METRO DESK

Two killed in

road accidents

Two people were killed in sepa-

rate road accidents in Pabna

Our Pabna correspondent

reports: One person was killed

in a road accident on Pabna-

Kushtia road at Pakshey in

Mahbub Islam, 38, an insur-

occurred when he was cross-

ing the road, a speeding bus

Brahmanbaria adds: One

schoolgirl was killed in a road

accident on Nabinagar-

Companiganj road at Bangura

village under Nabinagar upazila

Sadia Aktar, 10, daughter of

Md Zakir Hossain and a class

five student of Bangura

going to school, a speeding bus

crushed her under its wheels.

Police said when she was

Government Primary School.

The dead was identified as

in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

Our correspondent form

The dead is identified as

Sources said the accident

Pabna on Sunday night.

ance company official.

ran over him.

and Brahmanbaria yesterday.

Ensure transparency to check Begunbari-Hatirjheel graft in health sector: ACC chief

Steps taken to remove irregularities in several areas: Health secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday observed that ensuring free flow of information would help curb corruption in the health sector, as corruption usually starts at the lowertier of the local government.

officials of the ministry and its different departments should exchange views with the media regularly to check corruption.

"At the least, make sure that a patient can see a physician at the hospital," he said at a view exchange meeting with top officials of the health ministry at ACC headquarters.

said the areas plagued by corruption ensured at that level, it would definitely present at the meeting.

Concern over

post-election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

yesterday expressed concern

over post-election violence

especially the killing of an

Awami League (AL) activist's

mother at Srirampur under

Following newspaper

reports published yesterday

the parishad leaders

demanded neutral investiga-

tion into the incident and

exemplary punishment to the

Hazrat Ali, an AL activist,

came under attack by some

identified criminals on

Friday. Then her mother

Fulmoti, 45, rushed to rescue

her son and was chopped by

the criminals. She suc-

cumbed to her injury on the

29 people in this connection.

Parishad demanded the

government to ensure secu-

rity of the family members of

the victim. Simultaneously, it

urged all to be united to resist

violence against women and

DHAKA

Government Teachers' Training

College, Dhaka will bring out a rally

to celebrate its 100 years. Venue

College campus. Time: 9:30am.

Inaugural ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of the

digital biography and photography

exhibition on distinguished

persons will be held. Venue

Alliance Française gallery. Time:

ODAY

protect human rights.

Rally

5:00pm.

A case was filed accusing

Bangladesh Mahila

way to hospital.

killers.

Shoilakupa in Jhenidah.

violence

include purchase of equipment and medicines, payment of pension to officials and employees, recruitment, transfer and construction of infrastructure.

Besides, there are irregularities in Directorate and theft and misuse of medicines take place in hospitals, he said.

The health secretary also said that remote areas. He also suggested that the top-level measures are already underway to address some problems.

The ministry is also planning to take ministry. necessary measures such as formation of a complaint cell, computerisation of the transfer process and changes in the process of purchasing hospital equipment,

ACC Chairman Hasan Mashhud said, "Reports of corruption usually come from Health Secretary AMM Nasiruddin Upazila level. If transparency can be senior health ministry officials were also

AL spokesperson Syed Ashraful Islam speaks at a press confer-

ence at the AL president's political office in the city yesterday.

14 injured in mob

of a bakery house in the city in locked the house, Police said.

New Juraine area of house owner as security

Mahbubur Rahman Rubel Souvenir on

Police said when house, but the money was not

beating in city

(Story on Page 1)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 14 people were injured

in a mob beating when locals

found them breaking the lock

The injured were the men

of Nuruzzaman who was a

tenant of the bakery house at

were trying to break the lock at

around 1:00am, house owner

raised hue and cry suspecting

Locals thronged the spot

and beat Nuruzzaman and his

men including his son Rejaul

Karim and his manager Ruhul

Amin leaving them seriously

people including

Nuruzzaman before a court

which sent them to jail.

ing treatment at DMCH.

Police produced eight

Six injured were undergo-

Police said Nuruzzaman

ran a bakery named Meghna

Food Industry at the house but

he did not pay the rent of the

an attack by the robbers.

Nuruzzaman and his people refunded.

the early hours of yesterday.

Kadamtali.

injured.

help curb corruption."

He mentioned that he would request the government to appoint more people in the health sector.

