# ADB offers help for gas development

**BDNEWS**, Dhaka

Retreating from its previous stand on exporting gas to India through pipeline in a limited scale, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) offers financial assistance to Bangladesh in development of gas sector.

According to a document presented by a visiting ADB fact-finding mission, the ADB will provide a loan of \$215 million for seven projects for gas sector development.

However, the government will have to inject another \$198 million in local currency for implementation of the projects.

The total cost of gas sector development project (GSDP) will be \$413 million

"Although the ADB has shifted from its previous position on gas export, it puts several conditions for the GSDP," said an official.

The conditions included strengthening the Energy Regulatory Commission, paving the

### DU probes not holding of class of Bangla course

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities have formed a five-member committee to enquire into the incident of not holding any class of Bangla foundation course of first year honours of the session 2003-04 under the Arts Faculty.

Sources said the authorities have decided to give clearance to around 2000 fist year students of the faculty to get admitted to second year without examination of the 100 marks course.

The five-member body was formed at a meeting of the Academic Council of the university recently with Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the chair.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider was made convener of the committee. Other members of the body are deans of Arts and Social Science faculties, Prof Wakil Ahmad of Bangla department and controller of examinations of the university.

While contacted, Dean of the Arts Faculty Prof Sadrul Amin told the BDNEWS that classrooms were allocated to hold classes of the course.

He said that a letter was sent to Bangla department in this regard on September 21 as per the decision of a meeting of the deans' committee when the authorities came to know that the classes did not start even after nearly half an year of its sched-

### Saifur's salvo

when the price of eggs goes up, they publicise the news widely. But they don't bother to see how hard the poultry industry was hit by recurring floods.

When the price of tomato rises. the press makes news, but when it goes down, they keep silent.

The function presided over by the World Poultry Science Association Bangladesh Chapter President Mashiur Rahman was attended by representatives from about 16 countries.

Our correspondent from Moulvibazar reports: Saifur Rahman yesterday said people who usually do not have the ability to land any other job, engage in journalism. They continuously write reports on the price hike of commodities to make the government fall in the face of criticism.

He was addressing a function on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of an infrastructure development project for Moulvibazar Pourashava yesterday District BNP Secretary and

Moulvibazar Pourashava Chairman Foyzul Karim Moyun presided over

Dr Kamal to support

The city unit of Oikya Mancha

organised the rally at Muktangon in

protest against continuous price

hike of essentials, load shedding,

water crisis, mosquito problem and

demanding trial of all grenade

attacks and stopping extortion and

dent of Gono Forum, said the gov-

ernment in three years took time on

20 occasions from the Supreme

Court (SC) for separation of judi-

fully executed within March 15, the

time given by the SC, they will bring

out peaceful procession demanding

execution of the SC guidelines for

separation of the judiciary, he

Demanding that the government

stop broadcasting wasteful

programmes like releasing balloons

If the separation of judiciary is not

ciary from the executive.

Dr Kamal, who is also the presi-

# **HC** issues

'Shahudul stands dismissed since January 27 last year after being convicted in the High Court. The president had no scope to cancel his contractual job on December 15, ten months after his conviction," advocate MK Rahman who challenged the notifications issued on December 15 last year, told reporters. Issuing the rule, the High Court

bench comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman asked six government officials to submit their reply in three weeks. The respondents are establish-

ment secretary, principal secretary to the prime minister, secretary to the president, home secretary, former IGP Shahudul Hug and a senior assistant secretary of the establishment ministry.

"The two notifications are illegal and made out of jurisdiction," advocate MK Rahman said while talking to reporters yesterday.

"When the president ordered for cancellation of Shahudul's contract, he was already dismissed from his post in line with law." he said adding that the order has no legality as Shahudul was no more holding the post in line with Section 3 of Public Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) Ordinance 1985.

According to the section, on conviction for a criminal offence a public servant stands dismissed on the date of delivery of judgement or order convicting him.

Talking on the other December 15 notification on president's exemption of Shahudul from the purview of this section, MK Rahman said the president cannot nullify court order using the power he was bestowed upon by Section 4 of Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) Ordinance 1985. "The president made the order when the court had already awarded Shahudul punishment," he said. On January 27, the High Court

and in default to serve simple one month imprisonment for contempt of court for his remarks in a written reply to certain queries of the court in a suo The Supreme Court on December

awarded Shahudul a fine of Tk 2,000

7 turned down Shahudul's appeal against the verdict and upheld it.

