shifts at big colleges so students could get themselves admitted

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Education Information & Statistics (BANBEIS), collegeaffiliated schools are increasing by ten percent annually while intermediate colleges by a paltry one

But then, the number of GPA 5 scorers has shot up by 37.81 per cent and GPA 4 or above (but below GPA 5) achievers increased by 19.04 percent on last year. Besides, this year the pass percentage is 72.18, a 16 percent rise from last year.

The good news is ironically disheartening for high-achievers as the 130 college-affiliated schools, 20 intermediate colleges, 50 degree colleges with room for intermediate education and 40 Alia madrasas established in the last couple of years have failed to stand out, BANBEIS sources said.

65 thousand in technical colleges.

We have only 638 collegeaffiliated schools, 1175 intermediate colleges, including 10 government ones, 1187 degree colleges with intermediate education and only 1039 Alia madrasas," BANBEIS Director Ahsan Abdullah told The Daily Star.

He said some of the students would never make it to college while many female students would have to stop their education after getting married.

"Many students with GPA 5 will have to enrol at colleges of their second choice. However, most of the colleges in rural areas will get sufficient students," the BANBEIS director added.

Among the capital's reputed colleges, Dhaka College can take in about 1,100 freshmen, Notre Dame College 2,139, Dhaka Commerce College 902, Vigarunnisa Noon School and College 990, Dhaka City College 1,083, Government Badrunnesa College 819, Government Bangla College 972, Ideal College 1,050, BAF Shaheen College 606, Holy Cross College 488, Lalmatia Women's College 750, Rajuk Model College 444 and Residential Model College 300.

Climate change meet

ministerial meeting. The decision to hold Saarc climate change meeting was made at the 29th session of the Saarc Council of Ministers in New Delhi in December 2007

The July 3 Saarc ministerial meeting will be preceded by an expert-level meeting on July 1 and

The expert-level meeting will make an in-depth assessment on the adverse impact of climate change in the region and suggest measures to address the situation through cooperation.

They hoped that the Dhaka meeting would pave the way for Saarc to take a common stance on the climate change issue.

The UN has been pressing for a new, historic deal on Climate Change in Copenhagen next year. The treaty due to be hammered out in the Danish capital next year is meant to provide an action plan after the Kyoto Protocol's obligations to cut greenhouse gas emissions expire at the end of 2012.

On the issue of regional funding for facilitating adaptation to climate change, a high official of the foreign ministry said the ways and means to mobilise a fund called the Saarc Development meeting.

agencies whose representatives have been invited to the meeting,

from eight member nations --Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka --, representatives from donor bodies like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Global Environment Facility, DFID, Saarc Observers China, Japan, South Korea, USA and EU are expected to join the meeting.

Bangladesh, being located in a the climate change as flood peri-

inundate the coastal areas of the level will affect the coastal ecosystems, water and agriculture and also food production. This will result in displacement of about 35

The caretaker government has made a proposal to create a fund titled "Fund for Climate Change" (about 43 million US\$) in the

Since the early nineties, PDB gave

birth to seven different entities like

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority

(Desa), the Power Grid Company of

Bangladesh (PGCB), and the

Electricity Generation Company of

Bangladesh (EGCB). These compa-

nies were given PDB's assets and

manpower with the mandate to

carry out specific tasks like over-

seeing a power distribution area or

Currently the staff of PDB head

The reform has become neces-

sary because PDB's performance,

as the sector's caretaker, nosedived

in recent years. "The staff are not

interested about modern training,

they are interested in getting

involved in procurement more

than anything else," said a high

official of the ministry adding,

But to the PDB staff, the donor-

driven reform plans, initiated in

the early nineties, have always

been incomplete and ill conceived

which tried to label all government

staff as either corrupt or inefficient.

As those reforms ultimately failed

to take shape, the government left

PDB with inadequate staff and

facilities, which has demoralised

the organisation, affecting its

power generation, supply, and

distribution, the board is presently

equipped with 15,459 staff instead

dozens of power units at 20 loca-

tions while it deals with private

are 227 posts vacant. How can one

expect efficiency from a technical

organisation like PDB, if there is a

shortage of engineers? There is also

a shortage of 131 managerial staff

the manpower crisis differently.

