Indian oppositions

attended it.

leaving for Hyderabad.

SPEAKEREXPELLED

up the office on July 23.

diktats," he said.

was vetoed.

course of action on several issues.

Karat said the Manmohan Singh

government has lost all moral

authority to remain in power

because of the manner in which the

Biman Bose, a senior party leader

from West Bengal who reportedly

met the Speaker on Tuesday night

asking him to quit ahead of the trust,

said Chatterjee had promised to give

"Somnath Chatterjee has violated

party discipline. We (Communists)

have to abide by party rules. The

party will sever all connections with

those who do not not follow party

of its constitution to expel him under

summary procedures without any

notice on the charge of "seriously

run-in with CPI(M) leadership is said

to date back to 1996 when he had

supported the proposal for prime

ministership for Jyoti Basu, which

with the leadership over their luke-

warm attitude to his becoming UPA-

Left's consensus candidate for the

who resented with CPI(M) including

his name in the list of MPs withdraw-

ing support to the UPA government,

had been maintaining that the

Speaker's post was above party

politics. But it became increasingly

clear that he was not going to obey

may be going to Kuala Lumpur for a

Commonwealth Parliamentary

who was leader of its Parliamentary

Party in the Lok Sabha from 1989 to

2004, would quit before the confi-

dence vote on Monday but he went

ahead and presided over the pro-

ceedings of the two-day special

session of Parliament.

talks may

Chinamasa told the daily.

their travel plans.

FROM PAGE 1

witnesses.

this report.

Gas line blast

stranded vehicles in the vicinity

were seen running for safety, said

Two fire service units reached

the spot within 40 minutes and

doused the fire. Police reopened

part of the road about an hour later.

Titas Gas personnel were repairing

the damaged pipeline till filing of

the fire in about 10 minutes.

Abdul Hannan, deputy general

The supply of gas through the

The four Igloo workers who

during the repair work, he also said.

were admitted to Dhaka Medical

College Hospital with gas inhala-

tion injuries were identified as

Rebecca, 16, Suma, 18, Rashida, 25,

injured the workers.

Police said the a gas pipeline

manager (DGM-Distribution) of

Titas Gas, said, "We are yet to deter-

After the fire was put out, a

The talks had initially been due

The party hoped that Chatterjee,

Conference early next month.

Even yesterday, he maintained he

Over the last fortnight, Chatterjee,

post of President last year.

the party diktat.

He was also said to have disagreed

The veteran parliamentarian's

compromising" the party position.

The party invoked Article 19 (13)

victory was secured in Parliament.

FROM PAGE 16

chaired by General Secretary Prakash Karat, that discussed his defiance ever since the party withdrew support to the UPA govern-

The 79-year old barrister and tentime MP, Chatterjee rejected both subtle and explicit hints from the party leadership which asked him to quit the post to which he was elected unanimously after the 2004 elections, saving he was above party politics given the post he held.

The BJP expelled eight of its MPs who cross-voted or abstained during the trust vote despite the party having issued a whip to vote against the confidence motion sought by Prime

Minister Manmohan Singh. The eight members were among 24 opposition MPs who either voted for the government or abstained or remained absent.

Biju Janata Dal (BJD), a constituent in BJP-led NDA, expelled Harihar Swain dubbing him as a "betrayer" while Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MP M Jagannatham also faced similar action for defying party whip.

MDMK sources said in Chennai that the party will be seeking the disqualification of two of its MPS-L Ganesan and Gingee Ramachandran--for voting for the government.

Stung by his fellow MPs switching loyalties, BJP's prime ministerial candidate L K Advani said it sparked so much outrage in the party that it did not take more than five minutes to proceed act against the MPs.

"If there was no cross-voting, the government would have lost the trust vote," Advani told reporters a day after the Congress-led UPA government sailed through the confidence

Advani said action was also being taken to seek the disqualification of the eight MPs from the Lok Sabha for violation of party whip.

Undeterred by their defeat in the trust vote in Parliament, leaders of ten opposition parties, including the Left and BSP, today announced launching of a nation-wide campaign against Indo-US nuclear deal, price rise and agrarian crisis and decided to provide an anti-Congress, anti-BJP alternative.