The ACC chief also emphasised the activities at Drug Administration need to formulate a policy to ensure transparency in the process of transferring and posting doctors, particularly in

> He also called for proper monitoring of the activities undertaken by the health Director General (health) Prof Abul

> in the hospitals as the 'weakest point'. He emphasised the need to improve

Faiz described emergency management

professionalism among doctors. ACC Commissioners Habibur Rahman and Abul Hasan Manjur Mannan and

GRAFT CASE

HC stays 4 criminals arrested proceedings against Falu FROM PAGE 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for three months the proceedings against former BNP lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu in a corruption case filed by the Anticorruption Commission (ACC) on charges of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information about it.

PHOTO: STAR

Moreover, the duration of

So on January 1, Rubel

Nasima Begum, wife of

Nuruzzaman, told The Daffy

Star at DMCH that her hus-

band gave Tk 5 lakh to the

money while renting the

Nurul Islam to

Bangladesh Trade Union Centre

(BTUC) will publish a souvenir

on late Nurul Islam, president of

the BTUC, and Sramik

Karmachari Oikya Parishad

ties and trade union leaders are

requested to send write up and

pictures for the souvenir to the

following address: BTUC

office, 23/2 Topkhana Road,

Political, cultural personali-

leader, says a press release.

be published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the deal between him and the

house owner ended on

December 31.

After hearing a quashment petition filed by Falu, an HC bench comprising Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Abdul Hye also issued a rule upon the government to explain within six weeks why the proceedings against him in this case should not be quashed.

Barrister Ahsanul Karim, counsel for Falu, yesterday told The Daily Star that the HC earlier granted bail to Falu and his wife Mahbuba Sultana in this case.

ACC Assistant Director Rahela Khatun filed the case against them on July 8, 2007, for concealing information about their property in the wealth statement submitted to the

In the First Information Report filed with Motijheel Police Station, the complainant said the amount of wealth | now have around 15 or so mentioned in the statements does not match with their actual properties.

Mahbuba was made an accused in the case for abetting her husband.

The complainant said Falu mentioned in the wealth statement that he owns movable and immovable properties worth Tk 42 crore while an ACC investigation revealed that he did not mention his wealth worth Tk 15.97 crore in the statement.

Call to set up

FROM PAGE 16 Act-1973, and it should be supported by the United Nations for international acceptance. But the support is not mandatory for holding trial ofwar criminals, it said.

If the government does not start the process at early stage then there would not be much progress in this regard, they

The Facts Finding Committee said ordinance No. 63 of 1975 and Second Proclamation Order No. 3 of 1975 promulgated by late president Ziaur Rahman on December 31, 1975 would have to be repealed to make the ground for smooth holding of

The committee also demanded formation of a Historical Clarification Commission comprising national and international experts. The role of the commission would be to explain the sequences of genocides | EC's report, voter turnout in and war crimes by Pakistani Army and local collaborators against the people of Bangladesh. Such a commission was formed in Guatemala

in 1997. The facts findings committee said the trial would have to be against three kinds of war criminals-- Pakistani Army, their auxiliary forces like Rajakar, Al Badar and Al Shams and also other local collaborators who were not registered as Rajakars.

"The crime was committed against the people of Bangladesh. So the terms and reference would have to be set by the people of Bangladesh not by others," said committee convenor Dr MA Hasan while reading out a written state-

Major General (retd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury of Sector Commanders Forum and Akku Chowdhury of Liberation War

Museum were also present.

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

FROM PAGE 16 building can be demolished easily if the next government

An official of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) told The Daily Star on Saturday that it would take about 10 to 15 days more to get an estimate of the acquired land from the DC office. Then the DC office will start the process of distributing money.

"It was possible to complete the work of the road embankment by December last year if we had got the land six months back," said Prof Mujibur, A total of 299.24 acres of

land have been acquired of which about 219 acres have been acquired newly while the rest of the land belongs to different government organisations. Of the newly acquired land,

139 acres are under private ownership while 10 acres are khas land and about 69 acres are the land of Courts of Awards.

Four bridges connecting both sides of the road- of the treatment plant as soon embankment will be con- as possible, the waste will go 2010.