"The calculations are based on

parameters defined back in the

sixties. The context has changed.

It's a world wide practice to employ

one person for each megawatt of

power produced. PDB has more

than double the manpower it

actually needs," said a ministry

official

and so on," said a PDB official.

"At the level of engineers, there

power plants at 11 more locations.

Responsible for the country's

performance.

"PDB needs to be overhauled."

quarters in Dhaka is 1,500 strong.

a network.

The Dhaka meet is also budgetfor 2008-09.

cyclones that hit the country Besides, rise in sea level will country. A rise of 30-45cm in sea

million people from the coastal districts by the year 2050.

Fund might be discussed at the and allocate Tk 3000 million

ers, customers, pedestrians, market employees and labourers, were More power cos injured in the armed attack

Talking to reporters, many traders of the market alleged that Mozammel made the gun attack in presence of Rab and police personnel.

Nazimuddin, caretaker of the filling station, said, "Two persons came to the filling station at around 7:00am to talk to me. In the meantime, some 30 to 40 others started demolishing the generator room and wall of

"I informed one of the partners, Mozammel Huq, who, along with his wife Mili Chowdhury, came to the spot by a microbus within 20 minutes and fired blank shots," he said.

Mozammel told Rab-10 that he fired blank shots from his licensed gun as the labourers swooped on him. Two separate cases were filed with Jatrabari Police Station last night.

Local poll

FROM PAGE 16 Khagrachhari municipality mayor Joynal Abedin called on the govern ment to hold election to hill district councils and regional councils after the scheduled local-body polls, noting that there have been no election to hill district councils in last 22 years due to the negligence of politicians.

councillors were elected, he said The ministry official however Saying the hill district councils and admitted that a lack of regular the regional councils have become den of looters, Khagrachhari Chamber recruitment has stagnated PDB's of Commerce and Industry director working environment. "There is no Sudarshan Dutta said elections to fresh face there. It's amazing that these bodies would pull the plug on corruption in there.

> the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Land Commission in order to resolve land sputes.

A host of local issues also popped up at the meeting, ranging from development projects to shortages of doctors to hiking of salaries for headmen.

judge court and projects to improve communication in the district. President of Bangladesh Tripura Kalyan Sangsad Manindra Kishore

Tripura demanded that dismantled army camps be back in order to ensure security in the hill areas.

Brushing aside any doubts about the parliamentary elections, Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur said the government would hold the polls as per the opinion of the people.

Saying elections influenced by

black money and muscle power are incompatible with modern democracy, Communications Adviser Ghulam Quader noted that the govemment is holding dialogues with political parties and civil society in order to ensure a credible parliamentary election by December. Law Adviser Ariff said judge court in

the hill districts would be inaugurated soon. On the CHT Land Commission, he said it would be commissioned after

700 Bangladeshis

"We drew the ire of the company officials after we filed a case against it. Since then all sorts of tactics are being applied to deny us our dues. We earnestly request the ministry to consider our case

The workers said they were facing a serious food shortage and that some community members were providing them supplies out of kindness.

on humanitarian grounds," he

"We have been left in the lurch by the company and we do not intend to work for it anymore. All we are seeking now is payment of our salaries and tickets back home. The living conditions are horrible at the camp," said another worker, adding that some of the air-conditioning units have broken down for want of repairs and rooms are overcrowded. The drainage system is also in urgent need of repairs.

When contacted, an official at the Bangladesh Embassy said the embassy was leaving no stone unturned to put an early end to the plight of the workers.

Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Abdul Matin Chowdhury, however, said yesterday that he did not know of such an incident. Meanwhile, Bangladesh

Embassy in Kuwait has taken some drastic measures to prevent exploitation of its workers by unscrupulous employers and create awareness among Bangladeshi workers in that country about the local laws.

It checks the antecedents of a company before giving the green signal for recruitment of Bangladeshi workers. Local companies with a history of violating the rights of workers are prevented from hiring Bangladeshi workers.

