War of words

Atomic Energy Agency wish to

interview. The United States has

insisted that the inspectors exercise

what it considers their power under

the resolution and bring the scien-

tists -- with their families -- out of Iraq

to be interviewed without fear of

Monitoring Directorate, said a list of

scientists who could be interviewed

Amin, who chairs the National

retribution or intimidation.

probably Sunday.'

Striking lawyers can be debarred: Indian SC

PTI, New Delhi

Holding that no reason is good enough to paralyse the working of the courts through strikes, the Supreme Court has warned that if self-restraint is not exercised, then the courts can think of framing rules debarring striking lawyers from appearing for cases

This observation was made by a five-judge constitution bench of the apex court while delivering the recent landmark verdict sending a clear signal that "lawyers have no right to go on strike or give a call for boycott, not even on a token strike".

Referring to problems listed by Bar Council of India as reasons for lawyers' strike, the bench said, "Of course the Bar may be concerned about such things but there can be no justification to paralyse administration of justice.

Justice Variava, writing for the Bench, said "We remain of the view that strikes are illegal and that Courts must now take a very serious

view of strikes and call for boycott."

On the power of the Court in this context, the bench said the right of appearance in Courts was still within the control and jurisdiction of

"Let the Bar take note that unless self-restraint is exercised, courts may now have to consider framing specific rules debarring advocates guilty of contempt and/or unprofessional or unbecoming conduct, from appearing before the courts," the

Article 145 of the Constitution of India and Section 34 of the Advocates Act give the Supreme Court and the high courts to frame rules regarding conditions on which a person (including an advocate) can practice in the Supreme Court and/or in the high courts and courts subordinate thereto.

Justice Variva said if the courts frame such rules, it would be separate from the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Bar Councils as it would be concerning the dignity and the

orderly functioning of the courts

"The right of the advocate to practise envelopes a lot of acts to be performed by him in discharge of his professional duties," he said.

Conduct in court was a matter concerning the court and hence the bar council could not claim that what should happen inside the court could also be regulated by them in exercise of their disciplinary powers, the bench said.

The right to practice, no doubt, is the genus of which the right to appear and conduct cases in the court may be a specie. But the right to appear and conduct cases in the court is a matter on which the court must and does have major supervisory and controlling power," it said.

'Hence courts cannot be and are not divested of control or supervision of conduct in Court merely because it may involve the right of an advocate," the apex court said.S

Road accidents

In another road accident at

Zamirdia in Bhaluka upazila, four

people were killed and five others

njured when a Dhaka bound truck

from Mymensingh collided head on

Two persons died on the spot.

one at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and the other at Bhaluka

health complex. Of them, two were

identified as Badal, 22, and Hassan,

20, identify of the rest two could not

be known. The injured were admit-

Drivers of both the trucks man

Unidentified assailants killed a

rickshawpuller at Shikaritola here

yesterday morning and took away

The dead was identified as Nurul

Police recovered the body from

the spot and sent it to Mitford

Islam, 35, of Charpara in

Muktagachha upazila of

ted to Bhaluka health complex.

Keranigani

UNB,Keraniganj

his vehicle.

with another truck at about 8:30 am.

FROM PAGE 12

treatment at the hospital



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina accompanied by members of the new party presidium places a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi Road No. 32 in the city yesterday.

Admission forms

admission to the government schools will be conducted centrally like the previous year, which.

according to the education ministry brings transparency to the entire Admission tests for class I to IX in the twenty- four government schools are scheduled to be held

on January 9, 11 and 13, said an official in the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Department. the leading non-government

schools will be held on January 2.

Last year, the ministry of education divided the city's government schools into three categories. Sources said admission tests for the "A" category schools will be held on January 9,"B" category on January 11 and "C" category on January 13, with uniform questions papers

Schools that fall in the "A" category are Government Laboratory High School, Mirpur Government High School, Motijheel Government High School, Khilgaon Government High School, Nawabpur High School, New Government Girls High School, Islamia High School and Mohammadpur Government High school.

