Experts warn urgent action needed to stop **HIV** spread in Asia

As many as 12 million people in the Asia-Pacific region could become infected with HIV over the next five years unless immediate action is taken to stop the spread of the virus, experts said yesterday

The warning came ahead of a meeting in the western Japanese city of Kobe of 3.000 health care experts and HIV/Aids activists from around 60 countries.

"This conference is taking place at a very critical moment for the region when it comes to Aids," said Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS.

"The risk of HIV spreading throughout the region is higher than ever, despite some progress in several countries," he told reporters, stressing that only "scaled up responses" by governments can change the trend.

Worldwide, about 40 million people are infected with HIV, the virus which causes Aids, of whom about 8.2 million, or roughly 20 percent, live in Asia, according to UNAIDS. Of the 8.2 million, 1.2 million were infected in

World leaders and the public must realise that the fight against HIV is as important as global security, Piot said.

"If business as usual continues over the next five years, at least 12 million people will become infected

"If we work hard and if we are going to face the realities ... new infections can be prevented, at least six million,"

Organisers said the Seventh International Congress on Aids in Asia and the Pacific, which begins later Friday and runs until Tuesday, will focus on a wide range of issues, including the latest treatment and prevention measures.

The conference provides "a space for everybody involved in the fight against HIV/Aids to be together." said Dennis Altman, president of the Aids Society of Asia and the Pacific.

"There is a free arena in which people living with Aids from marginal, vulnerable communities to come face to face with government and international officials," he said.

The Kobe event, which follows the sixth congress in Melbourne, Australia in 2001, was originally scheduled for 2003 but was postponed due to the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Asia at the time.

The regional fight against HIV has been made difficult due to public stigma against the disease and lack of understanding among policymakers

Countries such as Thailand and Cambodia have successfully implemented prevention programmes to push down the level of new HIV infections, while others, such as Indonesia and China, have seen soaring rates of infection.

The cultural diversity of Asia and the Pacific calls for flexible approaches to tackle HIV. experts said.

They also pointed to the sharp rise in the movement of people triggered by globalisation and robust economic growth in China and India, the world most populous countries, that have made it easier for the virus to spread.

The countries are taking proactive steps but we are concerned that the pace of their responses and the pace of global responses have not matched the pace of the epidemic itself," said Jack Chow, the World Health Organisation's assistant directorgeneral of HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and

"We want to create a force of change that surpasses the rate of

Bodies of couple recovered in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Satkhira

Mystery shrouded the death of a couple at Shyamnagar upazila ir the district vesterday.

Locals yesterday found the bodies of the couple--Anwar Hossain, 40, and Kohinoor Begum, 30--residents of Mehendinagar under the upazila, and informed the The body of Anwar was found

hanging from a tamarind tree vesterday morning, while Kahinoor's body was found in a nearby pond in the afternoon. Anwar's father Shahidul Islam

alleged that some unknown men abducted the couple on Thursday night, strangled them and left their bodies in those places.

Other sources said Anwar strangled his wife and then killed himself. Officer-in-charge (OC) of

Shyampur Police Station admitted that the incident had occurred, but could not give details.

No sign of let-up

Drinking water has been scarce and locals are collecting freshwater from nearby villages. A few volunteers have supplied bottled waters to the thirsty people in the last three days.

The Haor Unnayan Parishad, a regional forum, yesterday took out a procession in the city and held a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar to protest against the disaster. Its leaders asked the govern-

ment to cancel the agreement with the Canadian company Niko Resources and realise compensation from it.

A 101-member Tengratila Compensation Realisation Committee has been formed with freedom fighter Azim Uddin Master as its convenor and Nurul Amin and Ruhul Amin as joint convenors.

The committee at the rally demanded inclusion of those dropped from the list of compensation recipients. It also demanded realisation of compensation for the two blowouts caused by inefficiency and negligence of the Niko Resources.

The Japanese experts have also

confirmed fuel adulteration is the

cause of trouble in the vehicles.

The committee has decided to make a fresh list of the affected people

COMPENSATION

Niko has given Tk 1,19,47,000 in 345 cheques as compensation for the loss of the blowout.

