lanes and by-lanes.

terminated at 6:45pm.

Hasina reached the scene at

The procession continued to

grow every moment with the joining of people on its march to Russell

Square in Dhanmondi where it

The procession paraded through

Noor Hossain Square, Paltan inter-

section, Bijoy Nagar Road, Kakrail, Matsya Bhaban, Shahbagh inter-

section, Elephant Road, Science

Laboratory intersection and Kala-

The AL chief, on an open jeep, waved to people lining both sides of

The procession paralysed the city traffic, leaving all sorts of vehi-

Additional law-enforcers were

deployed at different points to keep

the streets and many waved back.

cles stranded in clogged streets.

peace during the demonstration.

Virus writers

use worms

for war of

REUTERS, San Francisco

The creators of the Netsky,

MyDoom and Bagle e-mail viruses

have taken to exchanging insults in

what amounts to a war of words in

computer code between rival

On one side are the creators of

MyDoom and Bagle, who are

believed to be spammers or spam

groups because many variants of

the viruses leave backdoors on

infected computers that can be

used to turn them into spam zom-

bies, said Chris Belthoff, senior

security analyst at anti-virus com-

or group responsible for the Netsky

virus, who do not have any profit

playing a war of one-upmanship,

Belthoff said. "They could be jeal-

ous over the media attention the

viruses, all self-propagating e-mail

worms, have wreaked havoc on

Versions of the three computer

On the other side is the person

"It almost seems like they are

pany Sophos Inc.

motive, he said.

others are getting.

hackers, anti-virus experts say.

words

bagan before reaching the square.

Azad attack

close to the media at the moment, said CID inspector Kazi Abdul Malek yesterday. "I have some information that I am verifying. I don't want to say anything further

asked if he had derived any hints about identity of the assailants or their motive from the information available with him.

The police have so far recovered a machete, arrested Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader Abu Abbas Bhuiyan and Tablig Jamaat follower Golam Mostafa alias Mostafa Mahbub.

Ramna police arrested Abbas, joint secretary of BCL's Sir AF Rahman Hall unit of Dhaka University, on suspicion on February 28 and quizzed him on a five-day remand. He was sent to jail

After the case was transferred to them on March 1, the CID investiga-

tors arrested Mostafa from

woman, Meer Jahan, before the bench to wave a rickshaw. Two

vouths who followed him started hitting him with machetes while he

Investigation officer Malek said he was waiting to speak with the writer. "My task will become easy

"I have contacted the CMH (Combined Military Hospital) authorities, where Dr Azad is undergoing treatment in a VIP cabin, for permission to talk to him, but the authorities have refused me for the fourth day today," Malek said yes-

Azad's condition was improving sterday, said Azad's relatives who saw him in the morning and eve-

"Doctors have suggested physiotherapy for him so that the limbs are not paralysed," said Mouli Azad, the daughter. "When we saw him in the evening, we helped him to walk a few steps.

A medical bulletin released through the Inter Services Public Relations at 11:00am yesterday said Azad's condition has further improved. He is conscious, oriented with time and space and can communicate verbally, the bulletin further claimed.

"He can sit and walk with assistance. He is getting liquid food orally. His overall condition was improving but further intensive care is required," the bulletin said quoting a review by a medical board comprising specialists of the Armed

Reserved JS Seats

ruling coalition leaders on January

As per the government plan, 400 lawmakers will be elected in direct votes while the reserved seats will be distributed proportionately among parties having representa-tion in parliament. A party com-manding at least eight lawmakers

the enhanced general seats will be held in the next parliamentary polls scheduled for 2006.

The prime minister is keen on enhancing the number of seats for women to 50 to 60, but the ruling alliance policymakers favour keeping the number of the seats down to a maximum 45, highly

The plan to enhance and reintroduce the reserved seats in the JS was delayed due to disagreement over distribution of the parliamen-

Indian foreign secy due today

UNB, Dhaka

This is Shashank's first visit to Bangladesh since he took over as the Foreign Secretary of India in November 2003

Besides holding talks with the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary on all issues of bilateral and regional interest, Shashank will also meet uty, said a release.