Schools in the "B" category are: Motijheel government Girls High School, Dhaka Government Muslim High School, Banglabazar Government Muslim High School, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar High School, Government Science College (school section), Dhanmondi Girls High School and Armanitola Government Girls High School

Dumuria upazila of Khulna district.

The NBCP has its wings in

Jhenidah, Jessore, Khulna,

where it has more 3000 armed and

2000 unarmed cadres to carry out

"operations" and implement "hit-

well-equipped among the seven

western districts, is now manned by

elimination of one who is branded as

its "class enemy". According to one

of its ringleaders now in Khulna

district jail, NBCP is more ferocious

Underground politics in the

south-western region of the country

is now being controlled by 40 top

ringleaders with the help of 5000

There are seven outlawed par-

This party believes in physical

outlawed parties in the south-

NBCP, the strongest and most

lists", the sources said.

14 ringleaders.

than PBCP

Schools in the "C" category are:

Dhanmondi Government Boys High School, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar Government Girls High School Qamrunnesa Government Girls High School (Dhanmondi), Collegiate School, Qamrunnesa Government Girls High School (Tikatuli). Ganobhaban Government High School and Tejgaon Government Girls High

Among the non- government schools, Motijheel Ideal School & College has started distributing admission forms , and it will continue until December 31. The admission tests for class II and I will be held on January 4, while the admission tests for class III, V, VII and IX on January 8. Besides, the admission tests for

class VI and VII of the newly introduced English medium section of Ideal School will be held on December 30.

The admission tests of Vigarunnesa Noon School for class I to VI (English medium) will be held on January 3, while the test for class VI will be held on December The school has completed

III and IX of Dhaka Residential Model School will be held on

Udavan School will announce the date of beginning distribution of admission forms after the school reopens on January 5. Holy Cross School has completed admission

Hospital morgue for autopsy. Victim's wife, Zobeda Khatun,

Mymensingh

filed a case with local police station. The reasons behind the killing could not be known.

lead, sulphur and ammonia, are

Discarded rotten leather scraps oile up at every road intersection. Surface drains are flowing with ourple liquid waste. Bones, animal horns and hoofs are dumped along the drains and the nearby embank-

clean water.

nside the embankment, the authorities let out the waste with about 16 pumps into the Buriganga. Several DoE studies reveal that

BSS from Jhenidah adds: Police the pollution level in the river is so existent in the water.

man from Kamrangirchar, said that fishing in the river was a means of like many others is cultivating African catfish in cages, as local fish cannot grow in such toxic water.

planned to make a central effluent treatment plant for the Hazaribagh tanneries. But the project is shelved

Also, the government plans to relocate the tannery industry to Savar. But none can say when.

FP workers

services at upazila level and below so that clients do not have to approach separate departments for different services. The decision to gradually unify

five-year Health and Population began in July 1998.

an end the major activities of HPSP, the sources pointed out. The FP staff members include

planning inspectors, family welfare visitors and medical assistants. Sixty percent of HPSP's budget

of US\$ 2.9 billion was allocated for the 'one stop' service from CCs. Some DPs may withdraw their

funds if the unification process is stopped. DPs have not yet been

ary M Fazlur Rahman told The Daily Star that he was not aware of such a decision. "The Health Ministry possibly cannot take any decision unless we have the evaluation (IMED) report in our hand", he

Fate of pvt TV channels

Universal Television (UTV), a concern of electric wire manufacturer BRB cables and Inqilab Television (ITV), a concern of Bengali daily the Ingilab, obtained licenses to launch satellite service.

The UTV had planned to launch its service on Pahela Baishak (April 14 this year) and the ITV on March 26, the Independence Day, sources An official of the ITV said, "It

takes almost a year to have satellite frequency form the authorities concerned." The ITV now plans to launch its service on the coming Eid day (mid-February) and the UTV later on because it is trying to obtain permission for its own satellite ground station. The ITV would use NSS-5, an

