BNP pledges

The significant directive to the Jamiruddin Sircar administered lawmakers for leading honest and constructive lives, refraining from luxury, came at the meeting, said a number of lawmakers who attended the meeting.

deputies to play constructive state run Bangladesh Television roles from their respective positions and support the oath taking of the lawmakers of government's good work and oppose the wrong ones, they added.

The BNP chief directed stand their responsibilities in donot go together." the House.

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury unanimously.

At the press briefing, would join parliament in the interest of the nation despite knowing about the "massive rigging" in the December 29 parliamentary elections.

Askec if the BNP secretary general will be changed, Khaleda said changes would be brought from the grassroots to the central levels of the party.

On ratifying the 114 ordinances promulgated by the Fakhruddin Ahmed-led carethey would assist the government on this. "We want that the Awami League will discuss the matter with us because the related to it," she said.

About the Awami League's poll pledge to elect the deputy speaker from the opposition, she said, "They promise but deviate from it. We hope they will keep their words...So far they have not given any proposal in this regard. If they give one, we will consider it."

Earlier, outgoing Speaker oath to 28 lawmakers of the BNP and three of its allies--two of Jamaat-e-Islami and one of Bangladesh Jatiya Party--at the

The oath taking ceremony Khaleda also asked her party was not broadcast live by the although it had aired live the all parliamentary parties including those in the AL-led grand alliance.

In a reaction to this, the BNP senior MPs of the party to chief said, "The people will arrange an orientation understand from this discrimiprogramme for the new law- natory attitude of the governmakers so that they can under- ment that its words and deeds

Khaleda alleged that 17 of At the meeting BNP leader her party leaders and workers have been killed so far in the proposed Khaleda Zia's name AL's post-poll violence. "From as the parliamentary party's the home minister's comment leader and MK Anwar seconded on this it is clear where the it. The proposal was passed government wants to take the country," she said.

"The government has cre-Khaleda said party lawmakers ated this chaotic situation to divert people's attention from its poll pledges," she added.

Before taking oath, Khaleda retained Feni-1 seat, vacating Bogra-6 and 7 seats.

Taking oath, the opposition lawmakers promised to discharge their duties faithfully and have faith in and allegiance to Bangladesh. They also pledged not to allow personal interests to affect their duties.

The Parliament Secretariat taker government; Khaleda said handed them copies of the constitution, rules of procedure of parliament, and remuneration and allowances order.

In the latest battle of ballots, country and its people are BNP faced a humiliating defeat and got only 29 seats, which is the lowest number of seats the party has won in any national election since 1979.

Political analysts blamed the election debacle on unbridled corruption and misrule by the ministers and lawmakers of the BNP-led alliance in their fiveveartenure.

schools and colleges gave him

the replicas during his reception

at Shaheed Shamsuzzoha

Degree College ground

Quddus said, "All development

works of Gurudaspur munici-

pality and upazila areas will go

through our hands. If you want

development, vote for our

electoral agent of a chairman

candidate Sarker Emdadul

Haque M Ali, submitted a com-

plaint in this connection with

Natore's returning officer alleg-

Asked about the allegations,

Quddus told reporters that he

did not take the replicas home.

"If anyone offers me a gift out of

love, how can you find anything

wrong in it," he said, adding that

Talking to The Daily Star

Monoj Kanti Boral, returning

officer and additional deputy

commissioner (general) of

Natore, had said "We are look-

Tk 88cr fund

The welfare fund has been

constituted with remittances

the welfare fund and the money

that the United Nations gave to

Bangladeshi returnees from

meant to construct six buildings

having 500 apartments at Vatara

evaded registration tax worth Tk

5.30 crore in purchase of 151.54-

katha land under the project.