The government finally has decided that there would be no the sources said.

When asked, a number of cabinet ministers said that they did not know what was proposed in the draft bill, as some last-minute

They said some more changes may be made at today's cabinet meeting as the ministers had little time to go through the bill, the draft being sent to them yesterday after-

RMCH interns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpun

for the second day, causing sufferings

The striking doctors also rejected the RMCH director's request to attend patients saying they would continue the strike until their threenoint demand were met

regularity in disbursing their monthly salary, security measures,

The authority would take steps to eet the striking doctors' demands the RMCH director (administration)

According to sources, some patients moved to different private clinics in the town due to the strike.

breaching individual privacy by eavesdropping on telephone con-

versation between two persons is a

punishable offence as it infringes on

not only obstruct the tele-density

and tele-reach but will also breach

the civil rights," said an official of a

cellphone company, preferring to

scribers' database, an academic

told The Daily Star that such inter-ception "could be used as a weapon

The intelligence agencies also want to amend Section 30 of the

telecoms act (concerning privacy) to read: "...to ensure protection of

the privacy of telecommunications

subject to the national security

Such a general clause would

allow intelligence officials greater

scope to intervene. Some rights

activists say they fear the amend-

ments would turn the country into a

The changes also apparently contradict the act's main aim of

having an independent commis-

sion -- the BTRC -- to regulate tele-communications. Many view the move is aimed at transferring

BTRC's powers back to the telecoms

Reporters sans frontières (Re-porters Without Borders), Paris-

based journalists' rights organisa-

On the move to access the sub-

remain unnamed

to blackmail people".

'police state".

"These types of measures will

Fresh bid to tap

private cellphone operators take character and nationality certificates from the intending cellphone

acknowledged the content of the letter but said they cannot entertain such requests. "It is not feasible," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He however would not elaborate.

Intelligence (DGFI) and NSI.

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MoPT) in an inter-ministerial meeting last month discussed modalities to amend the act and reviewed two

"We have discussed various aspects and felt the need to hold another meeting where the attorney general and secretary of the law ministry will be present to express a senior MoPT

The final draft will be prepared following the meeting and be placed in parliament, said the official who

also asked not to be named. Despite widespread concern and criticism from home and abroad, the government is amending the law at the request of intelli-

The home ministry in the interministerial meeting last month sought the provision of mandatory police verification to get a cellphone connection in the wake of growing phone-based crimes like demand-

The security agencies want to tap calls on both fixed and cellular phones to ensure national security, said the official adding that such a law exists in the neighbouring

told The Daily Star in the afternoon.

overseas

should deal with such cases through the central bank, so that they could in the matter

banks on foreign exchange management as some banks incurred a loss of Tk 124 crore in this business in just one year. Fakhruddin asked the chief executives of the banks to personally

banks to send it a list of their defaulted loans, whose cases have remained unresolved for more than 120 days with money loan courts.

Power crisis

FROM PAGE 12

Siddhirganj, expected to be commissioned by the end of March, has

unless they get a new one.

PDB Chairman MA Mayeed could not hide his frustration over the failure to commission the plant

didn't happen," he said on a note of frustration, but hastened to add that they were optimistic about launch of the plant shortly.

According to the PDB officials, the current demand-supply position of electricity was neck and neck 3,500mw. But the demand will

"In that case, commissioning of Siddhirganj plant was being considered as an alternative in the event of any shutdown due to a crisis to meet demand in the summer," said the PDB chairman.

Referring to the sudden trouble at Ashuganj that reduced the supply to 3,400mw yesterday, he said it is not unlikely that they would face similar problems when the demand climbs to its peak.

Experts observed that the country would never get rid of power crisis unless there is a reserve margin of at least 25 percent. The PDB chairman also subscribed to the

Hasina threatens

The procession coincided with historic March 7, 1971 --Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman set the tune for the Liberation War from a huge public rally at the now Suhrawardy Udyan.