American satellite for transmitting 'infotainment' programmes. Infotainment is a new concept in satellite culture to provide entertainment and information at the same time, the official added Jamuna Television (JTV), which

claimed to have a terrestrial licence, also could not launch service due to non-availability of frequency. The JTV took the issue to court Two more companies - - Mv TV

and KTV -- recently obtained licences for launching satellite television

the bacteria or germs will not find

their way to the surface water

through numerous cracks in the

pipes. From the open drains or

garbage dumps, the germs and

bacteria are easily carried to nearly

homes by cats and dogs, thereby

endangering the lives of all the

inmates of the house and even their

neighbours. The role of the house-

flies in this respect is no less omi-

large hospitals in the city normally

dispose of their wastes on roadside

garbage dumps. Such hospitals

reportedly do not have proper

medical waste disposal system, not

even an incinerator to de-

as the increased population puts

55,000 followers worldwide.

by cloning.

Earth was established by extra-

saucers 25,000 years ago, and that

humans themselves were created

The movement's founder, Rael --

the former French journalist Claude

Vorilhon -- lives in Quebec. He

describes himself as a prophet and

claims that cloning will enable

ics at Purdue University in Indiana,

questioned how the cloned baby,

assuming it survives infancy, would

experimentation before that," he

said in a telephone interview

Thursday night. "The end does not

justify the means. There are things

that are not ethical to do, like experi-

Muir said the cloning process

involves "reprogramming of the

genetic code. But in cows, pigs and

mice, we don't know if their behav-

iour is normal because we cannot

menting with humans."

"They might have done a lot of

develop into "a normal person."

William Muir, professor of genet-

humanity to attain eternal life.

contaminate the infectious waste.

It is common knowledge that the

FROM PAGE 12

Chairman of My TV Mohammad

Sabur Khan said. "We will go for programmes mostly based on education.'

Meanwhile, the information ministry received numerous applications from private firms intending to obtain permission for exportimport of multimedia programme software and establishment of satellite ground stations.

"We have received numerous applications for launching of satellite channels following the closure of ETV," said a top official of the information ministry.

A committee is likely to be formed to judge the merit of the applications and potential of the companies concerned. The government has already

given permission for export of locally produced multimedia news and other programmes, which would be telecast via satellite from abroad, information ministry Different business houses willing

to export programmes for televisions through Satellite News Gathering (SNG) equipment have applied to the ministry for permission. SNG is a device which transmits programmes quickly via satellite. It reduces the time for physical

A growing health hazard

added pressure on the hospitals

many of the hospitals have to

increase their capacity to accommo-

date patients, which means a corre-

sponding increase in the amount of

According to the findings of some

researchers, when rainwater mixes

with the refuse in the garbage dump,

the stinky liquid mixture seeps

through several layers of soil to the

water table below carrying deadly

micro-organisms and toxic chemi-

Several tests conducted by

specialists of the World Bank have

reportedly found groundwater

contamination in different parts of

destroying hospital wastes includ-

ing used syringes and saline bags.

In the interest of public health, it is

incumbent on the authorities con-

cerned to install such methods so

that hospital wastes are completely

destroyed and none of it can find its

way back to the market for resale

There are scientific methods of

shipment of programmes. Sources pointed out that there is

a big market for Bangladeshi news and entertainment programmes abroad, especially in India, United Kingdom, United States and the Middle East countries where many expatriate Bangladeshis live. The country could earn millions of dollars in revenue 'through up-linking multimedia and news programmes' produced by local firms having telecast facilities abroad, the sources added.

There is a plan to 'up- link' programmes of the state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) for Bangladeshis living abroad, one

The two existing satellite channels in the country -- Channel i and ATN Bangla -- presently telecast programmes via satellite from Bangkok and Singapore. Earlier, the two companies were given permission to up-link programmes through

Besides, Media One Television, initiated by Ittefag Group of Publications, is trying to obtain licence for export and import of multimedia programmes.

Laboratory test samples need to

be effectively disposed of after use

so that the deadly organisms cannot

contaminate clean water or food. All

used disposable syringes must be

put through a machine that crushes

them to tiny bits making them

impossible for reuse. As regards

cleaning of hospital linens, care

should be taken by hospital authori-

ties so that proper disinfectants are

used and only specific personnel

authorities to make sure that appro-

priate measures are taken to crush

the ring of racketeers involved in

If the menace from medical

wastes is taken lightly, it will be at

our own peril. So it is of paramount

importance that strict measures are

put in place to ensure proper dis-

posal of hospital wastes to avert a

health disaster that is just waiting to

Also, it is important for the

are assigned to do the laundry.

selling used hospital wastes.