The deputy commissioner of Sunamganj today hands over Tk 11,88,624 to 62 organisations damaged in the fire at the Doarbazar Upazila Nirbahi Officer's (UNO) office at 10:00am, the PID said.

The other 283 cheques of Tk 107,58,376 will be given to the affected families and businessmen on July 4 at the same UNO office, it

No trace yet

President Abdus Salam said.

supposed to take shelter in safer

Meanwhile, three trawlers sen by the association to search for the missing trawlers returned without

any information of them yesterday.

Justice Habibur Rahman, former

chaired it. 159 litres of gas condensate a year to be used for various industrial

I homas

FROM PAGE 16

Ambassador Thomas also had his wife, Ericka O. Smith-Thomas, a vocalist, and his daughter. Casev Merie Eunice Thomas, in Dhaka.

religious extremists.

Thomas was critical about extraudicial killings

Chammas will be the charge d affaires in the US embassy, for which a new ambassador is yet to be announced by the State Department.

Bomb kills 10 **Russian troops**

AFP, Makhachkala

in Dagestan

A large bomb killed 10 interior ministry soldiers and wounded at least seven others Friday outside a public baths in southern Russia's volatile Dagestan republic, the local

deputy prosecutor said. 'Ten soldiers died and seven were injured," Dagestan's deputy prosecutor, Zaur Issayev, said. "All the dead were from the Russian nterior ministry force.

The explosion occurred outside public baths used by troops in Makhachkala, capital of Dagestan, which is next to Chechnya in the turbulent North Caucasus region.

Investigators told ITAR-TASS news agency that an estimated 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of explosive were used in the bomb. They said the device was probably set off by radio control -- a common tactic of

The blast blew the windows from three light military trucks parked outside the baths and shredded their canvas coverings, an AFP correspondent at the scene said. The bath building was damaged and windows were broken in neighbouring buildings.

Police cordoned off the area.

Attacks on troops and police in Dagestan, which has a population of about 2.5 million people, nearly all of them Muslim, have grown steadily in number this year.

According to official figures, 30 officers have been killed this year and at least 40 injured in bombings and shootings around Dagestan, most of them in Makhachkala.

Savar garments FROM PAGE 16

Nazrul Islam, President of Bangladesh Economic Association Dr Qazi Kholiguzzaman Ahmad. noted economist Dr Atiur Rahman, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) Chief Engineer Md Emdadul Islam, IDEB President Rafiqul Islam Bhuiyan and General Secretary Kazi Nazrul Islam, among others, spoke at the discussion.

CPB keeps off

"Still, we'll meet again tomorrow (Saturday) to see how far we can carry forward our joint efforts for free and fair polls in future," said Inu. He hoped once a common reform agenda is prepared, CPB would also welcome it.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon had earlier told The Daily Star, "We don't subscribe to CPB's views that 11-party and Awami League should carryon the movement for reforms on their own. I simply don't understand how the spirit of 11-party is compromised if we forge a greater unity against a regime that patronises war crimi-

Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) had left us but we did not stop.

Santals still fight FROM PAGE 16

from different fields.

Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma, chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council, spoke as chief quest at the second discussion held at the TSC auditorium in the after-

Larma said the situation is very bad for indigenous people in the country, and their existence will be at stake if repression on them goes on. Bangladesh earned independence but that did not improve the CHT situation. Security forces' repression on indigenous people still continues as the occupation forces did earlier, he added.

Indigenous people have to continue their fight for their rights if they want to live like other citizens of the country, he said.

Other speakers stressed development of the indigenous people for proper development of the country.

They urged the government to include the Santal Hul in the curricu-

chief advisor of the caretaker government, was present as the chief guest at the concluding ceremony while poet Shamsur Rahman

Santal community members from northern districts attended the programmes and brought out a rally

In the evening, a traditional cultural programme was held at the TSC auditorium.

