A man was killed in a road

accident in front of

Gonobhaban in the city's Sher-

The victim, Wahidul Alam,

65, ex-general manager of

Unnayan Sangtha, was a

Hospital sources said he was

run over by a private car

around 8:30pm. He was

rushed to the hospital where

he succumbed to his injuries

Meanwhile, an assistant

police commissioner of Dhaka

Metropolitan Police was

critically injured when a

speeding private car hit him

on Lake Road in front of

Chandrima Udyan in city's

Sher-e-Banglanagar in the

AC (Traffic-West Division)

Mostafa Kamal to Square

Hospital where he was under-

going treatment at intensive

be critical as he received injury

to his spinal cord and his right

Commissioner Walid Hossain

said the speeding private car

hit Mostafa from behind while

he was on duty to control

movement of vehicles in the

The car was heading

Police arrested the driver

Secretary Abdus Sobhan

Sikder told The Daily Star last

journalists at a school func-

tion in the capital's Uttara,

Home Minister Sahara Khatun

said she already asked her

officials to look into how the

faulty list was prepared and

"I asked my officials to

include the criminals whose

names were dropped and

make it public afresh", Sahara

Partnership (PPP) and there

are also some 2-4 projects. The

contract for elevated express-

way may be given by this fiscal

year," he said after a meeting

with a Korean delegation at his

Economic Relations Division

implemented through 'Build

The expressway will be

The 13-member Korean

Expressway

who were responsible for it.

Meanwhile, speaking to

area around 5:00pm.

towards Mohammadpur.

His condition was stated to

DMP Additional Deputy

Police rushed the injured

at about 11:45pm.

afternoon.

care unit.

Al-Amin.

FROM PAGE 1

Khatun said.

(ERD) office.

night.

leg was broken.

Dhaka Medical College

resident of Mohammadpur.

e-Bangla Nagar last night.

## JRC meet begins

said

issues

He was talking to The Daily Star soon after arriving in the Indian capital at the head of a 15-member high-powered delegation for the ministe-

rial-level talks to be held at

FROM PAGE 1

Oberoi Hotel.

Asked how hopeful he is about an interim accord on Teesta water-sharing given the differences between the two sides on the issue, Ramesh said, "Had we not been hopeful, do you think

we would have come?" He also said the entire gamut of issues relating to the Teesta and other common rivers would be discussed with his Indian counterpart Pawan Kumar Bansal.

Replying to a question, the visiting minister said there was no dearth of political will on the part of the leaderships of India and Bangladesh to sort out the Teesta watersharing issue, which will figure prominently in the two-day talks.

The JRC meeting, which starts around 14:30 today, will be preceded by a meeting "According to the Indian between Water Resources Secretary of Bangladesh Sheikh Md Wahid-Uz Zaman and his Indian counterpart UR Panjiar at the same hotel.

The two ministers, accompanied by their senior officials, will meet tomorrow after which a joint media interaction is expected.

The Bangladesh delegation also includes Dr Mashiur Rahman, adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and Foreign Secretary Mirazul Qayes, who will reach New Delhi today.

The JRC meeting is a followup of Hasina's visit to Delhi in January this year. The joint declaration issued at the end of her tour had said the commission would meet in the first quarter of this year to expedite sharing of Teesta water given the sufferings of people on both sides of the border.

The previous JRC meeting was held in 2005. The JRC was formed to resolve conflicts over sharing of waters of 54 trans-boundary rivers.

Sources said the two counries could follow the model of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty signed in 1996 when Awami League was in power.

According to that treaty, if the water flow at Farakka point of the Ganges is 70,000 cusec, then Bangladesh and India share the waters equally. If the water flow is 70,000

to 75,000 cusec, Bangladesh gets 35,000 cusec and India gets the rest. If it is above 75,000 cusec, India gets 40,000 cusec and Bangladesh six days. gets the rest.