Ramadan said. For its part, Ath-Thawra, mouth-

FROM PAGE 1

Lokman Hossain who identified

but to unveil before public opinion

the terrorist aims and aggressive-

uncover proof of prohibited arms.

evil and (British Prime Minister

Tony) Blair are claiming that Iraq has

weapons of mass destruction, and

the UN weapons inspectors have

unveiled these lies and allegations,

ness of the United States.'

Bhanga police

nals -- Mohammad Hannan of of Ruhul Amin.

Besides, the joint forces, acting on the confessional statement of arrested Jubo League leader Khan Abu Bakar Siddique, recovered a shutter gun from his house in the town on the same night.

city in a press release last night said

"It is now time for the people of Dhanmondi to step forward and assert themselves in order to have a healthy atmosphere in the locality." they added. They urged the residents to join the movement for making Dhanmondi a better and safer place to live in.

the proceedings

Serajul Islam, Fahmida Malik and

DPUJ will organise another rally today at Road 32, Dhanmondi R/A, in protest against the mushroom growth of schools, colleges, clinics, NGOs and business houses

"will be ready in two or three days, on the ground, because they have found nothing, and how could they Questioned about the US find anything if it does not exist," the demand, Amin said: "We do not newspaper said, referring to prohibthink it is necessary. People are free ited arms. to accept these interviews or to "These lies are being spread at the highest levels in the United

piece of Iraq's ruling Baath party,

administration accusing Iraq of

possessing weapons of mass

destruction is part of its strategy of

lies, but Baghdad has succeeded in

unmasking these deceptions by

accepting the return of (UN arms)

have uncovered these allegations

"The inspectors themselves

"the Americar

said yesterday

inspectors.

"Not the National Monitoring States" and are "laying the ground-Directorate, the Iraqi government, work for action. UNMOVIC (the UN Monitoring, Heightening tension still more, Verification and Inspections Iraq's INA news agency reported Commission) or the International three Iragi civilians were killed and

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) can another 16 wounded in a raid early constrain anyone to be interviewed. Thursday by US and British war-"We leave (the scientists) the planes enforcing the Iraqi southern choice to accept or refuse," he said. Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said Baghdad had The attack was in retaliation for Monday's downing of a Predator spy accepted the UN resolution on inspections "not to accommodate drone by Iraqi anti-aircraft fire and the Americans and their evil allies. warplanes which entered the "no-

the country, the command said. Russia, meanwhile, warned that He echoed Amin's statement that a war on Iraq could detract world a month of inspections had failed to attention from the ongoing military campaign in Afghanistan and allow "The American administration of international terrorism to proliferate.

fly" zone over the southern part of

And while Turkey and Russia continued to balk, a public opinion poll in Israel showed that 61 percent of those surveyed said an US attack was "in Israel's interest", while only

ing seven "identified criminals" from

different parts of the country in the

last 24 hours ending at 6.00am

They also recovered nine fire-

arms, three other weapons and 16

bullets during the period. Ten cases

have been filed under the Arms Act

against eight accused, the press

14 more criminals

vesterday.

himself as a major in the army and realised illegal toll was arrested from Bhanga bus stand. The joint forces also arrested

Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Hasibul Islam Hasan and three alleged miscreants -- Abdur Razzak, Shadat Hossain Akash and Biswas. They were handed over to In Bagerhat, two alleged crimi-

Malgazi and Ruhul Amin-- were arrested from Mongla port on Thursday night. Illegal drugs were also recovered from the possession

The police headquarters in the

Dhanmondi

to 15) there were 16 schools, nine clinics and hospitals, five NGO offices and 24 business establishments over an area of half a square mile. They pointed out that the nonresidential establishments spoiled he residential character of Dhanmondi R/A.