They did it by showing the cost

The construction was sup-

posed to be completed by May,

2007. But so far only two struc-

tures--one three-storey and

another two-storey--have been

paid to the two developers,

work worth only Tk 5 crore has

been done, suggesting a huge

The manpower bureau pur-

chased a 30-katha land in

Eskaton from a real estate com-

pany with money from the

with the same company for

constructing an 18-storey

realtor Tk 52.14 crore, but the

hostel has yet to be opened for

The bureau also struck a deal

Since then, it had paid the

The plot was part of the 82-

decimal land that the land

ministry leased out to Red

Crescent Society in 1979 for

building headquarters. But

breaching the terms and condi-

tions of the lease, Red Crescent

sold 30 kathas of the land to the

The spending of Tk 52.14

Though Tk 35 crore has been

genuineTk23.48crore.

Taken up in May, 2004, it was

The officials concerned

The project was financed by

from Bangladeshi expatriates.

HOUSING PROJECT

Iraq and Kuwait.

in Gulshan.

misuse.

HOSTELCOMPLEX

building on the land.

welfare funds.

lease in 2003.

ing into the allegations."

heleft the gifts at the reception.

ingviolation of election rules.

Abul Kashem Sarker, chief

candidates.

Addressing the gathering,

Wednesday, said party-men.

EC to warn

FROM PAGE 16

code of conduct and if they fail to do so, the EC will write to the speaker of the parliament seeking remedy.

Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain I Tabelled the activity of Quddus unethical and said it was a clear attempt to influence the upazila elections.

Meanwhile, the EC yesterday warned Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor Khairuzzaman Liton for violating electoral code of conduct by campaigning for a candidate openly, sources in the EC Secretariat said.

On the EC's directive, its secretariat issued a letter to the RCC mayor asking him not to violate the code of conduct in future.

As per the electoral code of conduct, the RCC mayor cannot campaign for any candidate in the upazila polls which is non-

partisan in nature. The EC yesterday postponed the election to Dighinala upazila parishad of Khagrachhari as it found evidence, in support of an allegation, that a candidate was forced

to withdraw from the race. Priyadarshi Chakma, a former chairman candidate in the upazila polls, made a complaint to the EC that he was forced to quit the race. The allegation was proved true after an investigation carried by the additional district magistrate of

Khagrachhari. ALLAWMAKER'S DEED

Quddus violated the electoral rules by campaigning for an upazila chairman candidate after receiving around 80 goldmade boat replicas from him, our staff correspondent in Rajshahireports.

Apart from party leaders, at Tk 18.18 crore against the prominent businessmen, traders' organisations and authorities of nearly 70 private

Factories

factories and spread to neighbouring factories, homes and

destroyed valuables worth over Tk 1 crore. "The fire started from the factory of Alek Miah around 11:20pm with a big bang," said

one of the witnesses, adding, "It sprayed fast leaving people unable to save their valuables." Rickshaw-puller Abdus Salm's wife Aklima Begum, 30, in tears said, "I was sleeping along with my daughters Sheuli,

8, and Shimu. When the fire began, I ran with Shimu...now I cannot find Sheuli." Several others were also seen

crying and looking for their nearest and dearest ones. Fire Service officials said 14

real estate company.

Locals said many firefighters could not reach the spot as the roads and alleys were very narrow. Besides, the entire area was dark as electricity supply was disconnected.

US action

"We have taken specific action against a bank account in Singapore with roughly \$3 million," he said, adding that the owners of that account now can appeal and say why they think the money is not corrupt.

tioned that Siemens in December last admitted that they paid significant amounts of bribe to a number of people.

Moriarty also said the United States can help the new government in Bangladesh consolidate democracy as there is a lot of support in America for this country.

"We will do everything we can," he told reporters after an hour-long meeting with the

The issues of Israeli attacks on Gaza and independence of Kosovo came up for discussion apart from bilateral issues.

Moriarty said they share Bangladesh's concern for the humanitarian tragedy in Gaza and the USA is closely working on Egyptian initiative to settle

The envoy requested the foreign minister to recognise the independence of Kosovo "as quickly as possible" to end the humanitarian tragedy there too.

Asked about the US priority with the new government in Bangladesh, Moriarty reiterated his 3-D theorem -- democracy, development and denial of space to terrorism.

He said terrorism is an issue confronting both the governments in Dhaka and Washington. He hoped the incoming government would recognise that this is an issue Bangladesh needs to address and need to work with neighbouring countries to address it.