Non-payment, underpayment and abuses of Bangladeshi workers by employers in some of the labour receiving countries, including Malaysia, have become a regular phenomenon.

Cheated by agencies and employers, an estimated 2,000 workers have returned home from Malaysia in the last one year. Hundreds of workers were allegedly denied of jobs they had been promised there while many are provided salaries much less than pledged.

Around 130 workers unpaid for 16 months staged a demonstration near the Bangladesh consulate in Jeddah protesting against abuses by their employer, a con-

New animals

FROM PAGE 16 AKM Nazrul Islam, deputy curator of Dhaka Zoo. He said there was no giraffe in the zoo since 1998. He said the animals will remain

under the supervision of two experts for a couple of weeks. The experts came from South Africa. A good number of people,

including children, rushed to the zoo yesterday morning to see the new animals.

struction company in Madinah of Saudi Arabia. The company also did not renew their residence permits leaving them in fear of

deportation. In March this year, Saudi Arabia restricted hiring of Bangladeshi workers for households and agriculture sector. Bahrain also stopped issuing work permits to Bangladeshis in late May following the death of a Bahraini alleged to be killed by a Bangladeshi.

Bangladesh has taken an initiative to identify reasons why its workers in many countries, especially in the Middle East, get paid less than those from neighbouring India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

CEC on polls

FROM PAGE 16 to delimitation of Khulna-5 and 6, Jessore-4, 5 and 6 and Satkhira-3 parliamentary seats began at 10:00am.

Election commissioners M Sohul Hossain and Brig (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain, and Secretary of the Election Commission Secretariat Md Humayun Kabir, among others, were present.

4-party

FROM PAGE 16 BNP chief said she would accept whatever the four-party alliance should decide on the local polls.

"The decision of BNP and the alliance is my decision," she told reporters after a hearing on charge framing in Gatco case.

She also asked BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain to take decisions in consultation with the allies.

Party insiders said Delwar, also a counsel for Khaleda, has already talked to her about the issue. The two discussed allowing leaders and workers to participate in the elections under a different banner in the event of Awami League (AL) going to the polls.

The BNP secretary general and his counterpart in Jamaat-e-Islami Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid have repeatedly said the alliance would not stand in any election preceding the parliamentary polls.

Delwar has even said they would resist the polls. He also said those who would defy the alliance decisions would be declared stooges of the military-backed government.

Sources said division- and district-level leaders of BNP have communicated their recommendations to the high command.

They want the party to participate in the polls which they believe would give it an opportunity to reorganise itself.

Besides, they think the organisation would fall behind if it boycotts any election archrival AL chooses to run for.

Manekshaw dead

Manekshaw had been in hospital for several days battling lung disease. He was the architect of India's

greatest military victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war. Manekshaw had developed broncho-pneumonia and associated complications and he slipped into coma four days ago. A specialist from the military hospital in Delhi was flown to assist doctors attending on him at the hospital in

Manekshaw's two daughters--Maya and Sherry--were by his side when his end came. His wife Siloo died seven years ago.

Wellington, a hill station, where

Manekshaw had settled after retire-

Manekshaw, honoured with the Military Cross during the World War II, was the first Indian officer to command the Gorkhas after independence. For his close association with the Gorkha Rifles, he was called "Sam Bahadur".

Born in Amritsar on April 3, 1914, Manekshaw was commissioned in the army from the first course of Indian Military Academy in Dehra Dun in 1934. He became the army chief on June 7, 1969 and was the first officer to be decorated with the title of Field Marshal after the 1971 war with Pakistan. He was conferred the rank of Field Marshal, the highest military honour, on January 1

Manekshaw was only the second Indian military officer to hold the rank of Field Marshal, the other being Gen KM Cariappa.