"The UPA government may have won the vote in Lok Sabha yesterday, but has lost the trust of the nation due to the immoral manner in which it engineered its win," BSP supremo Mayawati told a press conference after leaders of these parties worked out a fresh political realignment.

I She said the way in which the UPA garnered votes for victory shows that democracy has been "defeated and murdered"

Announcing a nation-wide joint campaign, CPI(M) General Secretary Prakash Karat said though the government won the confidence motion, it has "lost the trust of the nation".

Besides Mayawati and Karat, top leaders of TDP, CPI, Forward Bloc, RSP, JD(S), RLD, INLD and Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (JVM) were present at the breakfast meeting at the BSP chief's residence. TRS leader K

CA wants

FROM PAGE 16

constructing six-storey buildings. "If the model project sees success, such housing projects can be launched in Savar and Gazipur areas," he said about the newly conceived plan for accommodation of the burgeoning population of the

capital city, where most people

don't have a house of their own. He stressed the need for construction of multi-storey buildings instead of tin-shed houses to solve the housing problem of people

having low income. The CA asked the housing and public works and LGRD ministries to put their heads together to immediately go for action for permanent accommodation of the people in

low-income group. He suggested short-and longterm plans for this important

scheme of housing. It is envisaged that the houses

can be allotted on 99-year lease, which ultimately makes the lessees

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary pothole about the size of a man-Syed Fahim Munaim briefed newshole, nearly two square feet, was men about the meeting.

visible on the road and gas was still LGRD Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal, spewing out of the pothole and Housing and Public Works Adviser nearby manholes. Maj Gen (Retd) Ghulam Quader, Mamun Mahmud, senior sta-Cabinet Secretary Ali Imam tion officer of Fire Service and Civil Majumder, secretary of the CA's Defence and leader of the fire office, housing and public works service team that extinguished the fire, told The Daily Star, "We secretary, CA's press secretary, Rajuk chairman, National Housing reached the spot in about half an hour of the incident and we put out Authority chairman and chairman

ing were present at the meeting. Recovered money

of the national committee on hous-

FROM PAGE 1

mine the cause of the fire." "After the road is dug, we'll be BB Governor Salehuddin told able to know if the pipeline was reporters, replying to a question leaking or if there's any other after the bankers' meeting held at cause," he said and adding, "It may the central bank yesterday. take between three and ten hours

He said: "Bangladesh Bank has to repair the damaged pipeline." nothing to do in this regard. We will give the money back if the governpipeline will remain suspended ment wants."

Reportedly, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has requested the central bank to give the money back so they could adjust the money against due VAT and taxes of the people who deposited the

and Kabita, 15. money with the bank Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul inside the factory building located Islam in his budget speech said Tk at Kutubpur of Shyampur exploded 1,219 crore has been deposited with a loud bang at around 1:00pm, with the central bank against emitting heavy smoke and gas that siphoned off money.

Delwar

FROM PAGE 16

must have an ill motive as it is yet to Chandrasekhar Rao also briefly withdraw the emergency despite repeated demands from political parties," he told the Zia Parishad "We will work together with BSP members who had observed a and other parties," Rao said before token hunger strike outside Delwar's Nam flat demanding On whether a new front was born, release of Khaleda Zia and her son Karat said it was not so as these parties got together to launch a joint Tarique Rahman and lifting of campaign and work out future

emergency. Referring to the chief adviser's remark that the right time for lifting emergency has not come yet, he said. "The time to withdraw emergency has already passed. But you [the caretaker government] are making delay."

"No elections can be held under the state of emergency," he said, asking the government to withdraw emergency to create a congenial atmosphere for holding a credible election with participation of all parties.

Former lawmakers Sohrab Uddin and Nurul Kabir Shaheen, party leader Habib Un Nabi Shohel, and Zia Parishad Chairman Kabir Murad, among others, were pres-

ANWAR MEETS DELWAR BNPVice President MK Anwar, who was released from jail on Tuesday, met the party secretary general at his Nam flat yesterday and discussed different issues with him.