Asked whether the amount of the US aid for Bangladesh would be affected in the wake of economic downturn, he didn't give a straight reply as he said: "We will have to look at it. The newgovernmentinWashington will look into it. I hope Bangladesh will do well and Washington will do well. I think the number will stay pretty

Fog disrupts

FROM PAGE 16

Paturia-Daulatdia and Paturia-Kazirhat routes were delayed for 13 hours due to poor visibility caused by dense fog yesterday. Thousand of passengers, particularly women and children, had to suffer a lot on

A ferry, Keramot Ali, carrying vehicles was forced to anchor in midstream of the

Around 350 vehicles queued up at Daulatdia ferry ghat and 400 vehicles at Paturia ghat, sources said.

about two kilometers was seen on the road leading to Paturia Ghat at about 5:00pm on Wednesday.

Ferry services resumed at about 10:00 am yesterday when the fog disappeared, (BIWTC) at Aricha sector Md.

Asraf Ullah Khan said. Our Patuakhali correspondent said Patuakhali-bound Dhaka reached their destina-

whereas they were due to arrive at 6 am while another two launches landed at 4 pm

here due to thick blanket of

BIWTA.

Barisal road also came to a halt fe six to 10 hours. According to the Met Office this situation might continue for the next few days.

Our Munshigani Correspondent said a total of seven ferries were forced to anchor in the middle of the river of Mowa-Kawrakandi route for over 10 hours.

Sahara asks

FROM PAGE 1

about party influence on the upazila elections scheduled for January 22. "The law enforcers must remain free from political influence. Here there will be no party influence," she asserted.

Sahara said the election commission conducts the upazila elections and "we will abide by the election code of conduct. Some 513,800 law enforc-

ers, including 38,000 army troops, will be deployed before the upazila polls across the

Taj was present.

Khaleda to lead

FROM PAGE 1

parliament is just after Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and she has the responsibility to lead her deputies in working as a shadow cabinet to ensure accountability and transparency of government functions.

The first parliament had only seven lawmakers in the opposition and none was recognised as the leader of the opposition as they were very few in number. Nevertheless, that opposition played a very strong role to put pressure on the treasury bench to do the right thing.

The opposition benches in the fifth and seventh parliaments were strong in terms of number of lawmakers.

BNP lawmakers who took oath yesterday said they would play an effective role in the House and that they are now waiting to see if the government creates an appropriate environment for them in parliament.

Parliamentary affairs experts also believe that it is a challenge for the ruling Awami League-led alliance to bring opposition lawmakers into confidence to make parliament effective.

They said the strength of the present opposition bench in terms of number is not significant but the ruling party should not forget that the opposition parties obtained over 36 percent of the votes cast in the December 29 elections.

The BNP, which faced a humiliating defeat in the election, won only 29 seats and of those the BNP chairperson won three seats and later vacated Now the number of BNP

lawmakers, including the one who was elected in Noakhali-1 constituency election held on January 12, stands at 28. It means, Khaleda Zia, who

was prime minister thrice, commands support of 28 lawmakers of her party in parliament. The number will increase a little if the two Jamaat-e-Islami lawmakers and one of Bangladesh Jatiya Party extend their support to her in writing.

On the speaker's directive, the Parliament Secretariat will publish a gazette notification recognising Khaleda Zia as the leader of the opposition.

According to the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Remuneration and Privileges) Ordinance 1979, Khaleda will be entitled to allowances, remuneration and other facilities of a cabinet minister while the deputy entitled to allowances and remuneration of a state minis-

The BNP Parliamentary Party yesterday gave Khaleda the authority to pick her deputy in parliament.

LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION

The first opposition leader in parliament was AL leader Asaduzzaman Khan in the second parliament with 39 AL lawmakers elected in the sec-

RMG workers

FROM PAGE 16 section at around 5:30pm.

Police rushed to the spot and charged baton to disperse them. The angry workers then started vandalising vehicles at different points in the industrial area, witnesses said.

A garment worker, declining to be named, said they are generally paid their salaries by the 10th of each month. This month they are yet to get paid for December.

The owners of Prince Group informed the workers that their wages and salaries would be paid on January 20 that sparked resentment among them.