From March 1 to May 10, day] water level has risen. the treaty ensures that both the countries get 35,000 cusec in every 10-day cycle. Earlier, a technical com-

mittee meeting on Teesta water-sharing and a secretary-level meeting were held in Dhaka where a draft of the proposed treaty was handed over to Delhi.

Nilphamari and Rangpur. India has said West Bengal will have a crucial role in any accord on Teesta water-Boro fields in Rangpur and sharing since the river flows Nilphamari have been into Bangladesh from brought under irrigation Gajoldoba barrage point. facility this year, said Shahidul Islam, executive engineer of

February and March are the leanest period for Teesta on Bangladesh side. Water flow during this period comes down to less than 1,000 cusec from 5,000 cusec

in December and January. At the JRC meet this time, the ministers and secretaries

will discuss some other seized issues including watersharing of some other common rivers and building

embankment on the border

tries and try to iron out differ-

ences on other water-related

would on Teesta water shar-

ing. At present, Bangladesh

receives almost all the water

as it is not being used by India

but after the on-going con-

struction of a barrage on the

river is completed, some

water will be utilised by us as

well," Indian Water Resources

up, may include sharing of

the flood forecast data, he

arrangement on Teesta

water-sharing depends on

the stand taken by the West

Bengal government. He said,

constitution water is a state

subject. We want the state

government to decide on the

Resources Ministry said

while Bangladesh wants to

have 50-50 water sharing

available at Gazoldoba--the

only release point of Teesta

river water to Bangladesh--

India is yet to make a final call

on the issue as much will

depend on the West Bengal

to thrash out differences on

the system to be adopted to

decide on the actual avail-

the modalities to find out the

actual availability on a par-

ticular date. We have to have

convergence of views," the

JRC meeting starting today is

also expected to discuss the

sharing of the waters of Feni,

Manu, Muhuri, Khowai,

Gumti, Dharala and

TEESTA WATER LEVEL

Water level of the Teesta river

has been rising since

February 17 as India released

water through Gajaldaba

Barrage--some 105 kilo-

metres upstream the Teesta

Barrage, our correspondent

engineer of Teesta Barrage

project, said Bangladesh has

been getting 3,500 cused

He said, "Today [yester-

The amount of water might

be 4,000 cusec." But in March

2009, the water level was

merely 500 to 700 cusec, he

management has been oper-

ating all canals to irrigate

Boro fields in its command

areas under first phase in

Water Development Board of

needs about 8,000 cusec of

water in the dry season. We

can somehow manage if it is

4,000 cusec. But we never got

it in the last decade."

He said, "Bangladesh

About 50,000 hectares of

The Teesta Barrage project

added.

Rangpur.

water on an average for last

Joynal Abedin, executive

reports from Rangpur.

Besides Teesta, the 37th

"There are differences on

The two sides will also try

Sources in the Water

issue first.'

government.

ability of water.

Indian officials said.

Dudhkumar rivers.

Other issues, to be taken

India has said any interim

Secretary UN Panjiyar said.

"The focus of the meeting

side of the rivers, sources The JRC meeting will also review the 1996 Ganges treaty between the two coun-

BTRC is set to take legal action against the private land phone operator WorldTel Bangladesh for its alleged involvement in illegal VoIP business, said a

"We have seized different equipment, including two multiplexers used for VoIP (voice over Internet protocol) calls from the office of WorldTel on Tuesday night," said Zian Shah Kabir, senior consultant of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

action against the company is underway, which is to happen by tomorrow," he said.

about the company that it has a huge number of fake subscribers, and we found that the call traffic is much higher than the number of subscribers. Later, we asked it for explanations and called its officials at BTRC office, but they didn't respond," he said. So, a team of BTRC visited

the office and found no official there and the switch room remained locked down, Kabir

Since then BTRC could not contact any responsible officials of WorldTel over phone as all their cell numbers remained off.

# BAU clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

At least 50 people including an assistant proctor, students and policemen were injured in a clash between students and outsiders over cutting of a cake marking the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu a Bangladesh Agricultural University last night.