Khaleda, Tarique

FROM PAGE 1

Gias Uddin Ahmed, Sharfuddin Ahmed and Khaleda's nephew Mominur Rahman.

According to the case, the accused embezzled the amount unlawfully by establishing an organisation named Zia Orphanage Trust that exists only on

On June 9, 1991, a grant of \$1,255,000 (about Tk 4.45 crore at the time) was transferred from United Saudi Commercial Bank to the Prime Minister's Orphanage Fund created by Khaleda shortly before transferring the grant. Only Khaleda administered the fund.

Earlier, the ACC interrogated Khaleda and her two detained sons Tarique and Arafat Rahman Koko and a member of the trust in connection with the allegation.

Khaleda is also accused in Gatco, Niko and Barapukuria graft cases while Tarique is accused in 15

Zimbabwe crisis Power plant FROM PAGE 1

He said the 24MW power plant has

begin today been feeding 19MW electricity at best to the national greed since AFP, Harare April although as per the contract it was supposed to supply at least Full-scale talks aimed at resolving 20MW for the next 15 years. Zimbabwe's months-long political Meanwhile, in order to ensure crisis are expected to begin in neigh-

gas supply to GBB and other estabbouring South Africa today, accordlishments including CNG filling ing to a report in state media. stations in Bogra the PGCL failed to Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa, chief negotiator for provide smooth gas supply to the President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-Baghabari 71MW and 24MW gov-PF party, told the Herald newspaper ernment power pants, which forced it had been agreed with the opposithe plants to stop power generation tion to begin the talks only when all for 12 hours from 9:00pm on the delegates were in place. Monday to 9:00am on Tuesday. "All parties to the dialogue agreed

that talks should begin on Thursday," Indian army

FROM PAGE 16

to begin on Tuesday but "Of course, I will be discussing Chinamasa said that all the deleissues concerning joint operations gates should now arrive in South against insurgents and terror Africa by the end of Wednesday and would then "travel to the venue for groups working from Bangladeshi soil," Gen Kapoor said. the talks, wherever that would be"

It was just a few months ago that Chinamasa and ZANU-PF's other senior negotiator Nicholas Bangladesh's Army chief General Goche stayed in Harare on Tuesday Moeen U Ahmed came to Delhi to attend a cabinet meeting while with a promise of "ushering in a opposition officials also delayed new era of close cooperation"

between the two countries. "The relationship between the two armies have so far been limited to some officers attending courses in each other's training institutions," a senior officer in Army Headquarters said when asked about the forthcoming visit by the Indian army chief adding "the time has come to deepen military cooperation.

Graft cases

FROM PAGE 16

The chamber judge, however, upheld the bail the HC had granted to former BNP minister MK Anwar and Salman F Rahman, vice chairman of Beximco Group, in two criminal cases.

Lawyers said the judge did not block the HC orders as Anwar has already been released on bail and a few appeals against High Court orders granting bail to Salman F Rahman in other cases are pend-

The government had appealed against the HC orders in the two cases against Anwar and Salman.

The High Court had granted one month's ad interim bail to SQ Chowdhury on July 16, stayed the case proceedings for a month and issued a ruling on the government to explain why the case proceedings should not be quashed.

Lotus Kamal was granted one month's ad interim bail on July 17. The HC also stayed the case proceedings and issued yet another ruling on the government to explain why the case against Kamal should not be quashed.

The HC gave bail to Ismat Ara on June 9 for three months or till submission of police report in a corruption case filed for accumulating illegal wealth and hiding information from the ACC.

Israel not deterring Jerusalem attackers: Security chiefs

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's security chiefs said yesterday that more needed to be done to protect Jerusalem from Palestinian attacks as debate raged after a second bulldozer rampage in the on the rise. Holy City this month.

A Palestinian from occupied east Jerusalem ploughed through a crowded street on Tuesday, wounding 16 people before being shot dead in an apparent copycat attack modelled on a similar rampage this month that killed three people.

There have since been mounting calls for Israel to return to a policy of destroying the family homes of Palestinian attackers, despite a military report that concluded in 2005 that the practice was ineffective.