The workers claimed that they intended to peacefully demonstrate but the police

attack triggered the violence. Owner of Prince Group

Mohammad Taslim Akhter acknowledged that the payment of wages had been delayed.

He said the salaries would be paid on Monday next. On this assurance garment

workers lifted their barricade from the road after 6:30pm. Additional policemen have been deployed at different

points in the area to avert any

further trouble. Sircar changes

politics and start practising their control over the dormitory

Panchagarh-1 constituency and lost to an AL candidate, said if madam (Khaleda Zia) wants he might contest in byelection.

attend the very first session of the parliament rather than refraining from joining it on the plea that it was a BAKSAL The speaker said he will students in checking their

leave the parliament, no identity cards, OC Salauddin matter whether there will be a flag on his automobile or not after the new speaker takes the Earlier, on Wednesday

After the swearing-in ceremony of the four-party alliance lawmakers on Thursday State Minister for Home | he had another meeting with Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel | Khaleda Zia for over one and a half hours at his chamber.

ond national election in 1979. The third parliament was formed after the 1986 election with AL chief Sheikh Hasina as the leader of the opposition. Her

partyhad 76 lawmakers. Amid boycott by the AL and BNP, the fourth parliamentary election was held in 1988 in which the Jatiya Party (JP) got an overwhelming majority.

The Combined Opposition Parties emerged as a majority group in that parliament and its leader Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal chief ASM Abdur Rab was recognised as the leader of the opposition with support of 33 lawmakers. In the fifth parliament, AL

opposition with support of 88 lawmakers. The number later increased to 92 as four lawmakers of BAKSAL dissolved the party and joined the AL. In that parliament, the JP

chief Sheikh Hasina again got

recognised as the leader of the

had 35 lawmakers and Jamaat 20, which made the opposition bench healthy enough. None of the minor political parties that contested the sixth

parliamentary election held on February 15, 1996 amid boycott by the AL, JP and Jamaat won more than one seat. So, there was no question to recognise theleader of the opposition. The ruling BNP could not continue in power and was

forced to dissolve the parliament by passing the 13th constitution amendment bill introducing the caretaker government system in four working days In the seventh parliament

BNP chief Khaleda Zia was recognised as the leader of the opposition for the first time since the BNP had contested elections under her leadership. In that parliament, she commanded support of over 100 lawmakers. The BNP won 116 seats in

the June 12, 1996 parliamentary election but the number later decreased as a few lawmakers elected in more than one seat vacated seats. AL chief Hasina became the

leader of the opposition for the third time in the eighth parliament with the party having support of 58 lawmakers. The JP was also in the opposition bench with 14 lawmakers.

Govt moves

failure in achieving the sector's

She said their prime target would be to overcome the existing problems in the sector in no time.

Hasina said corruption remains a major problem and directed the officials to work for people's welfare staying away from corruption.

She said in recent years many capable officials could not perform their duty properly and were late in making decisions because of fear.

"I want to assure you that during the tenure of our government you will have the liberty to do your jobs freely for the welfare of the country and the people," Hasina told the ministry officials, adding, "But there must be transparency

and accountability. She directed the officials to ensure power supply in rural

areas in the Boro season. Hasina said the power generation policy of the previous AL government would be updated with an aim to make Bangladesh a developed and prosperous nation by 2021.

"Like electricity, the gas sector is also in disarray. We have to increase gas production as many industries were forced to shut down because of shortage of gas," she said.

HT Imam, Energy Secretary Mohammad Mohsin and senior officials, among others, were present.

FROM PAGE 16

League (BCL) activists in the college dormitory.

Sources said a three-hourlong chase and counter chase took place after at least 30 Shibir cadres attacked the BCL activists around 7:00am when they were asleep in the lone dormi tory of the college.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Salauddin Arshed of Kafrul Police Station told The Daily Star, as the students were sleeping in their dormitory rooms, the Shibir group attacked the he had decided to retire from BCL men in order to establish Following the attack BCL activ-Sircar, who contested the ists took position on the first ninth parliamentary elections floor of the two-storey dormiwith a BNP ticket from torywhile the Shibir cadres took position on the ground floor.