He was vocal on the security and

freedom of journalists, who faced intimidation and violence from criminals, political leaders, and

Deputy Chief of Mission Judith A

From sleepy to a bustling village | Biman's DC-10

I keep it open until 10:00pm as the electricity now has given the people reasons to stay late at the bazaar,"

huge boost to their businesses, sparing them from having to buy the increasingly costly kerosene.

300-Tk 400 a day for kerosene whereas now I pay only Tk 150 a month for solar energy," said Mujibur Rahman, another shop-Currently, the GS has some

11,250 people. 1996, with the objective to promote renewable energy technology to reach electricity to the rural house-

ability of cheap fossil fuel, both the

tries have been seeking to harness renewable solar energy system. alternative energy resources during the last decade," said Dipal C Barua, managing director of the GS.

"Seventy percent of people here do not have access to electricity, which hinders academic activities and businesses in rural Bangladesh. Besides, the electricity system of the country was solely dependent on natural fuels which are getting exhausted at an alarming pace," Barua said.

And that is why the GS is selling and installing Solar Home System (SHS) to popularise solar energy in the rural areas to meet the crisis of energy demand."

Since the inception, the GS has so far installed in 54 districts as many as 44,000 SHS, which currently produce 10 megawatts of electricity for some 2.50 lakh peo-

The GS managing director said they plan to raise the number of SHS to 1.00000 by 2007. Gene V George, mission director

of the USAID in Bangladesh, during a visit to the GS project area on Tuesday said people especially those living on the periphery could be immensely benefited from

"The USAID has been extending its support to renewable energy program in Bangladesh for the last five years since it is a practical and environment-friendly way to providing electricity to the rural people, George added.

In a solar energy system, solar panel is the main generator, which transforms solar energy into electricity. The battery stores the electricity while a charge controller regulates the magnitude, charge, and discharge of electricity.

Barua, the GS managing director, said prices of solar systems range from Tk 12,000 to Tk 50,000 depending on their capacity.

He added the more powerful a solar system is, the higher it costs. He said a customer could buy a solar system in instalments on making a down payment of 15

For its contribution to solar energy system, the GS has so far received Energy Globe Award 2002 in Austria, European Solar Prize 2003 in Germany, Best Theme Award from the USAID Dhaka, and Solar Prize 2004 from IDCOL.

JMJB cadres

Rab and police are aiding us in different ways, and it is only journalists who are against us." local sources quoted Afzal as saying.

support for us is on the wane. And so we now have no alternative to told a gathering.

the JMJB cadres of The Daily Star reports and advised them to go into hiding. Only a couple of days ago, the JMJB men beat up Shafikul Islam, a

further attacks while Bagmara police have yet to arrest his attack-

The sources in Bagmara said the JMJB men are currently being controlled by Bangla Bhai's nephew Shahid, who himself is an armed cadre of the vigilante gang.

Uddin Himu of Naogaon too are in regular communication with Shahid

The local JMJB cadres have received a number of firearms from Shahid, and they even had patrolled villages recently brandishing some of those arms, the sources added.

Final round talks

FROM PAGE 16

multilateral lending agencies for

funding of projects. Dhaka will also talk with the lending agencies for financing infrastructure projects required for the three Tata plants

on May 9 agreed to kick off formal negotiations on May 25 and wind it up by August 31 to clear the way for signing the investment deal by November 30.

Tata on April 20 formally submitted a \$2.5 billion investment proplane on June 27, 1998. Five crew posal for setting up a 1,000 MW power station, a steel mill with an annual production capacity of 4.2 lakh tonnes and a one million-tonne fertiliser plant.

11 killed

FROM PAGE 16

speeding truck hit their motorbike in Sadanandapur at 8:30pm on Thursday. Rakib Hasan was admitted to

Uddin, 28, died on the spot when a truck ran over him on the Nikli-Dhaka highway at Banogram Union under Kotiadi upazila in the district on Thursday, police said.