"Sanctions should be applied against the families of terrorists in cases where it is proved that they collaborated in attacks, or did nothing to stop them," Interior Minister Meir Sheetrit told public

real tendency among Palestinian workers from east Jerusalem to use heavy equipment to perpetrate attacks, then replacements should be found in Israel."

Yuval Diskin, the head of Israel's internal Shin Beth security agency, had ironically told a powerful parliamentary committee hours before Tuesday's attack about the "problem of deterrence" in mostly Arab east Jerusalem, where both bulldozer drivers lived.

Diskin had been briefing the foreign affairs and defence committee about the July 2 bulldozer attack and a shooting in March, when a lone gunman from east Jerusalem attacked a Jewish seminary and killed eight students.

The YNet news website quoted security officials as saying that what they characterise as "popular attacks," such as stabbings and the throwing of Molotov cocktails, are

There have been five major attacks in Jerusalem this year, which claimed the lives of 12 Israelis, and the number of terrorrelated arrests has risen sharply according to media reports.

Prior to that, the last major attack in Jerusalem dated back to 2004, when two border policemen were killed in a suicide bombing. Media quoted officials as saying

that during the first six months of

2008, police arrested 71 Palestinians from east Jerusalem, compared with only 37 for all of 2007 and a total of 270 since 2000. Some 250,000 Palestinians live

in east Jerusalem, which was occupied an annexed by Israel in the 1967 war in a move not recognised by the international community.

They are issued with Israeli "If it is determined that there is a identity cards, which allow them to circulate freely throughout the country and to work there, as well as enjoy such social benefits as unemployment compensation and family allowances.

> After the July 2 attack, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert spoke out in favour of resuming the demolition of the family homes of those that carry out attacks.

> During the Palestinian uprising which was unleashed in 2000, Israel systematically destroyed the homes of Palestinians involved in deadly attacks.

But the practice stopped in 2005 after then army chief Lieutenant General Moshe Yaalon said it was not a deterrent.

Truth Commission

FROM PAGE 1

under process." On May 25, the Council of Advisers approved the Right to Voluntary Disclosure Ordinance 2008, paving the way for forming the Truth and Accountability Commission.

President Iajuddin Ahmed promulgated the ordinance in early June. On July 6, the Council of Advisers proposed some amendments to the ordinance. As per the ordinance, the com-

mission will run for five months with three members. The president will appoint one of the three members as chairman of the commis-

The government has already appointed 26 officials on deputation for the Truth and Accountability Commission.

The Right to Voluntary Disclosure Ordinance 2008 defines corruption and corrupt activities as in the schedules of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1947, Customs Act 1969, Income Tax Ordinance 1984, VAT Law 1991, and the Anti-Corruption Act 2004.

These also include violation of any rules of the Bank Company Law 1991 or evasion of stamp duty, registration fees or any other charges or revenues imposed by any law or rules of the country. Along with those who will make voluntary disclosure about their corruption, the commission will also deal with persons referred by the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on serious crimes and corruption, the Anti-Corruption Commission and by any court dealing with their cases.

Persons who will make voluntary disclosure will be disqualified land ministry.

for a period not exceeding five years from holding any offices that include parliament, Zila Parishad, Upazila Parishad, Union Parishad, municipality, city corporation, or any trade organisation and professional body, or any post in any bank, financial organisation or public limited company or any other organisations formed under the constitution or any law, says the

ordinance. President's wife

Anwara Begum, wife of President Iajuddin Ahmed.

It was learnt that the matter was also discussed at the meeting of the task force formed for keeping the city rivers' flow normal.

The meeting discussed cancellation of the lease of the canal at Ramchandrapur of Mohammadpur in the capital to Dr Anwara Begum.

A day after publication of a report in the daily Prothom Alo, the chief adviser yesterday directed the land secretary to inform him of the details of the leasing in written.

Following the directive, the land ministry started preparing the report which might be submitted to the chief adviser today. Seeking anonymity an official of

the chief adviser's office said the lease would be cancelled if there are no provisions of leasing out canals.