## CAG submits

FROM PAGE 12

ter about changes brought in the nature of the audit reports giving importance to the overall performance of an organisation and requirements of the Public Accounts Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad.

audit system is aimed at enhancing the quality of auditing by making it "time-worthy, modern and more accountable

The auditor general informed Bank and the IMF.

The prime minister expressed her satisfaction over the introduction of performance audit of bookkeeping by the CAG office.

The CAG also apprised the orime minister of the progress in infrastructural and other development of his office during the present government, particularly in the last two years, which include the formation of a new directorate.

Financial Management Academy.

### Criminal killed

his accomplices as Sheikh Kamal, Raja and Upol.

said the police release.

his brother Abul Kalam Azad during a dispute over family business, from the DMCH yesterday.

arrested Jasim alias Kana Jasim, top criminal of Demra, and his three associates from a Malibagh hotel.

the ringleader of 'Kana Jasim Group', with his gangmen.

Police said they had seized three revolvers, one pistol and two bullets but that two others had escaped.

# 3 killed, 50 hurt

FROM PAGE 1

housed the dyeing factory.

Tofazzel's room was severely damaged and he and his daughter a class six student of Haji Uzir Ali High School died in sleep, she said. Locals said the boiler weighing eight tons was flown about 70 feet

**FAULTY BOILER** 

Members of Tofazzel's family said the boiler was faulty and it exploded

Toffazzel was the owner of the land where the Rapid Dyeing was constructed, filed a General Diary with the Fatullah Police Station on October 10, 2004 mentioning that the boiler may explode anytime.

Locals alleged that the boiler lacked safety bulb and water pressure pump that is essential for full safety of a dyeing boiler.

**ENQUIRY COMMITTEE** 

A three-member enquiry committee headed by Narayanganj Additional District Magistrate Azharul Islam has been formed to probe the incident and instructed to submit its



Winners of Ananya Top 10 Awards by the fortnightly women's magazine Ananaya pose with guests for photographs after the award-giving ceremony at Bangladesh National Museum in the city yesterday.

Dohar, Dhaka; Ripon Mollah, 23,

son of Md Munnaf Mollah,

Charkoshai, PO Jamalchar, PS

# Govt to track down

FROM PAGE 12 body of Pavel who died at the

hospital

According to information received by the foreign ministry from Bangladesh mission in Egypt. he said some 43 people--26 Bangladeshis and 17 Africans -boarded a plastic 'dinghi' boat on February 19 and sailed from Nadore in Morocco for Spain. The pilot of the boat was not experienced and lost his way in the Mediterranean Sea. After a few days, the boat started leaking and ran out of food and water.

On February 23, two Bangladeshis--Mosaddeq and Mizan--died from hunger and exhaustion. On February 24-25, eight other Bangladeshis died in the boat. Since the bodies started getting decomposed, the Africans decided to throw them into the sea. On February 28, Algerian coast

guards traced the boat and rescued 16 Bangladeshis in unconscious condition. They were brought to Oran Hospital where Pavel died. The other 15 are undergoing treatment at the hospital. The dead Bangladeshis are Mosaddeq and Himel (Dhaka),

Mizan (Konabari, Gazipur) Asad (Dohar, Dhaka), Billal Hossain Swapan (Tongi, Gazipur) Mamunur Rahman (Rajshahi), Anwar (Dohar, Dhaka), Robiul (Srinagar, Munshiganj), Ibrahim (Narayanganj), Farhad (Dohar, Dhaka) and Pavel. Those receiving treatment at

Oran Hospital are Sohel Rana, 25. son of Abdul Ali Bepari, Latakhola,

against India ended in a draw on

suffered cramps during his

innings, struck a fluent 109 and

dominated in a record 184-run

seventh wicket stand with all-

rounder Abdul Razzaq (71) after

the visitors had faced defeat

Pakistan, 204 runs behind in

the first innings and reduced to

257 for six on Friday, eventually

declared their second innings at

India, set an improbable target

of 293 from 25 overs, reached 85

for one when the match was

called off with eight overs remain-

in India, surpassing the 487-9

declared they made in Madras in

It was Pakistan's highest score

Akmal's 154-ball knock

spanned almost four hours before

he was caught by substitute

fielder Harbhaian Singh from a

tired drive against pace bowler

His stand with Razzaq was

496 for nine in the final session.

overnight.

1986-87.