Sources said there were at least 100 non-students accompanying the Shibir cadres. Law enforcers eventually

He also said BNP should brought the situation under control and police were deployed on campus. With the help of police, the principal of the college vacated

the dormitory but later let the

raided their rooms and then

beathim up with iron rods.

Injured BCL activist Shubarna Mandal, 23, a third year student of the college, told The Daily Star at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), he was asleep when Shibir cadres

DMCH sources said he sustained injuries to his head. The other injured students received treatment from different nearby clinics. the wild.

Prof Arefin

university, gave Prof Arefin the charge of VC under section 11 (2) of Dhaka University Ordinance 1973 to conduct its academic and administrative tasks properly on temporary basis until a VC is appointed from a panel of three selected by the university senate.

Siddique as VC of DU temporarily," Secretary to the president Md Sirajul Islam told The Daily Star. A letter in this regard reached DUVC office over fax at around 5:15pm, said an official from VC office. The government appointed

Prof Arefin for the position three

charge of the VC on September 23, 2002 and his tenure ended on May 30 last year.

entrusted Prof Faiz with the task of VC temporarily that came into effect from May 31 last year. Outgoing VC Prof Faiz said goodbye to his employees and officials at VC office yesterday

afternoon while Prof Arefin Siddique will discharge his duty from tomorrow. University Ordinance 1973, its chancellor appoints a VC for the tenure of five years from a panel

making body of the university. Prof Arefin was born on October 26, 1953 in Dhaka. He obtained his master's degree from the department of Mass Communication and Journalism at DU in 1975 and did PhD on televised teaching from the University of Mysore of

He joined DU Mass Communication and Journalism department in 1980. Prof Arefin served as president and general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) twice each. Dr Arefin also served as

acting dean of Social Science Faculty, chairman of the journalism department and as senate and syndicate member. He also served as chairman

Institute of Bangladesh (PIB). and no injuries were reported Different organizations, in the hospital, where hunincluding Dhaka University dreds of frightened civilians Journalists' Association, had taken shelter to escape the Bangabandhu Lalitakala battles raging just a few hun-Academy, Sonarbangla Jubo dred metres (vards) away Parishad and Islami University unit of Bangabandhu Parishad, the hospital because they were congratulated Prof Arefin in scared at home, but here they are even more terrified," 40separate messages on becom-

ingthenewVC. Siraj, Tariqul

Besides, ACC has decided to

issue notice against forme BNP minister Nazmul Huda's wife Sigma Huda, Ranga's wife Nasrin and Dulu's wife Laila Habib urging them to submit their wealth statement to the anti-corruption watchdog.

Power abuse in leasing forestland in Bhawal National

According to the approved

Though it says any individual establishment, be it houses, factories, small industries, agriculture or fisheries, is prohibited on the government forest land, the individuals through deception leased the land for long-term use and

· Ignoring the prohibition, the bigwigs provided false information showing that the 13-acre land has been brought under section 27 (1) (2) for

leasing the land illegally, it adds The ACC filed the case with Gazipur police station on May

Near-extinct

FROM PAGE 16 The villagers took care of the

bird for seven days before they handed it over to the Modhupur Police Station on January 13.

Department Assistant Forest Conservator Rabindranath Adhikari told The Daily Star yesterday that the bird is being kept at the Modhupur National Park at Rashulpur with the hope that its health will improve and it will be able to fly again. The bird is now in a better

regularly, he said. The 3-foot tall bird weighs

15 kg and has a wingspan of 10 Dr Reza Khan, a wildlife

Sircarsaid. about the bird's behaviour as call and said he won't be able to scientists have not seen it in

Israel shells

FROM PAGE 1

campaign.

Gaza, repeated his call, saying the death toll of close on 1,100 people had reached "an unbearable point.

"We have no more time to lose, we must end the civilian suffering now," he said.