Punitive measures will also be taken against the government officials involved in the leasing process, he said, adding that the final decision would be taken only after receiving the report from the

Livelihood withers

FROM PAGE 1

their share of the effects of river pollution. Those living near the Buriganga cannot wash clothes in the river during the dry season as the water turns too filthy and

Kamal Das, who has been working at a laundry on Urdu Road since his early teens, said, "I'm not going to have any of my children in this profession as I don't see any future

Talking about the job switches, urban planning expert Professor Nazrul Islam said the government and non-government organisations concerned should ensure there are alternative jobs or skills training necessary for those leaving traditional and often hereditary occupations.

However, he continued, first FROM PAGE 1 and foremost they should take measures to arrest the unabated pollution in the rivers, canals and other natural reservoirs since water is something that people cannot do without.

Those whose means of livelihood are somehow associated with rivers are also subjected to serious health hazards caused by water pollution.

The Buriganga at Kaliganj of

Keraniganj has become so contaminated that the locals have long stopped having a bath in its

Those who have no choice but to take a dip in the river are dangerously exposed to water-borne "I have long been suffering from

rashes," said Delwar Hossain, a boatman of Kaliganj ghat. Dr Rashid E Mahbub of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

the National Institute of Medical University said people involved in livelihoods linked to the Buriganga are more likely than others to have cancer for their contact with chemical wastes dumped in the water. an extramarital relationship with Tozammel since 2005.

lop criminal

Soon after, his accomplices swooped on police and snatched him, injuring two policemen, including the acting officer-incharge of Kaliganj Police Station. Reinforced police later arrested three of his henchmen.

Police said Anar, also Kaliganj unit general secretary of the Awami League, had been into arms, gold and drugs smuggling for over 20

Nato soldier killed in Afghanistan

AFP, London

forces in Afghanistan was killed in fighting with insurgents, the Ministry of Defence in London said vesterday. The soldier, from the Royal

A British soldier serving with NATO

Electrical and Mechanical Engineers attached to 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment, died Tuesday in the Kajaki area of Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan.

The soldier was part of a patrol, which came under fire from insurgents. Two others were injured in the incident but their injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

"Whilst returning fire, one soldier from 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment was injured by a mine," the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

BDR-BSF

FROM PAGE 1

and kinngs on the borders of the two countries. The conference concludes today.

A member of the BSF was reportedly killed in a gunfight with Indian terrorists in the bordering area of Pirojpur village under Shibganj upazila, said BDR sources adding that the BSF is trying to shift the blame on BDR.

BBC Bangla Service however reported a BSF member named Shatrughna of MS Pur under Murshidabad district was killed in BDR firing.

Our Chapainawabganj corre spondent reported a group of BSF personnel from Shashani camp entered the Bangladesh territory while chasing terrorists. Firings ensued when the BDR challenged the intruders, sparking panic and fear among residents of the area.

Hundreds of cargo vehicles remained stranded on both sides of the borders as cross-border trade and customs and immigration formalities ground to a halt following the firings.

Maj Syed Abu Hassan, commanding officer (CO) of BDR 39 Battalion, declined to comment if there were any casualties.

He however told news agency UNB that at around 6:00am, they first heard the sound of gunfire presumably by BSF, coming from inside India. "At one stage they opened fire on us. We fired a shot in response," he added.

Earlier on Friday, BSF gunned down two BDR personnel on the same border at Raghunathpur village. Both sides are on high alert and have been massing additional troops on the border.

The Bangladeshi cattle trader

shot dead by BSF on Nimtola border in Chuadanga yesterday morning was identified as Rakibul Islam, 30, son of Babur Ali from Sultanpur village in Damurhuda upazila. Sources in 35 Rifle Battalion said

a BSF patrol team of Gede camp in Krishnapur opened fire on the Bangladeshi cattle trader at around 5:30am near border pillar 74 as he was returning to Bangladesh from India after buying cattle.

Rakibul died on the spot and the Indian border guards took the dead body inside the Indian territory.