The diminutive Akmal, who

Dohar; Sajjad Hossain, son of Wadud Mondol, Garmora, PO Alamin Bazar, Dohar; Md Anis Rahman, 25, son of Alhaj Abdul Maiid Sarker, Airfpur, Gungi, Gazipur; Md Mamunur Rashid, 23, son of Shafiuddin, Vill&PO Bardhanpara, PS Nawabganj, Dhaka; Shibly Sadi, 22, son of Mojahar Hossain, Char Ramnagar, PO Akoterchar, PS Sadarpur, Faridpur; Swapan Khan, 25, son of Hashem Khan, Banmara, PO Mouchak, Gazipur; Mozammel Hossain. son of Abdul Kashem. Vill&PO South Barra, Dohar (Relatives' phone-0175068434); Md Saidur Rahman, 22, son of Md Sonamuddin, Joypara Khara Kanda, PO Joypara, Dohar (Relatives' phone--0622387212-Ext 103); Md Amjad Hossain, 23, son of Abdul Jalil Majhi, Marichpatti, PO Churain Bazar, PS Nawabgani, Dhaka; Md Rabiul Islam, 22, son Md Abul Bashar Dewan, Ikrashi Dewan Bari, PO Kalamganj, PS Dohar, Dhaka; Md Nasir Uddin, son of Md Nazimuddin Madankhali, PO Churain Bazar PS Srinagar, Munshiganj; Mohammad Mintu Khan, son of Md Nayan Khan, Vill &PO Patijab, PS Nawabganj, Dhaka; Mohammad Zakir Hossain, 23, son of Abdus Sattar, Lamati, PO Maizpara, PS Srinagar, Munshiganj; and Rajib Majnu, son of Abdul Jalil, Vill. &PO

# 2 bombs

FROM PAGE 12

On December 18, three bombs went off at a drama stage in front of Mohimaganj Sugar Mill's rest house that left seven people hurt. Three others were injured in two blasts at the Brac office on February 10.

Locals said they had observed outsiders' movement around the

# HC asks

judge from taking up any post serving the republic for emolument, added the petitioner. He also argued that the chairman

of ACC is an administrative post. created for inquiry and investigation of the anti corruption affairs inasmuch as from the amendment of the Rules of Business 1996. He said that the commission is

under administrative control of the government, and the chairman of the commission is holding the office of emolument in the service of the government but not of the republic within the meaning of article 133 of Advocate MD Ashad Ullah

moved for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General Abul Khayer Manna stood for the govern-The Daily Star on February 11 this year ran a story regarding the

appointment controversy where constitution experts questioned the legality of the appointment saying that it has been done in violation of the constitution A selection body of five men

including two judges in August last year recommended six names for the positions of chairman and two members of the ACC. The president picked three from the panel, and appointed Justice Sultan as its chairman and M Maniruzzaman Miah and Maniruddin Ahmed as

### Deuba vows

FROM PAGE 12

Commission, the International Committee of the Red Cross and various other national and international human rights organisations willing to meet people held under house arrest in some barracks area for security reasons," the army said The World Bank said this week it

was freezing the release of more aid to Nepal while it assessed events there, including the protection of human rights. Nepal relies on international

donor aid and loans for more than half its development budget to prop up an economy devastated by the Maoist insurgency. India has joined Britain in cutting

off military aid to the Hindu kingdom. Its ill-equipped army depends heavily on the help to fight the rebels, who are battling to install a communist republic. The United States has said it is

mulling similar action.

Pakistan, meanwhile, has said it is ready to provide arms and counter-insurgency training to help Nepal face down the Maoist revolt.

# Premier, Al-Arafa

also be informed of the central bank's decision soon, the sources said. The BB uses an assessment

system called CAMEL rating, in which capital, asset, management earning and liquidity (CAMEL) are used as the indicators of a bank's performance. A low CAMEL rating means a bank has a problem in the areas of the low-level performance indicators and needs the central bank's intervention.

A bank found to facing difficulty in any areas of operation is brought under the Early Warning category and monitored very closely to help opportunity of the services to fulfil improve its performance and avoid becoming a problem bank.

banks under the EWS. They are National Bank, IFIC Bank, Shahjalal Bank, Arab Bangladesh Bank, Bandladesh Commerce Bank and Social Investment Bank.

There are five problem banks -

# 5 years in school

Manzoor Ahmed addressed the conference, after which Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk lunched the report formally.