Handsome, witty and sporting his trademark handlebar moustache, Manekshaw had his way with people, including his seniors and even former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

The career of Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw spanned four decades and five wars, including the Second WorldWar. Becoming the army chief in

1969, the Indian forces under his

command wrapped up a spectacular victorious campaign during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971. During World War II, Manekshaw saw action in the Burma campaign on Sittang river as a Captain with the 4/12 Frontier Force Regiment and has the rare distinction of being honoured for his bravery on the

During World War II, he was leading a counter-offensive against the invading Japanese Army in Burma. As he charged forward with his men, a Japanese soldier sud-

battle front.

ted Manekshaw holding on to life and was aware of his valour in face of stiff resitance from the Japanese. Fearing the worst, Major General Cowan quickly pinned his own Military Cross ribbon on to Manekshaw saying, "A dead person cannot be awarded a Military

Cross" Having recovered from those near-fatal wounds in Burma, Manekshaw went for a course at Staff College, Quetta and later also served there as an instructor before being sent to join 12 Frontier Force Rifles in Burma. He was once again involved in a fierce battle with the Japanese and was wounded for a second time.

Manekshaw showed acumen for planning and administration while handling the issues related to the partition in 1947 and later put to use his battle skills during the 1947-48 Jammu and Kashmir Operations.

Manekshaw's years of military experience were put to the test as thousands of refugees from the erstwhile East Pakistan crossed over to India due to the turbulent situation there. The situation got worse, and soon erupted into a full-scale war in December 1971.

Oil prices

FROM PAGE 16

hurting stock markets, which in turn triggered a further rally in commodities as investors seek better returns," Sucden analyst Michael Davies said in London.

by the dollar, as the greenback continues its free fall decent this week," he added. Opec's president on Thursday

predicted that oil prices could reach 170 dollars this year owing to a weak dollar and geopolitical unrest. Crude futures crossed 140 dollars for the first time on

would be easy to rebuild. After achieving new peaks on Friday, New York's main oil futures

ROAD MISHAP IN CHT

Hasan Ariff hurt but to join CA's confce in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Law Adviser Hasan Ariff, his APS, driver and gunman were hurt in a road accident while returning to Chittagong after a dialogue at Khagrachhari yesterday. process.

The adviser sustained minor injuries to his head and is now in good health. He will join today's regional conference in the port city. Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed is expected to attend the conference.

According to sources, the law adviser met with the accident when the driver of his vehicle lost control over the steering and fell into a roadside field at Manikchhari under Khagrachhari district at around

The police escorting the adviser immediately rescued him and took to the local health complex.

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman who had left for Chittagong a bit earlier went back to Manikchhari and brought his colleague to the port city by an ambu-

Cardicare Clinic at around 6:30 pm and got his primary check-up done by cardiologist Dr Mohsin Zillur Quoting the cardiologist, Hossain

Zillur said the law adviser is quite well and will attend the regional conference on schedule. Hasan Arif said the vehicle carry

ing him slipped off the road as it was drizzling at that time. "I got a bit hurt as the vehicle fell into a roadside field. There is nothing to worry about," the adviser assured

the pressmen while coming out of

Cardicare Clinic on his way to Chittagong Circuit House at 7:30pm. Meanwhile, the law adviser's gunman Abdul Malek, driver Md Ibrahim and APS Hamidur Rahman were admitted to the casualty department of Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

BSF kills one in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday gunned down a Bangladeshi cattle trader near Keragachhi border at Kalaroa upazila in Satkhira. The dead was identified as Mithu,

28, son of Abdur Razzak of Gobindakati village.

Sources said BSF members of Tarali camp fired four shots on a group of cattle traders while they were returning to Bangladesh from India with cattle at about 4:30am. Mithu was killed on the spot. BSF

members took away the body. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) authorities sent a letter to the BSF protesting the killing and asked them to return

AL to join poll FROM PAGE 1

caretaker government, sources

Zillur said it is sad that the government has yet to lift the state of emergency despite their repeated demands. He called on the careemergency rule completely so that people could practise their right to

formal talks with the government on July 3. At yesterday's meeting the presidium members have been asked to strike a hard bargain at the dialogue with the government. Sources said the decision in

favour of the polls has come on getting a green signal from the party chief who is now abroad for The working committee tasked

AL acting general secretary Syed Ashraful Islam with contacting the government and requesting to shift either the closing date for submitting nominations from July 3 to July 5 or the dialogue date from July 3 to July I so that the party could discuss their stance elaborately with the government.