Kotiadi upazila, sources said. Critically injured Falan, 40, Hadisa, 25, Rehena, 20, and

nine others to Kishoreganj Sadar Adunik Hospital. hype with an extraordinary 91 not BSS adds from Rangpur: Two out off 65 balls against Australia at people were killed when a Dhaka-

> The victims are Abu Swapan, 40, Mollah Mahbub Ahmed.

at the time, said the passengers and

witnesses. Later, sensing the technical fault, pilot Captain Selim prepared for the emergency landing to avert a grave

The aircraft nose-dived and skidded off about 2000 feet soon after it touched the ground before stopping some 12 feet away from the runway, a Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) report said. The officials and witnesses said six wheels, the frontright wing and the engine of the aircraft were damaged extensively in the accident.

Some of the airport and security officials who witnessed the accident said they saw fire on a right-side propeller of the aircraft before it

The fire also spread to the right wing and landing wheels of the aircraft and one of the landing wheels reportedly fell off before the landing, the witnesses said. Two passengers--Osman Gani

and Abdul Hamid of Teknaf. Cox's Bazar-said they heard a sound of explosion in the rear and saw fire on the aircraft's wing just before the "All the passengers started prayng-that's all I can remember," said

Osman. "I can't say what happened later or how we escaped death," he The pilot activated the emergency

exits and all the passengers and crewmembers disembarked safely, said an airport security officer.

BSS added that fire-fighting units from nearby Air Force base rushed to the spot and doused the fire within 15 minutes. The Civil Aviation Authority sought help from the Air Force, army and Chittagong Port authority to rescue the aircraft sources said

Meanwhile, flight operations to and from the Chittagong airport were suspended immediately after the

The airport authorities said work was going on to remove the damaged aircraft and facilitate resuming of flight operation, which was unlikely before

Too wasteful

FROM PAGE 1 from other institutions, while many others are not entitled to govern-

ment cars. Of the 12 cars, the BJMC provided 10 while two others were taken from other institutions although the BJMC bore all

maintenance of the 12 cars. It also spent Tk 16.80 lakh on the salaries of the drivers. According to the sources, the former state minister, ex-chairman of the parliamentary committee, the

rescheduled the programme as four

class seven and six at

In two financial years, the BJMC

spent Tk 33.36 lakh on fuel and

personal secretary and the public relations officer of the minister against the aircraft. recently returned six vehicles Aklima

Law enforcers

accused in cases.

It says 445 women were raped and 78 of them were killed, while five

torture and 159 of them were killed. 160 raped, 57 injured, 100 kidnapped, 45 trafficked, 47 went missing and 21 took their lives.

Bomber targets

witnessed a surge in attacks following the formation of Irag's first democratically-elected government in half a century under Jaafari

Civilians accounted for 266 of the dead in June, while 123 policemen and 41 soldiers died in a total of 160 attacks, most of them car bombings. On the insurgent side, 229 were reported killed while 1,521 were

according to the independent Iraq US casualties in June came to 77 dead, Pentagon figures showed, bringing to 1,731 the number of

since the US-led invasion of March US and Iraqi forces have launched a series of sweeping raids against rebels including Operation Lightning in and around Baghdad in late May, an offensive which involves 40,000 members of Iraq's

Chief US military spokesman Air Force Brigadier General Donald Alston declined to give the precise number of car bombings before and after Operation Lighting took effect.

But, he said "in the 25 days after Al Barq (Operation Lightning) the number was less than half."

for support, foreign ministers from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference meeting in Yemen said against occupation.

against occupation," a reference to around 160,000 US-led troops in

The five passengers injured during the landing and emergency evacuation are Salimullah, Osman Gani Kabir Hossain, Abdul Hamid and his six-vear old child. The child, who was held by its

mother on her lap, was hurt in the head when one of the plane's landing gears broke off on touching the ground giving a hard ierk. The baby went unconscious for a while but later regained and was safe. Meanwhile, State Minister for Civil

Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin flew to Chittagong and visited the spot in the afternoon yester-

He, however, refused to make any comment on the accident before an nvestigation into it.

