation of the university

He quoted chapter 5, clause 10 of the Dhaka University Ordinances and Regulations 1997 that says, "No question which has once been decided (by Syndicate) shall be brought up for reconsideration within a period of six months unless it is introduced with due notice by the VC and agreed to by all the members present at the meeting in which it is introduced or a requisition for a re-discussion signed by a majority of the members of the Syndicate is received by the VC."

Syndicate member Prof. Kazi Shahidullah said that everyone wanted to reopen the university and that they tried to convince the VC to this end. He said the VC made the decision despite the fact that four syndicate members gave a note of dissent against it.

Another syndicate member. Justice KM Sobhan, termed the decision illegal since it was taken violating the university ordinance.

Meanwhile, the decision to cancel the reopening of the university has stunned all including the university teachers, students and student leaders.

Talking to The Daily Star, they condemned the DU authorities for the "illogical, politically motivated decision". They were highly critical of the authorities making the decision based on a newspaper report.

"The university authorities cannot play with the academic career of 30,000 students only for political ends," said a frustrated senior teacher of the university, seeking

## Robbery at home in Lalbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers looted money in cash and gold ornament from the residence of a businessman at Noor Fateh Lane in the city's Lalbagh area Wednesday night. Agang of about eight entered the

residence of Jahangir Alam at They tied up the members of the

family, took away the keys of the almira and looted Tk 22 lakh in cash and gold ornaments worth Tk 31 A case was filed with Lalbagh

Police Station in this regard. Police said they arrested one

person for his alleged involvement in the robbery.

## Strike at BIT Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A strike was enforced at Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Chittagong, yesterday demanding withdrawal of an expulsion order against a JCD leader.

Classes and examinations could not be held due to the strike enforced by the Students Action Committee. A rally was held on the campus

during the strike. The rally demanded withdrawal of the expulsion order against JCD leader Jahangir. Otherwise, it threatened to paralyse BIT with greater agitation

The BIT authorities took actions against JCD leader Jahangir and 14 others following a clash between JCD and Shibir on the campus on

# Banglapedia goes

ancient history of Bangalee people and their cultural, sociological and political history, architectural relics including ancient mosques, forts and

The 1288 entries on arts and humanities will include different religions in ancient and present Bangladesh, and contemporary philosophy, literature, folk art, fine

Different cultural codes, legislations, local governments, judicial codes and constitutions, regimes and noted personalities will be included in the 493 entries on the chapter on state and government.

The biological and natural science chapter in its 1337 entries will cover different aspects of botany, zoology -from ant to elephant and existing and extinct species -- and the bio-

With 565 entries, the zila and upazila part will include data on the Liberation War, cartographic features, festivals and local government

A total of 3000 pictures and illustrations, including 800 zila, upazila and subject-oriented maps will support the 6000 entries, provided by 1328 contributors from home and

Each volume will be of 500 to 520 pages and each entry will contain 500 to 2000 words

The editorial panel includes Prof Sajahan Miah, Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury, Prof Niaz Zaman, Dr. Kamal Siddiqui, Prof SM Mahfuzur Rahman and Prof Syed Humayun

The budget for the project was estimated at Tk. 10 crore but it now will cost Tk. 8 crore, the education ministry funding 74 percent and the ASB the rest 26 percent.

"The Banglapedia will be the first scientifically prepared Encyclopedia in South Asian region. It is a brave effort for a country like ours to launch a 10-volume encyclopedia"

He said the Banglapedia will open the window of a new horizon; and scholars, professionals, students and general users in the country and abroad will be benefited from this.

He said CD version of the Banglapedia will be available in the market within two months after its publication and each CD will cost Tk.

Minister for Education Dr. Osman Farruk will inaugurate the printing

#### Hasina

have to be held by this October

In her speech, Hasina broadsided the government for the rise in crime, corruption, rape, killings of children, extortion and price of essentials.

The government shut down the Ekushey Television (ETV), as the prime minister's family members could not reach an "understanding" with the FTV, the All chief alleged. "There is also a possibility of banning the Channel i and the ATN Bangla...only BTV will exist."

About the wheat scam, Hasina said the government made some officers on special duty (OSDs) to protect the masterminds

She also hinted at the involvement of the prime minister, her family members and cabinet colleagues in the scandal and blamed it for not allowing the AL investigation team to work. Without making alternative

arrangements, the government banned two-stroke three-wheelers, leaving thousands of people jobless, Hasina said. The government has doubled the price of gas and was trying to sell the

national resource out, when consumers were not getting adequate gas. Pointing to the Kolaroa incident,

she said the BNP activists were involved in it.

#### Human chain FROM PAGE 12

from 11:00am to 12:00pm.