Sultana Alam and Mohammad

Arefin organised the rally, while Savida Kamal delivered the welcome speech and presided over Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Prof.

Naima Amin addressed the rally.

in the residential area.

The "identified criminals" include

M Abu Syeed Gazi of Khulna, M Farukuzzaman, Moynal and Shawkat of Kushtia, M Anwar Hossain Kalu and Khokon of Dhaka and Shamsu alias Pantha of Narayanganj, the press release

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police in a press release said they rounded up 295 people including one "listed criminal" during special drives in the capital yesterday.

AL central body

FROM PAGE 1 1), the highest post still vacant in the central committee, but with a condition. But the AL high command is not interested to include Sayeed, the

sources hinted.

presidium member Dr Mohammad The feud between Nasim and Selim surfaced during the last

Nasim will be asked to resolve his

feud' with his brother and former AL

general election, which Nasim decided to contest from three constituencies, including the seat of As a result, Selim contested the

polls as an independent candidate and the party expelled him.

However, according to the sources close to Nasim, he might not take the proposal as they thought it would be humiliating for him when his junior colleague like Obaidul Quader was elevated to joint secretary.

Nasim could not be reached for comments despite several attempts. Although the former AL organising secretary spent the day home in the city, he did not receive any telephone calls.

Democratic forces

general election," she said. "Awami

League proved that it cannot be obliterated despite the torture and repression on the party members since the caretaker government took over and that continued under

Bangladesh have always benefited from Awami League since its inception in 1949 and after the 1996 election "we tried to lead the country to a prosperous position. But the party always had to "face conspiracy that continues till today," she added.

"We tried to lead the country to be a developed one by the year 2020, but that needed end of all conspiracy.

being re-elected, the Awami League president said: "I am with this party since my childhood. Once I was affiliated with Chhatra League. I never aspired for any post or posi-

She told the reporters that this year she had requested the party councillors to name a new leader

Awami League chief said it discussed filling the vacant posts in the 73-member central body

Awami League sources said hundreds of leaders and workers from different parts of the country gathered at Hasina's Sudha Sadan residence at Dhanmondi yesterday morning to greet her. Many of them brought packets of sweets, which were later distributed among the party members present.

Clash over land One killed, 3 hurt in Sunamganj

UNB, Sunamganj

One person was killed and three others were injured in a clash between two rival groups over a land dispute at Taniakhali in Tahirpur upazila yesterday. Police said one Noor Ahmed, 25

died on the spot when his rivals hit him with sharp weapons during the clash in the morning. The injured were admitted to

Tahirpur health complex.

Police arrested seven people after a case was filed in connection with the killing. The body was taken to Sunamganj Hospital for autopsy.

Thousands in Godagari

and telecommunication minister always directed the PDB to immediately hand over the feeder".

In the 214th meeting of the DDCC on July 20 last, the minister 113th meetings

minister about the matter, and the minister asked the secretary of the ministry to take necessary steps for the implementation of the government decision. In a joint meeting of REB and

another joint meeting of the PDB

and the REB at Dhaka, the state minister asked the PDB to execute the order, and the concerned minis try on September 12, in a typed notice to the PDB chairman directed the PDB authorities to hand over the feeder to the REB.

When contacted. Anisus Rahman, GM of RPBS, cited a government circular signed by the deputy secretary of the PDB Golam Faruk Chowdhury in September 1998. The circular says that declining to hand over PDB lines, listed in the Action Plan, amounted to violation of the Board's directive.

The circular also said legal action would be taken against those officials responsible for the lapse. Talking to The Daily Star,

Shamsul Islam Mridha, superintendent engineer of the PDB in Raishahi, declined to comment on the issue, but said that preparations were afoot for handing over the Rajabari feeder to the REB. But a top PDB official informed this correspondent that the CBA

leaders of the PDB, who have

over the feeder to the REB. Besides, many of the PDB employees will be redundant once the feeder, one of the largest in the district, is handed over, he said.