Ahsanullah was gunned down

Rupak was sentence to life-

term imprisonment for killing

former Titumir College stu-

dents' council vice-president

Ankhi, also a Chhatra League

Investigation Department

(CID) officials held a press

conference yesterday at its

headquarters at Bhabani

Bhaban where CID Special

Superintendent Anil Kumer

told reporters that the

arrestees admitted their

ders, a correspondent in

during interrogation that

former MP Ahsanullah

Master's killing was led by

Gazipur BNP leader Hasan Ali

Sarkar, now in a Bangladesh

"The private power policy

1996 allowed some local pri-

vate companies to grow. We

small power companies side

by side with large entity like

"We now want to take this to

the next level. We believe for

the next 10 years we would not

need new policy interventions

to stimulate private sector

power had struck a partner-

ship with the Power

Development Board (PDB) in

the Sirajganj 450-megawatt

power project which the

cancelled in 2004. "At that

time, there was no policy

framework to support the

joint venture. Now this issue

has been addressed," the

all by the year 2020, the policy

that was officially notified last

month seeks to develop new

power plants and rehabilitate

official observes.

The official goes on to say,

Dipu told Kolkata police

Kolkata reports.

FROM PAGE 1

Summit," he adds.

participation.

involvement in the two mur- Act.

Arrestee Zakir Hossain

on May 7, 2004, in Tongi.

leader, a few years ago.

Tongi diversion road, in the middle of the roadembankment (twin bridge) and near Rampura Road, said Prof Mujibur.

All lanes and by-lanes of the areas will be connected with the planned peripheral road, which will reduce congestion, he said.

However, excavation work Rajuk official. is going on in full swing on about 250 acres of land and it will be possible to complete about 70 percent of the work by May 2009, said Mujibur. The construction of a waste

treatment plant has not been started yet at Dasher Kandi as development project proposal (DPP) of about Tk 500 crore has been waiting at the planning commission for the decision whether the approval, sources said. An official of WASA said

pipes will be set up on one side of the roads from where sewerage and industrial wastes will go to the treatment plant to be built at Dasher Kandi according to the plan.

If WASA cannot start work

with a fake Bangladeshi pass-

port and later went to Belgium

where he sought asylum.

Failing to get asylum there he

went to Nepal with a fake

Belgium passport. He

returned to Kolkata three

months ago and during this

Bangladesh several times

a rented flat in Garia area for

arrested the four under

Section-14 of the Foreigners'

before a court yesterday and

the court ordered to keep Dipu

and Rupak under police cus-

tody till January 9 and Tipu

Additional Inspector General

Mohammad Javed Patwari

power plants through public-

private partnership under

Rehabilitate, Own and

The private sector will be

allowed to supply electricity to

the distribution licensees at

tariffs determined by the

Bangladesh Energy

find their own buyers to sell

electricity and will be free to

negotiate the applicable tariffs

would not guarantee in favour

of any fuel suppliers to supply

fuel to commercial power

requirements for joint venture

vehicle will be established to

implement and operate such

joint ventures will require ers.

The policy dictates a set of

Unless specific commit-

with large consumers.

plants, it adds.

Regulatory Commission

Transfer (ROT) model.

Bangladesh CID chief

and Manju till January 17.

Rupak said he took refuge

All four had been staying at

Kolkata CID said they

They produced them

period his wife had met him.

Kolkata Criminal in Bangalore and had been to

He said he came to India told The Daily Star, "We hard

New power policy

(BERC).

Earlier, local Summit commercial power plants will

Khaleda Zia government mentismade, the government

Tailored in line with the partnership with public sector

year 2000 vision of power for utilities. A special project

afterwards.

some time.

structed at three points near downstream and it will pollute the neighbouring environment, said another Rajuk official

> Rajuk has already demolished most of the illegal structures but around 80 structures are still out of the drive on the western side of Rampura bridge and South Begunbari due to legal battles, said the

Speaking about BGMEA Bhaban, Prof Mujibur said the BGMEA building has been constructed in the middle of the Begunbari canal and it significantly obstructs the flow of storm water. "The building will also reduce the capacity of water retention of the canal," he said.