The BDR sent a letter to the BSF protesting the killing and asking to hand over the body to BDR, said Lt Col Sultan, CO of 35 battalion, while speaking with journalists. The BDR is yet to receive any response from the BSF till filing of this report at 4:30pm, he added.

Our correspondent from Dinajpur reports: BSF yesterday pushed in six Bangla speaking Indian nationals through Tentulia border in Panchagarh.

The Indian nationals were identified as Monwara Begum, 52, wife of M Abdul Zabbar, her daughter Shahida, 15, Kulsum, 15, Moyna, 10, and son Farid, and Salma, 48, wife of M Shajahan.

They said they have been living in Golta village of Rajasthan in India for the last 25 years, but the Indian police had arrested them on July 10 from Rajasthan and handed over to the BSF.

Doctor's wife

FROM PAGE 1

With the help of Nargis, he took Nazma to the bathroom and cut the tendons of her legs and poured hot water on her face.

Police recovered Nazma's body

from the bathroom of the house at

Lane-5 in the city's Mirpur section-2 the same day after Tozammel reported that he found his wife dead after returning home. The police have arrested Tozammel, a senior consultant of

Traumatology, Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation (NITOR) Nargis, the wife of Tozammel's relative Humayun Kabir, told the court that she has been engaged in

She said Tozammel gave her Nazma's cell phone after the murder and asked her not to tell anyone about it. He also told her that he would cook up a story of robbery to cover up the murder.

Detective Branch of police, which is investigating the case, arrested Nargis on July 17 and seized the cell phone from her. Nargis told the magistrate that

Tozammel killed Nazma after she came to know about the extramarital relationship between her (Nargis) and Tozammel.

UNSC to discuss Thai-Cambodia dispute

AFP, Preah Vihear

The UN Security Council is expected to discuss a tense military standoff between Cambodia and Thailand this week as more troops amassed along the border, officials said yesterday.

Thailand's ambassador to the UN, Don Pramudwinai, said the Security Council on Thursday would discuss the border dispute that has troops from both countries facing off near the 11thcentury Preah Vihear temple.

UN has included Preah Vihear on the emergency agenda to be discussed at the Security Council meeting tomorrow," he told reporters in Bangkok. More than 500 Thai troops and at

"I have been informed that the

least 1,000 Cambodian soldiers are squaring off over the small patch of land near the temple ruins, but Cambodian officials said yesterday thousands more Thai troops were positioned along the border. Cambodian cabinet spokesman

Phay Siphan estimated about 4,000 Thai troops in total have gathered along the frontier in several areas -not just near Preah Vihear. "They just want to show off their muscle, but we don't care about that.

We stick to a peaceful way to solve the problem," Phay Siphan told AFP. Cambodia has sent heavy weapons to reinforce troops on its northern border in Anlong Veng, where there is also disputed territory, said a military official on condition of

now at Anlong Veng than there are here (at Preah Vihear). There are tanks and artillery," said the

Cambodian colonel with close ties

to Thai armed forces.

But Thailand denied it was reinforcing the frontier. "Thailand has not been building up forces along the border," deputy

army spokeswoman Colonel Sirichan Ngathong told AFP. "We maintain the same amount of soldiers, and more than 400 soldiers were sent to the overlap-

ping area." Cambodia called for the UN to help broker a solution to the standoff after the countries failed to any headway in two days of talks over the disputed land near Preah Vihear, which legally belongs to

Cambodia. Thailand's chief negotiator to the crisis called Wednesday for leaders of the two nations to meet, saying an existing border committee would not be able to solve the

problem. "At this stage I think it's rather the leaders who must hold a summit as they are the decision makers," armed forces head General Boonsrang Niumpradit told reporters, adding that Thai troops had been ordered to remain peaceful.

Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej on Wednesday accused his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen of capitalising on nationalist sentiment ahead of Sunday's general election in Cambodia, saying talks would be "less intense" after

the polls. A spat in 2003 over Cambodia's Angkor Wat temple -- the most significant symbol of the country's "There are more (Thai) troops ancient Khmer empire -- sparked a night of riots in which Thailand's embassy and several Thai-owned businesses were burned and looted.