They also demanded gas supply to every house and industrial units and a decrease in price of essen-

The CPB leaders said the monthly expenditure of common people has increased from Tk 1500 to Tk 2000 due to enhanced gas tariff whereas their income has remained constant.

They also said instead of alleviating poverty the present government is increasing poverty Manzurul Ahsan Khan, president

of the CPB, said, "There are many places in the country where gas is not yet available to the people. The government should properly utilise gas within the country instead of exporting it. Mujahidul Islam Selim, General

Secretary of the CPB, said, "The government cannot increase the gas tariff as dwellers of some areas in the city including Motijheel, Rampura and Malibagh do not get enough gas for domestic use." The government made revised

gas tariff upward for the second time in seven months. And the new tariff

#### JP leader

FROM PAGE 12

killers when they were fleeing. At least ten people were injured in the clash, police said.

Villagers told a group of visiting journalists that Roton, Akkas, Mahbub, Babu, Zahangir, Bablu, Bulbul and Moslem of different villages in Bagmara upazila were among others who launched the attack.

Police arrested three persons in connection with the murder.

A case has been filed with Bagmara police.

### BMA polls

FROM PAGE 12 5:pm. But in the city, it began at 10 pm at the BMA Bhaban at Topkhana Road where voting took place.

Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan, candidate for the post of BMA secretary general from the AL-backed panel said, "We are very confident of winning the election if there is no rigging or manipulation."

DrAZM Zahid, contesting for the post from pro-BNP panel, said, "We are going to win the election with a

The BMA is a body of professional doctors of the country having more than 25,000 members.

#### Union leaders

The management, he said, would soon propose to the government that services of Titas be declared essential. Meanwhile, due to the prevailing

tension, work at the Titas headquarters has virtually come to a standstill. While officials feel that the stalemate should be resolved right away, they are keeping mum in fear of reprisal from the union leaders, sources said.

In another development, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has prepared a list of troublemakers at the Titas headquarters with the help of the Titas management, sources added. The list has been forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police for further action.

UNB adds: State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday that he was not concerned about what the union leaders did among themselves.

"No union should in any way interfere in the functions of the Titas management," he said. "That is my only concern.' Mosharraf said he knew that

some union leaders were trying to influence the Titas management and his directive to the management was that it should not tolerate any interference whatsoever. "We'll go for drastic action if any

union leader wants to interfere. There must be discipline and we'll do everything to ensure that," he



Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina speaks at an emergency meeting of the Dhaka city AL at the party central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the city vesterday.

## Govt ignores graft case paying 81 percent of the bill to CMEC.

He also referred to his discussion

with the finance minister, who he

claimed, had consented to expan-

sion of the project.

contract."

proposal and recommended that the

expansion project could go ahead. The law ministry, as it turns out, gave its opinion based on the information the telecom ministry had

It was informed that 74 per cent of the original project had already been complete and the Chinese contractor received 81 per cent of the payment.

"Considering the balance of convenience and inconvenience, this project may be continued for the greater public interest," the law ministry commented. In reality though the CMEC

payment of \$10,678,358.20 in 1999. The remaining \$202,888,805.80 was to be paid over 15 years, with a threeyear grace period, in 24 half-yearly instalments at 3.25 per cent interest. The first instalment is due on October 7 this year. Therefore, the telecom secretary's claim of paying 81 per cent of

the bill is inconsistent with the CMEC

contract because it corresponds to

\$195,050,957.59, which would be

gradually paid by October 7, 2011.

But the telecom secretary's demi-

FROM PAGE 12

official letter focused on already

includes trial of the killers of BUET

student Sabequn Nahar Sony, with-

drawal of the expulsion order on 12

students, cancellation of BUET ordi-

nance of 1961 that bars political

activities on campus, naming of the

Sony and withdrawal of police from

campus.
Professors Humayun Azad, Sayed

Anwar Hossain, Mizanur Rahman,

AAMS Arefin Siddique, Mezbahuddin

Ahmed, Harun-or-Rashid, Dr.

Shawkat Ara Hossain and Hafizur

Rahman Karzon of Dhaka University

Prof. Amir Hossain, Prof. Mostafizur

Rahman and Shadhin Sen of

Jahangirnagar University, Kaberi

Gaen of Rajshahi University, engineer

Moududul Islam of Institute of Water

Modelling, drama director Gias Uddin

Badrul Alam, film director Moshiuddin

Shaker and Morshedul Islam went to

the BUET campus yesterday to

Mohammad Ahsan and Rezwan Ali

Khan also went to the hunger strikers

in front of the BUET cafeteria at about

5:00pm yesterday and urged them to

call off their strike. But the strikers

turned them down and vowed to

continue fasting until all their demands

At 10:00am today, students will

Prof. Habibur Rahman, Prof. Hasib

express solidarity with the students.

architect Robiul Hussain,

**Hunger strike** 

received only a five per cent down

Finally, the Planning Commission gave green signal to implement \$10 million repeat order to the Chinese

state-owned company When contacted, Omar Faroog, the telecom secretary, said, "I meant the value of total works the BTTB received so far from the CMEC was equivalent to 81 per cent of the

He could not, however, clarify how the value of 74 per cent work corresponds to 81 per cent of the total bill.