The government will take building will be demolished or not, he said.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved the Tk 1473.58 crore development project for Begunbari-Hatirjheel on October 8, 2007. The project is scheduled to be completed by June

about the arrest but we did not

get any formal message from

shot and killed Ahsanullah,

also president of Jatiya Sramik

League, and Ratan and

wounded 17 others at a bien-

nial conference of Awami

Swechchhasebak League, the

AL volunteers' front, at

Noagaon near the legislator's

Sarker as the mastermind for

the murder, Matiur Rahman,

brother of Ahsanullah, filed a

murder case with Tongi Police

Station on May 8 against 17

court handed down death

sentences to 22 people and life

terms to six others for assassi-

from Gopalganj and Rupak

from Dhaka, our Benapole

respective public sector power

provide non-discriminatory

open access to their transmis-

sion and distribution system

for use by any generation

private investors may also

build their dedicated trans-

stations to large consumers

qualification criteria for pri-

vate investors that can work

under the policy. The private

sector will have proven finan-

cial capacity to arrange

financing for development of

power plant, proven experi-

ence in developing and oper-

ating power plants of same or

higher capacity as

Independent Power Project

(IPP), Rental Power Plant,

Small Power Plant or

Commercial Power Plant and

The policy spells out a set of

under the Grid Code.

According to the policy,

The Power Grid Company

correspondent reported.

nating Ahsanullah.

utilities and BERC.

Operate (ROO) and of Bangladesh and other

Rehabilitate, Operate and distribution licensees will

The policy also says private mission line from their power

licensees.

On April 16, 2005, a Dhaka

Tipu, Dipu and Manju hail

Identifying Nurul Islam

On May 7, 2004, gunmen

the Indian police."

house in Tongi.

people.

Moni Singh Mela ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seven-day long 'Comrade Moni Singh Mela (fair)' will conclude today.

The fair was organised marking the 18th death anniversary of Moni Singh, says a press release of Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hasmat Ara Aasia, mother of Saidul Islam, former principal of BM College in Barisal, passed away at Birdem hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 83.

She left behind her three sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her

She will be buried at the family graveyard in Barisal.

Razia Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Razia Begum, wife of late-Advocate MA Rageb, passed away due to old-age ailments at her Baridhara residence in the city yesterday at the age of some old and inefficient approval of the board of the

She left behind her two sons and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Gulshan Azad Mosque after Zohr prayers

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



fourth death anniversary of Taha-Bin-Bashar Rony, an MBA final semester

Today is the

student at Sydney University of Technology in Australia, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Baitul Fazl Mosque in

Mohammadpur in the city. * Relatives, friends and

admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

No confusion over high turnout

joint venture projects. Such selling power to large consum-

FROM PAGE 1

too, particularly in 1991 and 2001, but the average turnouts were significantly low compared to the latest election's, since the percentages of votes cast in previous polls were calculated based on the total numbers of voters on flawed lists, a huge number of whom were either fakes or dupli-

According to the erstwhile 1991. the fifth parliamentary election in 1991 was only 55.45 percent, meaning around 45 percent voters did not cast their votes in that poll, held immediately after the fall of the erstwhile military dictator HM Ershad.

But the actual truth was that voters enthusiastically participated in that poll too, and the actual turnout of voters was at least 10 percentage point higher than the figure shown in the report, as voters. the voter list used in 1991 had over one crore fake voters, claimed Deputy EC Secretary

Mihir Sarwar Morshed. According to an estimation of the EC, on an average 17 lakh citizens become eligible for being registered as voters turnout in 2001 comes to each year. But, interestingly enough, when the voter list for told The Daily Star. Voters who were registered 1996 parliamentary election was prepared, the number of in more than one areas, gener-

number of 6,21,81,743, due to a strict registration rule, although that was not enough to make that voter list totally free of fake voters.

resulted in a voter turnout of 74.96 percent in the June 12, 1996 national election, which was around 20 percentage point higher than that of

turnout in 2001 election was 75.59 percent. But the actual turnout was at least 7 percentage point higher than the erstwhile EC's calculation, if over 60 lakh fake voters were deducted from the total number of voters.

by different local and foreign organisations, over 60 lakh fake or duplicate voters were on that voter list containing a total number of 7.49 crore

"We calculated the average percent. turnout back then including over 60 lakh fake voters, and found 75.59 percent turnout. If we deduct the number of fake voters and calculate the average, the percentage of 82.09." Mihir Sarwar Morshed

out to 87.03. voters drastically dropped to ally could not cast vote twice,

were not cast at all, unless a massive rigging took place somewhere.