Farruk said, "Everybody should agree with me that we have achieved commendable progress in education in terms of primary enrolment, but one point of my concern is quality in both primary and secondary levels." "The problem we have also persists in many other countries." the minister noted.

The survey was conducted on the households and selected government, registered nongovernment and non-formal primary schools and Ebtedavee madrasas in 10 randomly selected upazilas. Those are Madhupur. Nageswari, Tanor, Lohagara, Chandina, Jessore Sadar, Tala, Patharghata, Bakerganj and Goplaganj The study findings provide a

gloomy insight into the nature of children's deprivation of primary education that suffers from inadequate infrastructure and teaching faculty, poverty and mismanagement, among other things.

"Studies of the category labelled as ultra poor, which consists of 20 percent to one-third of the population depending on criteria, showed [a] net enrolment of 65 percent compared to around 80 percent nationally," according to the key findings of the study.

In the surveyed upazilas, a child from an 'always in deficit' family had a 30 percent less chance of being enrolled at a school and five times more chance of dropping out from school compared to a child from a 'surplus' family

The survey found poverty and disadvantage as the major causes of deprivation of primary education. A quarter of the non-enrolled children cited poverty as the reason for non-enrolment and over 40 percent who dropped out indicated poverty as the reason for dropping

"It was not one or another cause that could be identified and fixed, but a syndrome of poverty and disadvantage including child labour, first generation learner, inability to afford private tutors, and causes related to children's abseneeism that need to be addressed,' the report observed.

In the 6-14 years age group of the poorest section of the people, one-third of the children did not go to school. They worked or remained unemployed, while another 30 percent studied and worked at the same time. It was found that some 47 per-

cent of the mothers and 43 percent of the fathers of primary school students were without any schooling. Over 40 percent of the children were 'first generation learners', as both of their parents had no educa-

The survey revealed, "Private tutors for primary school children have become a norm. Forty-three tutors; they paid an average of Tk 152 per month for eight months in a year. Children who needed extra help with their studies most, [the] first generation learners, could afford it the least."

Low average school attendance, about 60 percent, was linked with factors related to both the operation of the school and the family situation of the child. Children not 'liking school' were an important cause for not enrolling and the most important reason for dropping out. This indicates probems about how the school func-Children with special needs,

especially those with disabilities, and children of ethnic minorities, whose mother tongues were not Bangla, were special dimensions in the picture of deprivation in primary education.

Serious anomalies in stipend

distribution were also detected in the household studies. Forty percent of the stipend recipients were paid Tk 200 or less, instead of Tk 300 as a quarterly payment. Students from 'rich' households received Tk 260 on average and those from 'poor' households Tk

The principal rationale of the stipend programme -- targeting the poor -- does not appear to be working, at least in the upazilas studied, the report said.

Despite major government investments since 1990, primary school facilities remained far from satisfactory both in quality and number of classrooms and schools. Some 35 percent of the schools in the surveyed areas were rated as 'poor' in term of safety and

Insufficient number of teachers was a common problem in most schools. Eighty percent of the schools had four or fewer teachers while 21 percent had three or less. On an average, 30 percent

schools had more than 60 students and over two-thirds more than 40 students per teacher. The average teacher-student ratio in the upzilas was 1:53, which is better than the national average of 1:61.

Campe urged to recognise inequality and deprivation of primary education as a serious problem and to build a commitment to deal with it, and recommended seven steps to correct the situa-

It suggested allocation of resources and budgets for education programmes with equity and in favour of the disadvantaged as the key criteria. It particularly stressed on identifying the disadvantaged children and their particular difficulties, providing them with learning materials and effective implementation of competency-based primary education.

### BNP MPs

bills that cause embarrassment to

the government," he said. The speaker said he sent copies of the instruction to the BNP lawmakers who submitted private

member's bill. Responding to a guery, he said the instruction is not a restriction on lawmakers and it does not contradict constitutional provisions. "I think it will help them (lawmakers) place

bills in parliament. Mannan, who had submitted several private member's bills in parliament earlier, reacted sharply when yesterday's meeting started to

ment tables identical bills after private member's bills on the same

rejects the private member's bills and then allows the government

The parliamentary body however

Jatiya Party lawmaker and member of the body GM Quader said that following the law minister's instruction, no lawmaker of the ruling party can be considered as private member. "Such an instruction undermines parliamentary democracy," he told reporters after the committee meeting held at the

The speaker, who heads the committee, told reporters the meeting recommended making the existing system of question answer a part of the rules of procedure.