Farooq, who has recently taken over as the home secretary, finally admitted that it was a mistake on his part. "But it would not be an issue since the law ministry and ECNEC has already approved this project for the public interest."

Sources concerned do not share his view, though

According to the white paper on corruption by the Awami League government, the BTTB overpays \$17.27 million to the CMEC for 216,000 telephone lines. The first

form a human chain in front of the

Meanwhile, BUET authorities

BUET cafeteria where the hunger

postponed their yesterday's sched-

agitating students until September 8.

Court boycott

uled meeting with the guardians of the

Magistrate's Court could not function

and held a rally on the premises of Dhaka

Bar Association office. The

processionists chanted various slogans.

Shekhar Halder, Sahara Khatun, Abed

Reza. Momtazuddin Ahmed Mehdi.

Anwar Hossain and Abdur Rahman

Howlader, among others, spoke at the

rally, presided over by Md. Abdullah

Abu, former general secretary of

court fee and stamp duty will increase

the cost for seeking justice by the

They said the sudden increase in

Dhaka Lawvers Association.

commonman

Md. Rahmat Ali, Shudangshu

Lawyers brought out a procession

strike is being staged.

information report (FIR) in the graft case, the BAC has put the overpayment figure at \$26.40 million. "If the white paper figure is right,

then the FIR figure is wrong or vice versa," commented a source. However, both figures confirm the irregularities in this context, he

Inconsistency in such vital figures provided by two different wings of the Prime Minister's Office has embarrassed the government, commented

"Besides, the persons accused in the white paper have been mysteriously dropped out of the FIR. "Now approval of the \$10 million

the source requesting anonymity.

repeat order for the same project based on falsified information, first to the law ministry and then to the Planning Commission, has completely diminished the merit of the graft case." Former finance and telecom

ministers along with the telecom secretary and BTTB officials have been implicated in this graft case. But for an unknown reason the BAC is not filing the charge-sheet of this case.

An indefinite strike by the rest 5,500 auto-rickshaws is being observed since September 1 to protest the ban. Earlier, the Sangram Parishad had asked for the ban to be postponed until

The leaders also demanded cancellation of the agreement between the BRTA and the Auto-Rickshaw, Auto-Tempo and Auto-Truck Employees and Owners' Unity Parishad. Israfil Alam, convenor of the

Sangram Parishad said they would urge another faction of the Parishad to join their movement.

rickshaws through the Unity Parishad by September 1. Meanwhile, Mokhlesur Rahman, a member-secretary of the Unity Parishad while talking to The Daily Star rejected any possi-

However, Law Minister Moudud "We along with the government Ahmed termed the lawyers' work abstention as illogical and politically motivated, and also noted the government's assurance of looking into their

### Auto-rickshaw

FROM PAGE 1

refused

are trying to find ways to rehabilitate the affected auto-rickshaw employees and owners," he

September 1

Employees and Owners' Unity He alleged that the government failed to keep its promise of distributing 500 CNG-run auto-

bility of joining hands with the

### would be provided to ensure active Station this regard.

responsibility of the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad. Yesterday, Bangabhaban officials gave him a farewell.

meeting the President-elect at his Baridhara residence in the city until vesterday

supposed to be held on September BNP Secretary General and

Four nomination papers were filed for Prof. Ahmed on Wednesday. On Tuesday night, the BNP

chaired by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia nominated Prof. Ahmed as the The presidency fell vacant after

Several seasons are being cited for the tragedy. An official of DESA seeking anonymity said, the wire tore down after three explosions, which is "abnormal". Because, normally, the circuit breaker stops flow of electricity after five seconds of an explosion. The circuit breaker might be faulty, he

Executive Engineer of Narsingdi Pally Biddut Samity Anjan Dus said REB took over supply of electricity in the area from DESA on July three this year. After take-over by REB, local mill owners lodged a case with the High Court, which gave three months' injunction. But REB decided to continue the supply ignoring the iniunction, he said.

The five-member body formed by the energy ministry to probe the incident visited the spot vesterday. Its members are DESA Director Mokhlesur Rahman, PDB Member Rahmatullah, REB engineer Dr A K Azad, Rupganj UNO S M Firoz Alam and Abdul Halim

ERB started work at about noon Police said they recovered eight yesterday to restore power supply in of the bodies from the pond. All the

# MoUs with ADB

Tk 540.50 crore will come from the ADB.

Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Communication Salahuddin Ahmed, Deputy Minister Asadul Habib Dulu Communications Secretary Syed Rezaul Havat and a representative of the ADB were present in the MOU signing ceremony.

The press release said under the first MOU, 51.7 km long bypass road will be constructed at Chandina-Comilla-Feni intersection of Dhaka-Chittagong highway apart from overhauling of two bridges on Dhaka-Daudkandi road It said the second MOU will

Bashbaria at Feni-Chittagong section and bypass road construction at Mithacharaitakundu-Chhotodargarhat. Under the third MOU, road corridor in Bashbaria-Alongkar

cover construction of 25.44 km

road corridor in Wahedpur-

cinema hall up to Kumira would be The fourth MOU will provide fund for 13.58 km road corridor up to Chittagong port on Dhaka-Chittagong highway. Roads and Highways Department will start initial development work under the four MOU this month, the press release added.

Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Department Engineer Mohammad Fazlul Hoque signed the MOU on behalf of the government while representatives of respective construction compabehalf of their firms.

#### Sony murder

FROM PAGE 12 two-day remand for interroga-

Detectives arrested Babu from Chankharpool in the city's Lalbagh area on Wednesday.

Sabegun Nahar Sony, a student of level-II term of chemical engineering department of BUET, was killed on the university campus on June 8 during a shootout between BUET based Muki faction and Dhaka University based Tagar faction of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra

## **Diversification of jute**

FROM PAGE 12

members of the new grouping. Jute Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmad attended the seminar as chief guest while T Nandakumar presented the keynote speech on future plan of action of the IJSG.

oped world to recognise the utility of iute in reducing environmental damage. He also called upon the members of now-defunct IJO to join its successor to strengthen research and utilisation of jute. Hafiz said only one-third of

The jute minister urged the devel-

Bangladesh's jute product has international market access, as the potential of the rest remains He noted that the main objective of the group should be to take steps

promote jute products and take care of the interest of those engaged in the jute industry. He hoped the meeting would ensure promotion of jute by way of thrashing out practical solutions.

that benefit millions of jute growers,

type of blanket, 80 per cent materia of which is made of jute. Presenting objectives of the new group, Nandakumar said a forum

The jute minister further said

researchers have developed a new

participation of private sector in the development of jute.

Besides, the issue of poverty alleviation, employment and development of human resources, particularly of the women in the jute sector,

Jute Secretary AFM Sarwar Kamal and Dr. G Mohiuddin, project leader of bio-pulping project, also spoke on the occasion

Representatives from France, India and the European Commission took part in the discussion

#### Jubo Dal leader

at Shahid Nagar slum in Lalbagh

FROM PAGE 12

area of the city on Wednesday night. Sources said Khokon was a resident of Kamrangir Char. The gang took him to the slum on some plea and threw a bomb at him. As it exploded, he collapsed on the ground. Lalbagh police recovered the

scious state and took him to the DMCH. He succumbed to his injuries later. His body bore marks of bomb and stab injury On information, the victim's mother went to the DMCH and

fatally injured man in an uncon-

identified his body. She said her son had links with some miscreants. A case filed with Lalbagh Police

secretary-general, avoided visiting the

grave of late President Ziaur Rahman,

founder of the BNP, on his death anni-

versary and his official message on the

occasion had no mention of the BNP's

contention that Zia declared the coun-

of Gulbuddin Hekmatvar are also

seeking the same opportunities," he

official in Kabul had told AFP that

security had been bolstered across

the city in response to specific

The road leading to the German

Earlier yesterday a military

Car bomb

FROM PAGE 12

terrorist threats.

## Oath today

Meanwhile, visitors continued

the nomination papers filed for the presidential election, which was

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, one of those who proposed Prof. lajuddin's candidature, and Political Secretary to the Prime Minister Haris Chowdhury were present during the scrutiny.

> Embassy was closed to traffic and the main entry to ISAF headquarters, which lies opposite the US embassy, was partially closed. The official, who spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity, said the measures were not connected to next Monday's commemoration of Masood's death or September 11.

Local people demonstrate against the negligence of the Power Development Board to maintenance of electric cables Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhurv stood down on June 21 in the face of

yesterday after electrocution of ten people with 440KV live wire at Rupganj in Narayanganj.

presidential candidate.

#### an impeachment threat by the BNP Parliamentary Party that said As soon as Prof. Ahmed assumes Chowdhury had lost confidence of presidency, Acting President the majority party in parliament. Jamiruddin Sircar will resume the The ruling party's no-confidence came after B Chowdhury, the founding

Earlier yesterday, Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed scrutinised

Standing Committee in a meeting