EC moves to make

anonymity.

In its verdict delivered on May 18, the High Court said as they have been residing in Bangladesh since before and after the country's independence, they are citizens of this country by birth and are entitled to

be registered in the electoral roll. Referring to the chief election commissioner's letter to the chief adviser dated June 1, 2007, the verdict said the EC did not face any problem registering the Urduspeaking people living all over the country outside the ICRC camps. They have been listed in the electoral roll following the criteria set for the purpose. But the EC faced difficulties in registering those living inside the ICRC camps due to complications regarding their Bangladeshi citizenship.

Election commissioners Muhammed Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain visited the United Kingdom last November at a cost of around Tk 14 lakh to study the feasibility of the plan to register expatriate Bangladeshis in the electoral roll.

REGISTERING EXPATRIATES

They met the Bangladeshi citizens living in London and pledged to register them in the electoral roll so they can cast their votes in the ninth parliamentary election slated for the third week of December.

However, the long standing

demand of expatriate

Bangladeshis might not be realised

before the upcoming parliamen-

tary polls since the EC has appar-

ently shifted from its earlier stance

drafted proposals to bring amendment to the electoral roll ordinance clearing the way for registering expatriates in the voter list. But the

to do the task, sources concerned

A few months ago, the EC

move did not see any progress, the

voter listing yesterday said they

A senior official engaged in

knew nothing about listing the Bangladeshi citizens living abroad in the electoral roll.

5 kids die

sources added.

FROM PAGE 16 Nipu pushed me up and a local youth rescued me," she recollected the moments in tears. "I cried out for help but none of the witnesses came forward. Only Nipu and the

boatman tried to save us," she said. "Though Nipu knew how to swim he could not save his life. He sacrificed his life to save us," Ajanta

Boatman Haroon told reporters

the accident occurred as the students started merry-making "desperately", ignoring his repeated On information, a five-member rescue team from the Fire Service

and Civil Defence rushed to the spot and recovered five bodies with the help of locals. The students who were either rescued or managed to swim ashore are Arif, class XII student of Dhaka Commerce College, Kazi Imdadul Haque Ratul, Mridul and

Eva, who are students of class IX at

MDC Model Institute.

Govt to appoint

FROM PAGE 16

examinations would not be recruited. The recruitment will be made under the concerned rules and regulations. Meritorious, competent and honest attorneys will be appointed in order to establish justice and rule of law in the country."

Once the proposal is approved, the attorney department would ask PSC to take steps to start recruitment process, he added.

In reply to a question, the DG ruled out any possibility of misunderstanding or conflict between the Attorney General's Office and the attorney department saying the department will function in accordance with the law. "The existing attorneys who are

now serving under the attorney

general [AG] can continue their

service as per the existing rules. The attorney department will not interfere in their service." He said as per the provisions of the Ordinance, existing attorneys

can continue their jobs until new law officers succeed them. Israil said the department would recruit the law officers with

transparency, neutrality and responsibility, as the Judicial Service Commission has recently appointed about 400 judges for subordinate judiciary and all sections have appreciated those appointments.

The SC law officers are protest-

ing against the Ordinance and the Government Attorney Department from the beginning in May this year. They mainly object to some

"discriminatory" provisions in the Ordinance including a system of two bosses for the law officers -- the AG and the DG. "If those provisions are implemented, the existing attorneys will

lose their jobs within two years. It's a blow to our honour and dignity, since we've come to serve the state for five years leaving our independent practice and seniors' chambers," an attorney said.

50,000 marooned

FROM PAGE 16 Six-kilometre long Durgapur-

Ranikong road linking Durgapur upazila with the border villages went under three to five feet water. Floodwater has already damaged 80 percent of Aman seedlings,

newly planted Aman crops and

vegetables on vast tracts of land in

the affected areas. Road communications between Netrakona town and Durgapur upazila remained snapped as a portion of the road had been damaged near Janzail Bazar and

Suknakuri at Durgapur upazila. Besides, the roads linking Netrakona town to Kalmakanda and Khaliajuri upazilas went under water disrupting road communications between the three places.