The committee will also discuss proposals for introduction of a code of conduct for the lawmakers, he

The law minister declined to say anything after the meeting.

Egypt on Tuesday where they are expected to discuss a ceasefire.

Palestinian national security advisor Jibril Rajub said earlier this week that all armed groups were ready to observe a truce following several months of an unofficial period of calm.

Abu Rudeina said the Hamas decision was a "step in the right direction which will strengthen Palestinian unitv.

But an Israeli official voiced caution.

"The participation of Hamas in the legislative elections does not

political life in Lebanon but that hasn't stopped it from keeping an armed wing," the official said, referring to the Syrian and Iranian backed fundamentalist Shiite Muslim group.

respected by Hamas and other Palestinian factions could only continue "if Israel offers concessions". Hamas does not recognise the

The head of Hamas in Gaza City

Mahmud al-Zahar, said the "cooling

down period" currently being

state of Israel and wants to see the creation of an Islamic state from the across all land that was Palestine

Movement was founded in 1987 during the first Intifada, or uprising, against Israeli occupation and is the largest Islamist group in the Palestinian territories. The group is fiercely opposed to

the 1993 Oslo peace accords that brought partial autonomy to the Palestinian territories. Its armed wing -- the Ezzedin al-Qassam Brigades -- has been responsible for most of the suicide attacks carried out against Israeli targets during the atest Intifada.

Its base is in the poverty-stricken among the people.

### on the state-run Bangladesh Television. Dr Kamal said if the government can take one or two steps to check corruption and identify those who make money through extortion, he will release two balloons thanking the govern-

several streets of the city.

officials of the energy ministry today. Most of the projects under the GSDP are in transmission sector. The ADB is also willing to provide loan for 3-D seismic surveys -- one at Sylhet Gas Field and two at Bangladesh Gas Field. The donor body is agreed to carry out the

way for private participation in gas

transmission and distribution by

amending National Energy Policy

and enacting gas act, establishing

market-based pricing and reducing

authority of Petrobangla and mak-

have final round of meeting with

The ADB fact-finding mission will

ing its companies independent.

survey by state-run Bapex. The bank is also agreed to fund gas expansion network in Rajshahi. After the final meeting, the government will have to inform the bank

by March 25 whether it will take the oan with recommendations". If Bangladesh sends a green signal, a management evaluation team of the ADB will come to Dhaka on April 11. Another team will visit

credit negotiations will take place on May 23-26. "If everything goes well, the proposal will be placed before the ADB board on June 29. Following its approval, loan disbursement will start within three months," said an

Bangladesh on April 25-28. Then

# Mosaue burnt down by

BNP men **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal** 

A mosque and a madrasa were burnt down in an arson attack allegedly by activists of ruling BNP in Borhan-uddin upazila of Bhola in the early hours yesterday.

About 40 students of Darul Ulum

Queratya Quomy Madrasa were injured in the incident and eight of them were admitted to the upazila health complex. The arson followed a dispute over construction of a zilla parishad

auditorium on a piece of land owned

by the parishad and located beside

Local BNP leader Mashiur Rahman, who was awarded the tender for construction of the auditorium, started work Friday. Students of the madrasa claimed the land belonged to their institution

and obstructed the construction

Over 100 BNP men led by Mashiur and local Ward Commissioner Yusuf Hawladar attacked the madrasa and set it afire at around 1:00am.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Pradip

Ranjan Chakraborty admitted the

incident but could not give any Mashiur denied his involvement

# Nizami blames

FROM PAGE 12 On the other hand, he regretted, "our success story could not make

space in the international media". The minister, also Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, admitted lack of planning and irreg-ularities in different fields as his business audience pointed out the

absence of proper planning and He made the observations while speaking as chief guest at a seminar "Capacity Building of BCI for Industrialisation" in the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) board-

The BCI and the Confederation of Danish Industries (DI) jointly

organised the seminar. Chairman of the Privatisation Commission Enam Ahmed Chowdhury addressed the seminar as special guest while BCI

President AK Azad presided.