Justifying her calls for hartal, Hasina said: "Had the country been run properly, there had been no violence and corruption, no price hike of essentials and people had lived in peace and happiness, we would have not called the hartals."

She said the ills along with 'siphoning off wealth abroad, violation of human rights, persecution of opposition political activists under the Khaleda regime' forced the AL and others to call hartals.

On reneging on no-hartal commitment, the former prime minister said: "My non-hartal announcement was met with more violent hartals by the former opposition BNP. The BNP had enforced 382 hartals during the five-year AL rule." Referring to the price spiral of

baby milk, Hasina came down heavily on the government wonder-ing how they could "do business" with the food of babies. Alleging corruption by the prime minister's family and its cronies, she said they bought kerosene as agents

from India without tender. Referring to a recent statement by New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Hasina said, "The government earned the nation the first position in repression on journalists in Asia after the epithets of the most corrupt nation

A CPJ delegation in Dhaka on Friday pegged Bangladesh as the most violent country for journalists

in the world and a terror-risk coun-

In the largest haul of foreign banknotes at Dhaka airport recently, the AL chief smelt the hands of ruling alliance men in the attempted smuggling

The leaders and activists of the AL began to converge on the road in front of the AL headquarters in

PM criticises AL

again because of the development activities under the present govern-

> Amidst claps from the crowd, she mentioned her government's achievements so far and said the rest of its election commitments would be fulfilled in the remaining years of her government's tenure.

> About the post-independence and the immediate past AL rule, Khaleda said their times witnessed famines, violence, corruption, plunder of public wealth and insecurity of life and property.

She said her government is working to build a country free from poverty, illiteracy and unemploy-

The prime minister reiterated her government's stand on maintaining communal harmony.

Presided over by Asadul Habib Dulu, deputy minister for disaster management and relief, and local MP, the meeting was also addressed by Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Rangpur BNP leader Rahimuddin Bharasha, local BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed Helal and former JCD president Habibun

Hearing on Rajuk staff firing Wednesday procession from different parts of Dhaka and by 4:00pm, the gathering spilled over into adjacent roads,

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday asked the government to come in open court on Wednesday for hearing on a petition on vacating a High Court (HC) order that stayed a Rajuk order dismissing its 372 employees.

Chamber Judge Tofazzal Islam of the SC passed the order after a brief

Earlier, following a writ filed by 240 of the discharged staff, a HC division bench yesterday also stayed the order of city development authority Rajuk (Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha).

The HC also issued rule upon the Rajuk to explain, in three weeks, why its dismissal order should not be declared illegal and void.

On February 19, Rajuk dismissed the staff engaged in different projects upon a suggestion from works ministry. They were working on 'no workno pay' basis, sources said.

Final report in Ruhul murder case accepted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted the final report in Ruhul Amin murder case against former Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim and five others.

The court also acquitted all the six accused. Magistrate Khondaker Fatema Begum of the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) issued the order as per the direction of the Court of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge

Metropolitan Sessions Judge set aside the CMM's court order for further investigation into the mur-Judge Mohammad Motiur

Earlier, the Court of Dhaka

Rahman on January 26 issued the order following a criminal revision filed by four of the accused on

The judge in the order said the CMM's Court on December 30 last year directed the additional inspector general of police (CID) for further investigation without citing convincing grounds and reasons.
"So the CMM Court order is set aside and the lower court is directed to dispose of the case in accordance with the law. Mohammad Ruhul Amin, 30, a

hide trader, was called out of his Hazaribagh residence by his business rivals Monir Hossain and Moin Hossain at about 10:30pm on March 20. 2002. The rivals then gunned down the victim in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Road under Hazaribagh thana the same day. Following the incident, the

victim's younger brother, Mohammad Sohel, filed a murder case with Hazaribagh Police Station accusing Monir and Moin the next

But the Detective Branch (DB) of Police submitted a final report on August 23 last year as the brought against the accused could

Ex-FBCCI boss Haroon asked to stand trial in court

A High Court (HC) bench yesterday ordered an ex-president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), to surrender before a Comilla court to face trial in a criminal case.