The state minister said a fivemember inquiry committee headed by Habibullah Khan, Bangladesh Biman's flight safety director, was formed to probe the accident. A team of technical experts from

Dhaka also arrived at Chittagong and was examining the extent of damage to the aircraft and trying to find the reason behind the accident, sources Intermittent rainfall accompanied by gusty winds for the last three days in

Chittagong have turned the flight operations at the Chittagong airport dangerous and risky, the BSS report Passengers from the greater Chittagong region already left the airport for their homes while the authority was making arrangement to

send the Dhaka-bound 30 passen-

gers to their destination by buses,

airport authorities said.

Airport to resume FROM PAGE 1 adding that he will be able to tell the

cause of the accident after the five-

member committee submits its He said rescue operations will begin as soon as the inspecting team completes documenting the

location and in what condition the aircraft is now lying. "We have already informed the supplier of the aircraft. US company Pegasus, and the insurance company. We have to send them video footage of the aircraft now lying at

extent of the damage to the airliner.

minister The black box of the leased US\$ 12 million aircraft will be sent to France by Saturday, he added. In reply to a question by the BBC

the edge of the runway," said the

correspondent here, the minister said that the aircraft would never be fit to fly again as it suffered permanent damage. He earlier told The Daily Star that

the civil aviation authority holds insurance worth US\$ 15 million

FROM PAGE 1 assaulted, 93 threatened and 34

Eighty-nine people including 47 women and 17 children were acidburnt across the country, the report adds.

committed suicide. It adds that 109 women were killed for dowry and 52 were tortured, eight acidburnt and eight committed suicide. As many as 619 children faced

soldiers who have lost their lives

security forces in a bid to root out

Despite Iraqi government calls

In the latest counter-insurgency operation in the restive Al-Anbar province, US and Iraqi forces were focusing on clearing insurgents and foreign fighters from the city of Hit," a US military statement said, adding that 13 suspects were arrested in house raids.

The offensive followed

Operation Spear last week, in which ground troops and air strikes hammered suspected insurgent hideouts further west near the Syrian US-led forces had already battled rebels in the area west of

Ramadi in February, but they

quickly reorganised and struck

elsewhere within the vast and lawless Al-Anbar province. Both US and Iraqi officials say die-hard Saddam loyalists and militant foreign fighters brought in by the al-Qaeda network are fuelling

the insurgency.

In Geneva, Iraq's government called for an international conference to consider a suspension of around 33 billion dollars in outstandng compensation payments it owes for damage caused by the Gulf War, UN officials said. The body dealing with the pay-

outs, the UN Compensation Commission, completed examination of the last round of claims under a process that began 14 years ago under Saddam About 41 billion dollars of the

spokesman Joe Sills said. ment with the Iraqi planning ministry

was held in 1997 under Saddam and found the country had a popula-

Adulterated petrol stations of its eight operational gas Some of the top garages and car dealers had even sought help from

The delegates said they could not help check the problem. But they advised motorists to regularly check oil volume and manually drain out sible for monitoring the market. Automobile experts also suggest

> adulterated fuel what can we do? We don't have any alternative or we can't man all the points where adulteration takes place," said a fuel station manager on Mirpur Road.

octane at the station. Contacted, Lutfor Rahman Khan of Certification Marks department of the BSTI declined to comment.

FROM PAGE 16 Mahipur Fish Traders' Association In rough weather, the boats were

places but probably they had sunk

fields at Tk 13.09 per litre is the most preferred ingredient for adulteration, the BPC sources say. Petrobangla alone produces about 3,800 barrels each containing

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) is respon-

Fuel station owners allege BSTI inspectors regularly extort money from them. They demand that the inspectors should clamp down on unscrupulous workers at the depots, tank lorries and port areas. "If suppliers provide us with

He claimed his pump had just paid a fine of Tk 5,000 to BSTI officials, who found 'adulterated

keeper of Dadra Bazar.

said Mohammed Sultan, a shop-The other shopkeepers echoed him and said electricity through renewable solar energy has given a

"In the past, I had to spend Tk

2,100 customers under Mymensingh Solar Project-1, which is providing solar electricity to As a member of the Grameen Trust. the GS was established in

"In the context of ever-increasing demand for energy and less availdeveloped and developing coun-