Referring to the condition of Hasina's ears, Zillur said it would not have deteriorated to the extent it did had the government released her earlier.

He also demanded her unconditional and permanent release.

Zillur criticised the government for not releasing Mohammad Nasim yet. He asked for immediate arrangements for the ailing AI leader to be sent abroad for treat-

North Korea

FROM PAGE 16

weapons development since the reactor became operational in 1986. Last year, the North switched off the reactor at Yongbyon, some 60 miles north of the capital of Pyongyang, and it has already begun disabling the facility under the watch of US experts so that it cannot easily be restarted.

The destruction of the cooling tower, which carries off waste heat to the atmosphere, is another step forward but not the most technically significant, because it is a simple piece of equipment that Still, the demolition offers the

most photogenic moment yet in the disarmament negotiations that

Pakistan calls for results in peace talks with India

AFP, AP, New Delhi

Pakistan's foreign minister said yesterday his country and arch-rival India needed "to seize the opportunity" and start getting concrete results from their slow-moving peace

The appeal from Shah Mehmood Qureshi for progress on a string of thorny issues came as the two nuclear-armed rivals announced dates for a new round of formal peace talks to kick-start four years of flagging dialogue.

"We must seize this opportunity, we have the right environment," Qureshi said.

"Governments have to show political will and they have to give leadership" to resolve differences, he said, adding that political parties in both countries were supportive of the peace process.

The foreign ministers of India and Pakistan held talks yesterday on the ongoing peace Hasan Ariff was taken to process between the nucleararmed South Asian rivals including their dispute over the divided Himalayan region of Kashmir.

The meeting was the second between Indian Foreign Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and his Pakistani counterpart, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, since ation."

a civilian government took power in Pakistan and comes ahead of a new round of peace

talks scheduled to begin in July. Qureshi said Friday's talks would focus on deepening the peace process, differences over

Expectations of progress on Kashmir have been dampened by the sidelining of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, who was instrumental in pushing for a solution to the dispute over the region, which both

The next talks have been scheduled for July 21 and diplomats from the two sides will try to address the impasse over the divided Himalayan region of Kashmir, Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee

While both Mukherjee and

Obama, Hillary

trail and at the Democratic Party convention later this summer. Some of her supporters want Clinton's name to be placed in nomination for a roll call vote at the Denver convention, an effort she hasn't formally discouraged.

Thursday, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, the New York senator urged about 200 of her top donors and fundraisers many of whom have been openly critical of Obama's campaign and its perceived slights against Clinton during the primaries to get behind her erstwhile rival and help him. Obama announced last week he would forgo public financing in the general election, guaranteeing he would need considerable fundraising help in the months to come.

would help Hillary Clinton retire her debt an announcement that drew a standing ovation in the room, according to participants. He also wrote a personal check of \$4,600 toward that goal \$2,300 each for himself and his wife, Michelle, the maximum allowed

"I'm going to need Hillary by my side campaigning during his election, and I'm going to need all

ofyou," Obama said. He also expressed concern about the sometimes sexist treatment of Hillary Clinton during the primary campaign and said Michelle was on the receiving end of such treatment now.

Three top Clinton aides attor-

Nasim

FROM PAGE 16 and a half. The test report was yet to

Nasim, also a former home minister, has complained of constant headache, and told doctors that he is partially blind in his left

The eye problem is temporary and part of the after-effects of stroke, Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) Major Shamsul Haider told The Daily Star last night, quoting an ophthalmologist.

Earlier in the day, he visited Nasim in the hospital.

still weighing what would be the legal implications if it decides to release Nasim and Khaleda Zia's for treatment abroad.

Officials at the home ministry yesterday said the government is taking time since the issue of Nasim's release is somewhat complicated because of his previous conviction.

They said a handout would be published as soon as the matter is settled.

Of the two, Nasim has been sentenced to 13 years in prison in a graft case and facing trial on other charges of corruption. Queried, the DIG prisons yes-

Families of Nasim and Koko

settled soon. now undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, might be released on parole within the next

Kashmir, and bilateral trade. "The ongoing peace process

is central to peace, security and prosperity in our region," he said in a statement after arriving in the Indian capital.

countries claim.

told reporters.