SI Elias murder ties in the region. Apart from 5000 "regular" armed cadres, these seven organisations have about

4000 supporters who do not have firearms, the sources said. Eight out of the 40 ringleaders are now in jail and the rest are at

The seven parties are: PBCP BCP, NBCP, Sramajibi Mukt Sramajibi Mukti Andolan, Gano Bahini, Marxist Culture Centre and Purbo Bangla

have so far arrested 12 people in connection with the murder of Sub-Inspector Elias. Of them, four were arrested from

Jhenidah while the rest eight from They are Sabdul, 32, Alam, 28, Siddique Sheikh, 40, Ali Hossain, 37, Amirul, 22, Mostafa Kamal, 30 Zia, 24, Ali Hossain, 28, Mostafa

Biswas, 30, Manjurul, 25, Shawkat Ali. 34 and Abdul Jalil Mondal. 40.

execute the decision without delay The DC of Rajshahi, also the president of the DDCC, has said, The general manager (GM) of Rajshahi Palli Biddyut Samity (RPBS) brought the charge against the PDB in several meetings of the DDCC, and we and the local minister Barrister Aminul Haque (post

expressed his concern and asked the PDB to execute the decision when the general manager of the RPBS informed the meeting that the PDB was yet to hand over the feeder. The issue had also been discussed in the DDCC's 112th and On August 18, top REB officials had discussions with the energy

turned the feeder into a source of PDB at Bogra on August 21, State extra income, are putting pressure on the PDB authorities not to hand Minister for Power Igbal Hasan Mahmud also asked the PDB chairman to hand over the feeder to the REB as soon as possible. And finally, on September 19, at

Rickshawpuller murdered in

distribution of admission forms. The admission tests for class

January 9 and 10 respectively.

procedures for class I to VI lannery

ment.

Ali Haider at the Harun Leather Industry said he had skin disease from washing tanned leather with

When the tannery waste swells

high that oxygen is almost non-Shudir Chandra Das, a fisherliving 15 years ago. Nowadays, he

However, in the absence of any real data on the disposal of waste and the lack of any detailed information on the associated risks to health, it becomes difficult to devise a proper waste control mechanism. A few years ago, the government In this context, it may be noted that

FROM PAGE 12 to unify health and family planning

Sector Programme (HPSP) that The decision will virtually bring to

the services was taken under the

family welfare assistants, family

officially informed about the decision. the sources said. When contacted, health secre-

test their mental abilities." Vegas, Nevada, was founded in

miscarriage

Cloned baby born

cals with it.

The big problem, according to 1997 by the Raelians, who claim scientists, is to ensure that all the genes in this transferred code work The Raelians believe that life on properly, performing the dazzlingly complex business, which is the terrestrials who arrived in flying making of tissue and the repairing of

> Sheep, have found that -- even though all the genes are there -many of them do not appear to switch on and off as they should. Malfunctioning genes can cause an embryo to become malformed,

> prompting the body to expel it in a

Wide-ranging tests in lab ani-

mals, and the experience of cloned

farm animals including Dolly the

Many biotechnologists are repelled by the ethical dilemma posed by human cloning as well as the risk to the first cloned babies, and many governments have raced to pass laws that ban reproductive Yet this has not prevented a race

among scientific mavericks to

Zavos told the US Congress in May

that five groups of scientists were

racing to produce the first cloned

US fertility specialist Panos

become the first to clone a human.

Italian gynaecologist Severino Antinori said a woman carrying a cloned human embryo was expected to give birth in early Last month, the United States pledged to work in good faith for a

human baby. In late November,

global ban on human cloning after delaying for a year United Nations consideration of a treaty it did not believe went far enough.

Yunnan FROM PAGE 1 Chinese leaders.

Yunnan is known far and wide as

"mysterious land" for its panoramic landscape, abundance and myths. The word Yunnan literally means "south of the colourful This part of China, home to people of 26 ethnic groups, is

famous for its people's industry, courage, hospitality and originality They are also good at singing and dancing, and over the ages, the Yunnan inhabitants have created a splendid and distinctive cultural

the BNP-Jamaat rule. Hasina said the people of

Asked about her reaction on

'But they chose me again." About the first meeting of the newly-elected party presidium that was adjourned till 4:30pm today, the