Palestinian witnesses said

Israeli tanks fired shells at least

three high-rise buildings in

the downtown area as ground

troops advanced into a

crowded residential area on

City's Tel Hawwa neighbour-

hood and the shelling of down-

town Gaza City came as

United Nations chief Ban Ki-

moon was due to arrive for

meetings with Israeli and

Palestinian leaders. He was

coming from Egypt, which has

been working with Israel and

Hamas to secure at least a

Tzipi Livni insisted the Jewish

state would decide how and

when to end its massive cam-

paign launched to stem con-

sistent rocket fire from the

assessments on a daily basis

and according to them, we will

decide when to stop," she said.

Israeli strike hit the Al-Quds

"We are doing our own

In southwestern Gaza, an

The flames were contained

year-old Hossein said as he

children in the pediatric ward.

and make them laugh.

Palestinian territory.

But Israeli Foreign Minister

temporary halt in fighting.

The advance into Gaza

the outskirts of the city.

ber of casualties was likely to Israeli tanks shelled downbe much higher as the ongoing town Gaza City yesterday and clashes blocked ambulances ground troops thrust deep from reaching the wounded, into a crowded neighbourmedics said. hood for the first time, sending Since Israel unleashed its terrified residents fleeing for Operation Cast Lead on cover and increasing pressure December 27, at least 1,073 on Hamas rulers to accept a people have been killed and at proposed ceasefire to end least another 5,000 wounded, Israel's devastating offensive. according to Gaza medics.

The Israeli military would Among the dead are at least not discuss its operations and 355 children, 100 women, 117 it was not clear whether the elderly men and 12 medics, intensified assault on Gaza they say. City signalled a new phase in the three-week-old Israeli Israel has balked at all-out

urban warfare in the narrow alleyways of Gaza's big cities, remained defiant, sending where Hamas militants are nearly 20 rockets and mortars more familiar with the lay of into Israel, without causing the land and Israeli casualties injuries. would be liable to spiral. But Despite the raging vio-

> lence, Ban said: "I believe that elements are in place for the violence to end now." Israeli envoy Amos Gilad arrived on Thursday in Egypt,

Western-backed ceasefire efforts. Gilad was to be briefed by Egypt's pointman for Israeli-Palestinian affairs, intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, the day after Hamas presented its "vision" for a ceasefire, limiting its acceptance to the

should last two or three hours, and Gilad should leave this afternoon to inform the Israeli government for them to take a decision," a diplomatic source close to the negotiations told

the Egyptian initiative," the source said. Although Egyptian and Spanish diplomats said on Wednesday that Hamas had accepted Egypt's truce plan, a Gaza-based leader of the Islamist group said after talks

lines," without accepting the plan outright. Israel has made stopping its deadliest offensive on Gaza

to rocket fire from the territory from Egypt into Gaza. "I brought the children to Amid the diplomatic push on Thursday are emergency

An Israeli raid also hit a depends on foreign aid.

FROM PAGE 16 The modern Tower wing of the iconic Taj hotel reopened before Christmas but the older Palace section, which was badly damaged during the stand-off,

remains closed. "This was an attack on a horrific scale, of a horrific length," Miliband said. "A strike at the heart of one of the world's most plural, diverse and tolerantsocieties."

In New Delhi on Tuesday, Miliband restated London's view that the Islamabad government did not direct the attacks, though India's prime minister has said the Mumbai militants had the support of "some official agencies" in Pakistan. Pakistan strongly rejects

rooting out militants within its borders. Interior ministry chief Rehman Malik said on Thursday Pakistan had so far arrested 124 people in a crackdown on banned groups in the

wake of the attacks.

such charges, and said it is

Dawa, an Islamic charity seen as a front for the banned LeT. "We are very, very serious" about fighting extremism, Malik told a press conference,

were members of Jamaat-ud-

Malik said those arrested

saying the anti-terror fight was the "only option" for Pakistan. As tensions remain high, the head of India's army on Wednesday confirmed that Pakistan has redeployed troops along the two countries' tense border but said he regarded war

BTV ignores FROM PAGE 1

concerned, asking for measures to televise yesterday's oathtaking ceremony.