Qureshi, who arrived in India earlier Friday for a three-day visit, did say there had been some progress in the previous meeting, the Pakistani foreign minister said he had urged his Indian host "to give serious thought to outstanding issues

FROM PAGE 16

Obama assured the group he

under federal law.

be released.

Meanwhile, the government is younger son Arafat Rahman Koko

terday said, "We are waiting for instructions from the govern-

want the matter to be considered on humanitarian grounds and Sources in the BNP said Koko,

few days. Nasim's younger brother Rezaul Karim said the family hopes the government would act promptly on their application seeking that need serious considerneys Cheryl Mills and Robert

Obama finance chairwoman Penny Pritzker sent an e-mail to tee Wednesday making a direct

"Barack has asked each of us to collect five or six checks to help Senator Clinton repay the people who provided goods and services to her campaign," Pritzker wrote. "He made this request in the spirit of party unity. Senator Clinton has promised to do everything she can

350 children

FROM PAGE 16

On June 2 this year, following an application from Advocate Fahima Nasrin, a human rights activist, an HC bench of Justice Md Iman Ali and Justice Md Emdadul Haque directed the authorities concerned to release on bail Zahidul Hasan Roney, detained in Kushtia jail, who had

Fahima Nasrin told The Daily Star that there are a number of precedents of the authorities either flouting HC directives or dillydallying in complying with those regarding release of detained children.

As an example she cited the

case of 14 year-old Zafar who had

authorities released him three months later in December. The Sessions Judge's Court in Kushtia sentenced Roney to 10 years imprisonment in a murder case on August 14, 2006, directing the authorities concerned to keep him in the juvenile development centre in Jessore till he reaches 18. On May 8 this year he became

18 and was sent to Kushtia Jail to serve his time. The authorities of the juvenile development centre recently made a recommendation to the social welfare ministry that Roney should be freed, as he

But the ministry ignored the recommendation, prompting Advocate Fahima to file the peti-

customs and other officials bodysearched him and found the phone set in his pocket. Sarapok filed a general diary

Nur Mohammad termed it embarrassing. Khondoker Rafiqul Islam, deputy commissioner (DC) of Uttara Zone of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), said the incident is

problem in PDB is not a lack of PDB a real autonomy," quipped an dollars a barrel, a rise of 1.23 doldenly emerged from the bushes and arrangements for overseas treatfrom the United States, China, manpower, but a lack of quality official of the board. poring over a few legal aspects. fired at him, wounding him seri-Japan, Russia and South Korea. ment.

FROM PAGE 16 Dhaka College, proposed double

into colleges of their choice.

percent.

Against the backdrop of some 7.2 lakh students having passed the SSC exams this year, "we have 4.5 lakh seats in general colleges, 70 thousand in Alia madrasas and

expected to seek funds from donor

the official said. Besides officials and experts

region regularly affected by floods and cyclones, is very vulnerable to extreme weather. The country has already begun to feel the effects of ods have become longer and the cause greater devastation.

megawatt Khulna Barge-mount Power Plant run by Summit has just 100 staff while a nearby 60 megawatt barge-mount plant of PDB employs a staggering 500 men." He also said because of the lack of quality manpower, PDB is unable to absorb technologies from Chinese or Russian plants "Can you believe that PDB still needs Chinese operators to run the Barapukuria and Raozan power plants, although these plants are 15

manpower. For example the 100

is a decade old now, but PDB still needs Russians to operate it. Then what kinds of services are being rendered by PDB?" The official pointed out that the ministry has been pushing PDB to give a specification for a power plant simulator devise for the last six months. "But they are not interested in that kind of technology, so

none came up with the specifica-

years and five years old by now?