The bench comprising Justice M Awlad Ali and Justice Abdul Awal directed Yousuf Abdullah Haroon, former president of the FBCCI, to appear before the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Comilla within four weeks to stand trial in a case lodged with Muradnagar Police Station two years ago.

The court also asked the government not to arrest the former FBCCI president within the given time.

Earlier, Haroon, who appeared before the bench, filed a petition seeking anticipatory bail to avert arrest.

Stop political

FROM PAGE 1

corruption against the police forces, the committee said the sources of corruption must be detected and dismantled.

"A watchdog, if needed, might be formed to check the corruption of the police," said the committee chairman, who is also a ruling BNP lawmaker.

and order, Mannan said the lawenforcers were trying to improve the situation, but the problems were remaining as they had been.

The committee reviewed the limitations of the police adminis-tration basing on the report of its sub-committee that came up with an 18-point set of recommendations including raising the salary housing facility, logistic support and manpower of the force and equipping it with modern weap-

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury told the meeting that the ministry was considering a number of proposals submitted by efficiency.

AL threatens to stop Ctg port over property sale

Leaders of the main opposition Awami League (AL) in Chittagong threatened to stop the operations of the Chittagong Port, if the government sells any more the port's

day afternoon, jointly organised by Chittagong city north and south district units of Awami League to mark the historic 7th March and protest the repression against opposition leaders and the attack

party men in the name of private sector development and demanded immediate withdrawal f the allotment so far made.

Chittagong city Mayor and city

FROM PAGE 1 clashes since 1997.

followed by a rally at Rajbari.

Presiding over the 20-minute rally, PCJSS Rangamati district unit

"But what does the government prefer, autonomy of the CHT or implementation of the peace accord?" he wondered. PCJSS central leader Jolly Mong,

The PCJSS release says local

olice recovered the bodies. Rangamati Superintendent of olice Humayun Kabir said he was ignorant of the incident, having no

AL General Secretary ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said,"We surely would resist such ill moves and stop the operational activities of Chittagong Port, if necessary, for

the greater interest of the country. Presidium member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, north district president and former minister Aosharraf Hossain, lawmaker Rafiqul Anwar, former lawmaker Ishaque Meah, president of Chittagong District Bar Association advocate Ibrahim Hossain Chowdhury Babul also spoke at the

Polls in 144 municipalities in May

BSS, Dhaka

Elections to 144 municipalities in the country will be held between the first and second weeks of May this year, sources in the Election

Commission (EC) said yesterday. The sources said the EC will announce the election schedule by March 20. Elections in 64 municipalities were held since the BNP-Jamaat led four-party alliance came to office in 2002.

There are 286 municipalities in the country, of which 130 were formed by the Awami League government, while the present government formed 38 municipal-

Lalmoni Express

Dhaka at 10:30am from Lalmonirhat and reach Kamalapur station at 8:20pm. It would leave Kamalapur at 9:20pm and arrive at the northern town at 7:15am the

The train with first class, chair coach and 'shovon' class seats would charge its commuters between Tk 200 and Tk 575.

Among others A m o n g o t n e r s , Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Asadul Habib Dulu, deputy minister for disaster management and relief, Mosaddek Ali, political secretary to the PM, and top Bangladesh Railway officials attended the opening ceremony.

Outlaws slaughter

Zahangir, who accompanied Halim, has been evading arrest since the murder.

without further details.

But BNP lawmaker Nadim Mustafa told The Daily Star that the killing bore the hallmarks of an attack by outlaws, adding: "Investi-

B Chy

announce our national committee at this place (former president office)

He criticised the government for not allocating them Paltan Maidan, Muktangon or Ramna Green on March 9, saying, "Such attitude proves that the government would not hesitate to gag different political opinion."

Prof. Mannan said that the government's behaviour towards opposition violated political opinion of others and the rights of the citizens. "We condemn such atti-

gators should look into whether the outlaws were hired.