Although there were a number of

more qualified candidates with

relevant work experience the

authorities appointed Shushnito

Jaman--who has a third class in B

Com--as assistant director to the

TSC. Sources said he could man-

age the job only because he is a

relative of a former BNP-blessed

Another recruit to the same

position Nazir Ahmed Shimab has

only one first division (in HSC) in his

entire academic career and does

Abdullah Sardar, Humayun

Kabir, Faruk Hossain Khan, KM

Khurshid Alam and Asaduzzaman

Chowdhury were among those who

did not get the jobs despite having

both good academic qualification

Besides, the DU authorities have

appointed SM Bipas Anwar, son of

Bangla department Chairman Prof

SM Lutfor Rahman, as the deputy

manager at the DU press. Anwar,

also president of the DU Samajik

Sangskritik Sangstha, a cultural

wing of BNP, got the job although

there were candidates with far

better educational qualifications

The committee has also

58 killed in 9 air crashes

appointed 27 fourth class employ-

on a training mission came down at

midday on the Uttara residential

area, the military source said. The

oilot eiected with minor iniuries iust

100 yards away from the flaming

crashed was completely destroyed,

while two adjacent houses were

Fokker F-27 Friendship 600 aircraft

of the national flag carrier crashed

killing 49 people on board, the

highest number of casualties so far

in a single plane crash. The aircraft

fell into a water body, 550 metres off

On February 10, 1972, five

crewmembers on board a Biman

flight were killed when a Douglas

DC-3 aircraft crashed. It was the

Four crewmembers of a Fokker

F-27 flight escaped unhurt when it

crash-landed in a field near Savar

Bazar during a test flight on

November 18, 1979. The accident

occurred as both engines of the

aircraft caught fire while landing

from an altitude of 8000 feet on

On December 22, 1997 a

Fokker-28 with 89 people aboard

crash-landed in Sylhet, leaving 17

injured. The aircraft landed on its

belly in a paddy field, 3 km from the

runway, failing to land at the Sylhet

An Airbus with 220 passengers

country's first air accident.

completion of the flight.

airport due to heavy fog.

The house onto which the jet had

Earlier on August 5, 1984, a

and work experience.

and work experience.

FROM PAGE 1

partly damaged.

not have any work experience.

Less qualified

ees at the Central Library allegedly on the basis of their political affiliations. Sources said some high level officials of DU administration and leaders of the BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) have shared the posts between

Two of these employees told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity that they had to pay a bribe of Tk 40,000 to some DU officials for their appointment. Some JCD leaders also took the same amount from the other "successful" candidates. Meanwhile, a number of JCD leaders have turned into officers at

scene is even grimmer for the general staff as their colleagues loyal to the ruling parties always have an edge over them. During the last Awami League regime too, some 200 employees and 50 officers had been appointed

the DU. Many of them do not care

about their seniors, hampering the

administrative work, official sources

alleged. In case of promotion, the

at the DU on political considerations, sources added. Pro-VC Prof Haider, however claimed that they had been appointed as per merit and work experience. "We do not look for who is relative of whom at the meeting of the selection committee," he added

before take-off from the Sylhet airport on February 8 this year. Detecting a mechanical fault, the pilot of the Sylhet-Dhaka flight immediately aborted the take-off and brought the aircraft back to the

On April 2, 2003, a severe storm

with a wind-speed of up to 111 km

including nine children on board

narrowly averted an accident just

per hour damaged three Airbus A-310s, a Boeing-737 and a Fokker F-28 aircraft at the Zia International Airport in Dhaka. Moreover, an Air Parabat (private airliner) flight from Ishwardi airport crash-landed on its belly in a field near Savar due to some problems in the two-engine Walter M-601E

and two passengers on board escaped unhurt. Two trainee pilots died when a Cessna C-150 training flight of Parabat's flying academy crashed

Before independence, a Cargolux, Canada Air CL-44J flight crashed into a farmhouse near Dhaka airport while taking off on December 2, 1970. A Macdonald Douglas-built DC-3 aircraft of Pakistan International

Airlines (PIA) crashed in Charlakhi

Island in the Bay of Bengal, killing all

the 20 passengers and four crew on

on September 27, 1998.