The Russian built Siddhirganj plant

the executive engineers are over fifty, instead of forty. There is no regular promotion. This is demoralising indeed," he noted. PDB officials blame the donor driven reform policy of the government for the declining performance of PDB. Those reform meaof 20,499 required according to its sures were separating a part of PDB organogram. The board owns

to create Dhaka Electric Supply

Authority (Desa) for improving

As the move failed, the donors pushed the government to create Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) with only profitable billing zones, leaving unprofitable billing zones for Desa. Moreover, the donors have always tried to portray But the power ministry looks at PDB as a loss incurring organisa-"The ideas of reform should be

home grown. Instead of having a

negative approach towards PDB, the government should pursue reforms with a positive attitude. It was PDB that groomed all the competent people in the power sector. It would have continued to do so, if the government kept the He said with conviction, "The recruitment process alive and gave

As they refused to sign rice supply accord

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj Sirajganj district controller of food cancelled 79 rice-mill licences as the mills did not sign an agreement

with the government to supply rice Furthermore, the authorities directed the power department to disconnect electricity supply

connections to those mills within a Sources said considering the situation, it is apprehended that the rice procurement target in the district may not be achieved this

ment recently started rice procurement drives with a target of 18,272 tonnes from nine upazilas of the Earlier, the department directed 252 mills of the district to sign an agreement to supply rice to the government. At least 171 mills

According to them, the depart-

refused saying that it would not be profitable for them. The district controller of food issued the punitive orders Tuesday without deciding on two mills that did not agree to sell rice to the

Sources said a total of 9,000

signed the agreement while the rest

tonnes of rice was collected until yesterday. The procurement will continue till August 31. The mills that lost their licences are, 12 in Sirajganj Sadar upazila, 15 in Kamarkhanda, five in Kazipur,

one in Belkuchi, 14 in Ullapara, 18

government.

in Raiganj, 10 in Tarash and four in Shahzadpur upazila. A number of rice mill owners seeking anonymity told The Daily Star that the prices of rice and husked rice on the market are higher than the government fixed

20 injured

avertany further incident.

Of the bullet injured, eight were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while the others to different clinics and hospitals. Those admitted to DMCH are Ari Hossain, 48, Alamgir Bepari, 35, Nur Banu, 35, Benu Begum, 35, Ali

Hossain, 23, Mohammad Selim, 50,

vendor who was present during the

incident, said, "A person along with a

woman came to the spot by a

microbus and barred the labourers

Mohamad Akash, a mineral water

Aman Ullah, 35, and Fazar Ali Bepari.

from demolishing the wall and fired two blank shots. He said as the labourers got dispersed and started running inside the market, the armed man fired targeting

Injured Kabir Hossain, who is also

a trader of the market, said, "Hearing

gunshots, I came forward and saw a

the crowd, injuring more than 20.

man firing indiscriminately."

Kabir and five employees of his shop were injured in the attack. He also showed the journalists the bullet marks on his cashbox and wall. Some other traders claimed that more than 30 people, including trad-

the filling station."

It's about time chairmen and

He also called for commissioning

Regional Council member Nurunnabi called for setting up of

Major General DT Cowan spot-

Prices "continued to be buoyed

Thursday following the price forecast made by Opec's chief, Algerian Energy Minister Chakib Khelil, in an interview with television news channel France 24.

lars, up 1.76 dollars from Thursday's close. Brent North Sea crude for August delivery stood at 141.06

contract, light sweet crude for

August, was trading at 141.40 dol-

the body.

taker administration to revoke the vote properly. AL will raise these issues at

treatment.

have dragged on for more than five years and suffered repeated deadlocks and delays. Those attending the event include the top US State Department expert on the Koreas Sung Kim, along with broadcasters

top surrogate on the campaign Barnett, and longtime confidante Minyon Moore have been negotiating the details of her future

> campaigning for him this summer if she isn't working to pay off her the campaign's finance commit-

> involvement. They've made the

case to the Obama campaign that

Clinton can spend more time

to help us beat John McCain."

was no child in 13 jails in the month of May this year.

been 16 at the time of his sentencing and was still in jail till last

been detained in Cox's Bazar Jail, the HC in September 2007 granted him bail but the jail

developed a good character during his stay in the centre.

tion with the HC. ASP accused

with the Airport Police Station. Talking to The Daily Star, Inspector General of Police (IGP)

sensitive since the complainant is a foreign national and the accused a senior police official.

"We are investigating the complaint," he added.