Talking to a group of journalists at Durgapur Police Station, Superintendent of Police Masud Mia said the killers were hired. "We came to know Anwar was one of the

BNP leaders including Anwar. ward Commissioner Ashraf Al believes the murder was the result of a case Anwar filed against a local

injured at Ghospara in Rajshahi city on November 9 last year.

The 52-year-old vice-president of the district BNP took five bullets in his chest, abdomen and head and fell down before an operative slit his throat in a desperate bid to

confirm his death. The PBCP operatives shot dead Afsar Ali, local BNP leader and union parishad member, in

Israeli hit on Gaza

FROM PAGE 12

either hit by live bullets or shrap-

The nearby hospital at Deir al-Balah was soon overrun with casualties and victims had to be packed up to four at a time into ambu lances sent from Gaza City's Al-

Appeals for blood were made overloudspeaker in both camps.

The Israeli military's chief of staff, General Moshe Yaalon, said that "other offensive operations" would be launched as part of a recent decision to intensify opera-

combing operation against terrorists at Bureij and we intend to launch other operations in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and Gaza as long as the terrorists con-tinue their attacks," Yaalon told public radio.

The operation follows an aborwere killed.

armed factions -- Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades -- claimed responsibility for the attack in a joint statement Sunday which they said was partly

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel

Sharon has announced his inten tion to evacuate nearly all the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip but his government insists that will not mark an ease-up in the fight against

Palestinian negotiations minister Saeb Erakat condemned Sunday's operation as "a dangerous escalation"

"The Israeli government is continuing its policy which is aimed at destroying the peace process. The issue is not withdrawal from Gaza Strip but destroying the Gaza Strip,

The violence brought the overall death toll since the start of the Palestinian Intifada, or uprising, in September 2000 to 3,819, including

2,865 Palestinians and 886 Israelis Forex smuggling

FROM PAGE 12 Bangladesh through M/S Rahmania Travels Limited between 1982

But they converted the rials into dollars and pound sterlings and sent those to other countries through TT, MT and DD, depriving the relatives of the money and causing financial

Azizúr Rahman and six others on November 6, 1985. But the investigation officer (IO) of the case included Lobi, Iqbal, Noor Ali, Dr Musa-bin-Shamser and 21

The IO pressed charges against

Lobi and 31 others on May 13, 1986,

the foreign minister and his dep-

Contacted, a senior BTRC official

telecoms act, incorporating the provision of tapping calls, busting e-mails and making police verification for cellphone connection mandatory following requests by the security agencies including Directorate General of Forces

drafts prepared separately by the Ministry of Law and BTRC.

their opinions," a senio official told The Daily Star.

gence agencies citing national security as the reason.

ing ransom and making threats.

The telecoms act stipulates that

ment wanted to introduce a system proportional to the parties' representation in the House.

constituency for the women's reserved seats and the law regarding women's seats will be implemented in the current parliament,

nanges were made in the draft.

continue strike

Intern doctors at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday continued with their indefinite strike

and National Credit and Commerce Their demands include restoring

> spread. Huda however pointed out that the central bank calculated the recognised method.

> > At the meeting, the commercial banks raised an issue of grievance. They alleged the Bureau of Anti-Corruption was filing cases against the banks instead of the exporters for a major chunk of the country's export proceeds having remained

be free of harassment. The BB governor assured them of his intervention The central bank also alerted the

look into foreign exchange dealings. The central bank also asked all the

been delayed. Pointing fingers at the installers of the plant, the PDB officials alleged that the Russians do not want to complete an assignment

"This plant was our last resort in the tight situation. But anyhow it

women were raped in 2002 and of them, 114 were killed and 12 com-mitted suicide, the report said. surpass the generation shortly. In 2001, 623 women were raped, while 95 of them were murdered and three committed suicide.

dered, 31 tortured, three divorced for dowry in 2001. All the divorcees committed suicide, the report

computers across the Internet since early this year. Updated anti-virus software can detect and block the viruses. 2 Khulna

some criminal cases filed with the Sadar and Chitalmari police sta-The superintendent of police, Bagerhat, said they have started a combing operation in Chitalmari,