Tri-series final today

July 1, 1957.

while the one-day internationals --

leading to Lord's. Saturday's winners, however, will be able to claim the first genuine psychological points of the English summer. Some would argue things began

The meeting at Birmingham may

have been washed out but featured

series defeats and 15 losses

against Australia in 17 one-dayers,

The world champions, though

head for Lord's as firm favourites.

despite their slow start to the tourna-

ment, which began with an extraor-

are geared up for battle.

turning serious on Tuesday.

one win each, with the rain claiming

the third -- were mere group games

an altercation between Matthew Havden and Simon Jones which suggested competitive tensions were on the rise. That suggested that the English, despite eight consecutive Ashes

Australia have been steadily improving ever since. Strike bowler Brett Lee and all rounder Andrew

dinary defeat by Bangladesh.

sharp since. Symonds is averaging 94.5 with the bat and 15.16 with the England's Test side was magnificent in 2004 but the one-day team has yet to make a similar breakthrough. They lost their last series 4-1 in South Africa.

Kevin Pietersen lived up to the

Symonds missed those opening

defeats but have both looked razor-

Bristol but key weaknesses remain. Darren Gough has failed to take a single top-order wicket during the triangular series. Ashley Giles remains a canny defensive bowler, conceding 4.3 runs an over, but has only taken one wicket for his 168

'Ministers, MPs, high officials of

FROM PAGE 1

"We are concerned that public

freeing Bagmara of journalists," he The sources also said that some policemen from Bagmara Police Station had first informed

correspondent of national daily Islam has left Bagmara in fear of

Bangla Bhai, meanwhile, has been keeping contact with his followers reportedly through Shahid. Mustague and Prof Lutfar Rahman of Bagmara, and Hemavet

of gas supply. Once an agreement is signed, Dhaka will hold talks with Delhi while Tata Group will negotiate with

The government and Tata Group

Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Police recovered the bodies from the spot and sent to hospital morque A correspondent adds from Kishoregani: Motor bike rider Jalal

On the same day, 13 bus passengers were seriously injured in a head-on collision between a Netrokona-bound night coach and a Bhairab-bound truck loaded with pineapples on Kishoreganj-Bhairab highway at Moddapara under

bound truck hit a private car at Bosunia under Sherpur upazila in Bogra district on the Dhaka-Rangpur highway at 10:00am yesterday, police said.

driver of the car and its passenger

for autopsy.

Rahima were sent to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital while

FROM PAGE 1

days remain to make it 40 days since Amir's death She has sought help from the people to continue her children's study and earn a living. Her two daughters -- Ania Akhter Ani and Fariha Akhter Ritu -- are students of

Bouddhabihar Dharmaraii High School in Basabo. She urges the benevolent people to send help to Ani-Ritu Assistant Fund in savings account No. 02073591 with the Islami Bank's

nead office complex branch.

FROM PAGE 16

detained More than 10,000 civilians have been killed since the handover of sovereignty to Iraqis a year ago, Body Count website.

insurgents in the capital.

the group's 57 members insisted on a right of legitimate resistance The OIC statement condemned "all aspects of terrorism" but insisted on "differentiating between terrorism and legitimate resistance total 52.5 billion dollars in approved compensation is Kuwaiti, UNCC Meanwhile, the United Nations Population Fund signed an agree-

to train Iragis to conduct a national

The last official census in Iraq

census in 2007.

Petrobangla from the gathering

chain of distribution to about a dozen depots across the country from the Chittagong refinery.

Gas condensate sold by

Japanese car manufacturers, who dispatched an expert delegation.

Corporation (BPC) sources say Bangladesh imports about 120,000 tonnes of octane and 1.4 million tonnes of crude oil every year. Theft of octane begins at the port city of Chittagong by certain organised cliques. Further theft and

A third round of adulteration takes place when tank lorries carry the fuel to thousands of stations across the country.

adulteration occur throughout the

changing the oil after every two periods of drainage. Bangladesh Petroleum