This time around, the turnout actually increased by However, the effort five percent compared to that of 2001, although the figure shows a 12 percentage point difference between the two

The percentage of turnout in the latest election would not increasing voter turnout. Similarly, the official voter be so high, if the voter list prepared by the previous EC was used this time too.

Justice MA Aziz-led EC 29,978 in 2001. prepared a much controversial voter list of 9.33 crore the postponement of the ninth parliamentary election January 22, 2007.

If the percentage of turnout number decreased to 2,298 in was calculated based on the flawed total number of voters which was 9.33 crore, then the figure would stand at 75.36

This is for the first time, the current EC prepared a flawless voter list registering 8.10 crore voters, a total of 7,03,57,353 of whom did cast their votes in December 29, 2008 poll, push-

ing up the percentage of turnvoter list, people also enthusi-

5,67,16,935 from the 1991 so almost all duplicate votes digitised voter list, and for the unprecedented peaceful atmosphere on the polling

> Some of the other steps of the current EC including increasing the number of polling stations, booths, and polling officials ensured quick and smooth casting of votes. The additional measures also played a significant role in

> For example, the number of polling stations was 35,158 in the latest poll compared to

The number of polling booths was 1,76,718 in the voters that eventually led to latest poll compared to

1,49,288 in 2001. On an average 2,500 voters According to survey reports originally scheduled for could cast vote in a polling station in 2001, while the

> the latest poll. On an average 635 voters were entitled to cast votes in a polling booth in 2001, but the number was 457 in the last

election. Similarly, the number of polling officials was increased to 5,65,312 in the latest election from 4,77,842 in 2001.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in a post poll briefing said the In addition to the flawless extra measures helped ensure higher voter turnout astically participated in the in the ninth parliamentary latest poll for introduction of a election.

Dhaka by January 9. Charges against Hasina

house regularly.

FROM PAGE 16 during filing of the case.

The home ministry then sent a letter asking the district magistrate to take initiative for withdrawal of the case.

In the letter, Mohammad Sujatet Ullah, deputy secretary (Law) of the Home Ministry, said the government has decided not to proceed with the case.

District Magistrate Muhammad Abdul Hamid Jamaddar yesterday sent the matter to the Dhaka Metropolitan public prosecutor and the special public prosecutor for taking necessary steps to withdraw the case.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Ehsanul Haq Samaji informed the district magistrate that the High Court (HC) had earlier stayed the proceedings of the case following a writ petition filed by Hasina. So necessary steps will be taken after disposal of the writ petition, Samaji said.

The letter did not mention anything about Sheikh Rehana, sister of Hasina, and their cousin Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim as they were also charge sheeted in the case.

On June 13, 2007, Azam J Chowdhury filed the case with Gulshan Police Station against Hasina and Selim on charges of extortingTk2.99 crore from him.

The then officer-in-charge (OC) of Gulshan Police Station Obaidul Haq, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, pressed charges against Hasina, Selim and Rehana on July 24, 2007. The IO included Rehana's name in the charge sheet after investigation.

NOORALI'S CASE Earlier on November 5 last year, Tejgaon police cleared Hasina of the Tk 5 crore extortion case filed by businessman Noor Ali on June 13, 2007, as the charge brought against her was

not proved.

6:43am tomorrow.

Hasina was also cleared of

man Tajul Islam Farook on charge of extorting Tk 3 crore, as the complainant had earlier submitted an affidavit to the IO saying that he had no allegation against Hasina.

Barge-Mount, Niko and MiG-29 graft cases filed against Hasina were earlier stayed following the HC orders. another case filed by business-

Mild cold wave may continue UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country. Prevailing mild cold wave over Rajshahi division and the regions of Jessore, Sitakundu, Srimongal and Comilla may

continue. Night temperature may rise slightly over southern part of Bangladesh and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 27.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 7.6 degrees Celsius at Srimongal. The sun sets in the capital at 5:26pm today and rises at

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in Humidityin percentage

	Ceisius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.2	11.1	70	56
Chittagong	25.0	13.0	82	67
Rajshahi	22.8	09.0	85	78
Khulna	24.8	13.0	89	85
Barisal	25.0	11.5	98	79
Sylhet	25.4	12.2	85	66
Cox's Bazar	27.5	13.7	72	587
		-		