BTV was not broadcasting the programme just 10 minutes before oath-taking. When he contacted, the information secretary told him that there were instructions from high-

minister's number from my office, but could not talk as she was at the cabinet meeting, He added that the prime minister's PS had received the

"I also called the prime

conditional on a complete halt

huddled with his wife and five Cooperation Council Israel's offensive has "We can't take this any sparked widespread concern longer. Look at my children, about a humanitarian crisis in they're trembling," he said as one of the world's most mothers nearby tried in vain to densely populated places console their crying children where the vast majority of the 1.5 million population

Britain asks Pakistan

as a "last resort." Senior defence officials in Pakistan said last month that

> Miliband also used his speech in Mumbai to distance

President George W Bush. takes office on Tuesday. "Histo-

challenges we face." More shake-up

FROM PAGE 16 Nasiruddin Ahmed has been transferred to Power Division, Science and ICT Secretary M Wahid uz Zaman to water resources ministry and Social Welfare Secretary Dewan Zakir Hossain to industries

Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARRSO) M Nazmul Huda Khan has been made acting secretary of science and ICT ministry while OSD (officer on special

Government Employees Welfare Board AKM Azizul Haque has been transferred to Bangladesh Tariff He said he had learned that Commission as its acting chairman and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) chairman Sunil Kanti Bose made acting secretary to the social welfare ministry.

Tigers meet SL FROM PAGE 16

before crashing down to earth against Sri Lanka. In the last league match,

strong Sri Lankans.

of their units rushed to the spot to put the fire out. It took them over an hour to get it under control.

FROM PAGE 1 law relating to corrupt money.

In this context, he men-

foreign minister at her ministry.

the problem there.

both sides of the Padma.

A snarl-up stretching

AGM of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation

double-decker launches from tion after a delay of eight Three launches reached Patuakhali at about 2 pm

The launches, which left Patuakhali for Dhaka, were also late due to fog, said source of local office of the Meantime, operations of five ferries on Kuakata-

night, the speaker had a long meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

FROM PAGE 16

"President appointed Prof

days after VC Prof SMA Faiz submitted a letter to the education ministry seeking 'relieve' of the post. Prof Faiz took over the

President Iajuddin Ahmed

According to the Dhaka of three selected by the university senate, the highest policy

Indiain 1985.

Hospital in the Tal al-Hawa neighbourhood, where dozens of Israeli tanks rumbled into the streets in the postdawn hours sparking fierce of Bangladesh Sangbad clashes with Palestinian gun-Sangstha and as member of management board of Press

FROM PAGE 16 wealth worth Tk 1.61 crore.

charge sheet of the power abuse case, the seven individuals misappropriated power collectively by providing false information in leasing the 13acre forestland under Araisho Proshad Mouja in the national

handed over it to individuals for personal benefit.

20 last year.

Modhupur Forest

condition and taking food

expert who had seen the bird, said the black vulture is a rare migrant bird and is one of the two largest vultures found in the region. He said very little is known

connect the call to her at that time.

Israel says 10 Israeli soldiers and three civilians have died as a result of combat or rocket fire in the same period.

building housing several

media outlets in central Gaza

City, wounding two camera-

were killed in Gaza on

Thursday, but the exact num-

In all, at least 40 people

Palestinian militants

which has been spearheading

plan's "broad outlines." "This crucial meeting

'Israel doesn't seem to want to hurry, another shuttle visit could happen to reach an agreement in the context of

with officials in Cairo that it did not reject its "broad out-

sessions of the UN General Assembly and Gulf

troops were being moved from the northwest tribal areas bordering Afghanistan -- hotbeds of Taliban and al-Qaeda activity -- to the eastern border near

the British government, a close ally of the US, from the "war on terror" policies adopted by "The notion is misleading and mistaken," he said, just days before Barack Obama

rians will judge whether it has done more harm than good. But we need to move on to meet the

ministry, said a handout yes-It said chairman of

duty) at establishment ministry M Firoz Kibria appointed acting secretary of the Liberation War affairs ministry. Besides, DG of Bangladesh

Bangladesh in the opener

the hosts had to win and duly Shakib Al Hasan fashioned a five-wicket triumph over the

crore turned out to be a total waste of expatriates' money as the land ministry cancelled the

Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.