The slain outlaws were wanted in

Mollahat and Fakirhat areas to track down the three other outlaws. Earlier on February 10, three Janajuddha cadres were killed in mob beating at Raigram under Chitalmari upazila of Bagerhat

DU in stalemate

Sahabuddin Laltu chaired the rally. The BCL brought out a procession and held a rally demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the 'real attackers' of Azad. Speakers at the rally, chaired by BCL President Liaqat Sikder,

warned that will lay a siege to the VC's office today if their demands

were not met. Abbas was arrested in connec tion with the attack on Azad. Moreover, several hundred students under the banner of Humayun Azad Mancha yesterday

the campus demanding immediate release of their leaders and with-drawal of 'false' cases against them

Int'l Women's Day

for the attack on Azad.

separate messages on the occasion. To observe the day, the United Nations System is highlighting issues surroundingwomen and AIDS.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

of food security" as its theme for the International Women's Day. Nationally, a number of local

Asked to comment on the law

the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, United States, India, China and Pakistan to check 'regional' crimes and police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

land property to any private body. The warning came from a public rally at the Laldighi Maidan yester-

on noted academic Dr Humayur South district president Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu presided over the meeting, which expressed grave concern over the selling of government land properties at nominal price to the ruling

2 PCISS

Protesting the rampage Rangamati district unit of PCJSS took out a procession in the district headquarters vesterday evening,

President Gunendu Bikash Chakma alleged a section of the government was guiding and patronising the UPDF, although it was demanding full autonomy of the CHT (Chittagong Hill Tracts).

district unit Secretary Palash Khisa and Paharhi Chhatra Parishad leader Uzzal Chakma also spoke at

contact with Naniarchar Police Station because of radio network

Saidur Rahman Mantu Durgapur municipal chairman and general secretary of the local BNP unit, blamed the killing on the AL

bidders for tender on Durgapur Bazaar. We are investigating it." The upazila BNP vice-president, Belal Hossain, linked the killing to death threats to 15

 $gang \, for \, illegal \, logging \, two \, months$ Underground operatives gunned down Abdul Hamid, a district BNP leader, in an attack that also left two of his relatives

tude," he said.

on the Israeli side. The Palestinians were all killed by live Israeli fire, the medical sources said. Those injured were

Shifa hospital some 12 kilometers (more than seven miles) north.

tions against armed groups. "Our troops are carrying out a

tive twin attack using mock Israeli jeeps on the Erez crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip on Saturday in which four bomber and two Palestinian policemen The three main Palestinian

in response to an Israeli air raid just south of Gaza City on Thursday in which three Hamas leaders were

and1985.

Corruption filed a criminal case with Motijheel Police Station accusing

losses to the government. Later, the Bureau of Anti-

others as probes pointed at their involvement.

showing 29 people as prosecution

 $\begin{array}{ll} Investigation & Department & (CID), \\ are yet to get any lead on the affair. \end{array}$ was walking toward a rickshaw. "I have no information to disonce I talk with Dr Azad.

He also declined to reply when

Moghbazar in the capital. He was sent to jail the following day. Police produced an eight-yearold boy, Suman alias Babu, and a court, who said the writer had gossiped with five youths on a bench in the Suhrawardy Udyan for about an hour before leaving the

in parliament will have a woman A bill providing for the reserved seats would be passed in the current parliament and elections to

placed sources said.

Indian Foreign Secretary Shashank arrives here today on a four-day

Authorities are scrutinising two drafts on amending the 2001

tion, had expressed concern at the proposed changes to the telecoms act saying these would tighten control over e-mail traffic, legalise invasion of privacy and undermine freedom of expression. It urged the government not to go ahead with the proposed changes. "Respect for confidentiality of personal information obtained from ISPs or through e-

society," it said.

ministry.