"Prevailing water and power crisis are examples of government's failure and if they can solve the crises, I will celebrate it releasing a balloon," he added. At the rally, Krishak Sramik Janata League President Kader

Siddiqui said, "Nothing except salt

and killing are cheap in the country

"At present the nation needs a doctor for its treatment and there is no alternative of Dr Kamal in this regard. We are with him from the beginning," he said, adding that unity with the leadership of Dr Kamal is needed to oust the gov-

Oikya Mancha's city unit

President Saidur Rahman Sayeed presided over the rally where Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Okiya Mancha Member Secretary Adur Rouf, Gono Forum Presidium Member advocate Jaharul Islam and Pankoz Bhattacharya also spoke. Later, a procession was brought

out from Muktangon that paraded

# The CAG informed the prime minis-

He said the ongoing reform in

that ten more officers would be sent soon for training being conducted with assistance from the World

He said two acres of land has been allocated in the capital for

revolver, five bullets and a cellphone after arresting Khaleg, who named

"He was taken to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead," "Earlier on March 1, Khaleq shot

Khaleq's wife Parveen Begum told The Daily Star. Azad was released In another raid, police yesterday

Sutrapur police raided Padma Hotel at 2:30am and arrested Jasim,

Pakistan's highest seventh wicket partnership against India, surpassing the 154 between Imran Khan and Ijaz Faqih in 1986-87. Leg-spinner Anil Kumble became the fifth bowler to claim

Lakshmipathy Balaji

FROM PAGE 12

a match haul of 9-171. Akmal surpassed his previous Dhaka protests

restrict both the neighbours from

constructing any "defence struc-

450 Test wickets while Balaji

capped his return from injury with

ture" within 150 yards of the zero The violation of the guidelines by the Indian authorities leads to "misunderstanding" and BDR-BSF firing that created tensions along the common border, 6.5-km of which

still remained undemarcated.

wire fences beyond the guidelines, they must discuss the matter with Bangladesh. "They cannot do it unilaterally," he noted. He, however, said recent eruption of tensions over the construction of fences by India got defused substantially following flag meetings

between the Bangladesh Rifles

(BDR) and Indian Border Security

Force (BSF)

In reply to a question. Khan said

if Indians want to construct barbed-

# Arangabad, Dohar, Dhaka Pakistan draw

shots to ensure Pakistan reached ing put on 112 runs in the morning. Razzaq completed his fifth Test 50 before he edged a catch to slip off Kumble, nine runs after

best score of 56 with a flurry of

Kumble, playing his 93rd Test. reached his milestone taking a low left-handed return catch to dismiss Mohammad Sami. India scored 516 in reply to

Akmal's dismissal.

Pakistan's first innings of 312 to hold the advantage on the first The second Test starts in

## INTERCONNECTIVITY

BTTB signs

Kolkata on Wednesday.

## deals with pvt phone firms BDNEWS, Dhaka

signed an agreement with three private land phone companies to bring them under its interconnectivity.

Bangladesh Telephone and

Telegraph Board (BTTB) yesterday

However, Dhaka zone will be excluded from their network. The companies--Dhaka Telephone, Rankstel and Bay Phone--have been brought under the public switch telephone network facility of the government owned

Subscribers of the land phone

But, as there was no agreement

companies could phone to BTTB

among private land phone opera-

phones, and BTTB to their phones.

tors, they could not call among themselves. Officials of those companies hope an interconnection agreement among them will take Authorities of those private companies said they have taken the

the demand of land phones, particu-

larly in rural areas.

They said that clients would get connections within three days and no complexities like BTTB would Officials of Dhaka Telephone said the subscription and call charges have not been fixed yet, but

assured of keeping the charges

reasonable compared to BTTB.

Revenue sharing of those compa-

nies with BTTB is yet to be fixed up.

### FROM PAGE 12 the IPO scam. Al-Arafa Bank will

Presently there are six private

Pubali Bank, Oriental Bank, United Commercial Bank, City Bank and First Security Bank. Of them, Pubali Bank is likely to come out of the problem bank status soon on the basis of its performance in 2004.

discuss one of those proposing amendment to the rules of proce-The lawmaker said if the govern-

> issues, the private member's ones should be disposed of first. Moudud opposed the proposal and said it will look odd if the House

bills on the same issues.

rejected Mannan's proposal.

Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

# Hamas to take part

Palestinian spokesman Nabil

constitute a guarantee that this organisation will renounce terrorism," the official said on condition of "Hezbollah is also integrated into

Thousands of members of Hamas and its smaller rival Islamic Jihad held demonstrations in the Gaza Strip on Friday, sending a message to Israel that only it could bring a halt to anti-Israeli attacks

Mediterranean Sea to Jordan -under the British mandate. The Islamic Resistance

Gaza Strip, where it is known for its charitable and educational work