"New information technology allows greater monitoring of personal messages and the Bangladesh government must respect the privacy of its citizens and their right to communicate freely," it added.

mail messages must be an unshake-

able principal of any democratic

Woman killed as microbus slams into shanty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A woman was killed and her twoyear-old daughter injured when a speeding microbus careered off the

road into a roadside shanty at Uttara yesterday. Day-labourer Sufia Begum, 30, was resting at her one-room hovel with three daughters at 2:00pm

when the vehicle ran into her shanty at sector No. 11. Khokon, a neighbour, rushed critically injured Sufia and her daughter Morsheda to a local clinic and then to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at 4:00pm where

doctors declared her dead.

Khokon told our DMCH correspondent that Sufia had come to her shanty a year back without her husband and left behind three

Uttara police seized the vehicle and arrested its driver Shafiqul Libya ships

Secret talks had been held between Muammar Gaddafi's state and its old enemies - the US and the UK and further improvements in relations have been made since. The US has announced that

talks will begin on Sunday with Libyan officials on retraining their

weapons scientists.

mass destruction.

The BBC's Rob Watson in Washington says the shipment is another extraordinary twist in the warming relations between the once-sworn enemies He adds that both the US and Libya are getting what they want - with Libya's isolation ending while

Washington can point to the rewards on offer for countries ready to abandon their weapons of

The meeting, chaired by BB Governor Fakhruddin Ahmed, reviewed the 'spread' situation. On average, the spread in the national ised commercial banks is 5.75 per

cent, in private banks 6.6 percent and

interest spread as high as 7 to 12

The BB moves to cut interest rates were meant to benefit the loan receivers in order to boost invest-

Among them, 16 banks have

in foreign banks 7.5 percent.

factors into calculation.

percent.

ment by lowering lending interest rates and, at the same time, not to affect the depositors by leaving the rates on deposit unchanged. The banks however disagreed with the BB over the method used in measuring the spread. They said the spread would come out lower if the central bank took some additional

Bank Ltd. Managing Director M Aminuzzaman said, "By the next two months, we'll try to fix a standard method for spread calculation in consultation with bankers and the BB. We'll also narrow down the

Bankers' Association President

The meeting, chaired by Vice-chancellor SMA Faiz, postponed all scheduled examinations at the DU till Thursday. It requested Duta leaders and The bankers said the bureau members to resume classes. In related developments, many honours final examinees in Arts and Social Science faculties expressed

> memorandum to the vice-chancellor demanding restoration of normal academic atmosphere on the campus and completion of honours examinations by April 20 so that they could sit for the 25th

Bangladesh Civil Service examina-

Earlier, they brought out a pro-cession and held a rally on the

campus to press their demands.

deep concern that their examina-

tions, which were scheduled to start

early this month, have become

About 50 examinees submitted a

uncertain.

The ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday demanded immediate resumption of classes at the DU. At a rally on the campus following a procession, JCD leaders called

upon the university authorities and

the Duta to ensure normalcy on the

3,309 women

killed and 54 women committed suicide, 206 tortured, 29 acid-burnt and six got divorces for dowry during the same time. In 2003, 1,336 women were raped and 142 of them were killed and 17 committed suicide, while 1,350

The report said 575 women were

women fell prey to dowry during the period. Of them, 261 were killed, 87 tortured, 15 acid-burnt and one was divorced in 2003, while 191 women were killed, 90 tortured, 14 acidburnt and one was divorced in 2002. Another 123 women were mur-

The report went on to say that 870

They vowed to resist any move by the main opposition Awami League (AL) and its student front Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to 'destroy' the academic atmosphere at the DU. JCD President

demanded release of BCL leader Abu Abbas within 24 hours and

brought out a procession on the campus protesting the attack. The left-leaning Progatishil Chhatra Jote and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front brought out separate processions and held rallies on

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina issued

chosen "Putting women at the centre

FROM PAGE 1 overthe years.

in a message said women are increasingly bearing the brunt of the AIDS epidemic and that in sub-Saharan Africa today more than half of all adults living with HIV/AIDS are World Food Programme has

women's rights groups and nongovernmental organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to