Injured Assistant Proctor Alamgir Hossain and a student were treated at Mymensingh Medical College Hospita while others received treat ment at BAU health centre.

According to sources, a group of outsiders aided by shopkeepers of KR Market a BAU campus wanted to organise a programme to celebrate Bangabandhu's birthday without prior permission of the university authorities.

As the assistant proctor protested, they attacked on him, his driver, a number of security guards and some students present on the spot around 9:00pm yesterday. Later, the students rushed to the spot and ransacked several shops of the market. The agitated students also set some shops ablaze.

### Yunus calls

protect the poor from disasters, and provide support to elderly poor women in help-

Yunus also focused incorpo-

Another point, he shared, is how to make better the lives of

has right now in changing the second generation. This is almost an exciting frontier that

He said Bangladesh being the most matured country in microfinance operations has a very special role to show the rest of the world about what it can do with microcredit.

"This is one area where Bangladesh is the leader of the world. So, that leadership role needs to be maintained not for the pride of it but for the sake of the people who are looking forward to receiving the services

Yunus said microcredit has to prove that it's a sound banking and there is nothing fishy about it.

kind of creating confusion."

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed said microfinance has contributed to poverty alleviation in

vention to recognise some large microfinance institutions with the microfinance banking licences.

"There is an opportunity to recognise large microfinance institutions as microfinance

PM warns of stern she and her sister inherited has FROM PAGE 1 "You have to study well to take been given away for the welfare the leadership and advance the of the children. country to make it the golden

Bangla that was dreamt by the

child, who was born here, later

led the country in all major

movements and gave an inde-

tice to the people of this coun-

try from his childhood," Hasina

said adding that it was his

dream to free the country from

of the Nation was engaged in

reconstructing the war ravaged

country he was brutally killed

Describing Bangabandhu's

on August 15, 1975," she said.

enacted the Children Act 1974.

In this connection, she said

after the independence of

Bangladesh, the Father of the

Nation provided free educa-

tion up to primary level and

distributed free textbooks, and

her government made it up to

children of the country drop

had taken various special

measures including special

medical treatment for the

physically challenged children.

one junior assistant doctor in

each upazila health complex

and one specialist in every

district hospital for children,

The government assigned

"We did it to ensure that no

Hasina said her government

education to them."

secondary level.

out from schools."

the PM said.

"At the time when the Father

"He never tolerated injus-

pendent country.

poverty and hunger.

The PM mentioned that the

Father of the Nation," she said.

NEWS

"We made the house at Dhanmondi 32 a museum, and by other wealth we provide scholarships to students across the country through Bangabandhu Memorial Trust.

She also mentioned that from January 10, the homecoming day of Bangabandhu the Trust started free medical service across the country. Some 8.7 lakh people were

medicines through this service that ended yesterday. Earlier, the PM distributed crests and certificates among the winners of literature and

cultural competition.

given medical treatment and

various initiatives, the PM said She also released a com for the welfare of the children memorative postage stamp the Father of the Nation marking the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation and "We want to ensure a better the National Children's Day future for the children; we want 2010. to provide healthcare and

> cheques among the students of Qaumi Madrasa, orphanage of the Social Services for Vulnerable Groups Project under the social welfare ministry, and cancer patients. The PM also distributed

Later, Hasina inaugurated a

book fair. She also distributed

cheques for the "Model Village Project to create employment and Poverty Alleviation" of the Standard Bank Limited. In the morning, President

Zillur Rahman and Hasina paid homage to the Father of the Nation by placing wreaths at Bangabandhu's grave.

The president and the prime minister offered fateha and munajat (prayers) at the grave, seeking eternal peace for the departed soul of Bangabandhu.

## BB silent

Hasina said the wealth that

State Minister for Water Resources Mahbubur Rahman Talukdar's move to intimidate MA Samad Sheikh, managing director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank, on Saturday dented the image of the minister and the government as well.

After hurling abusive words over phone the minister sent five of his staff, including driver and gunman, to abduct the managing director of the bank as was reported in the media.

The incident happened because of the minister's undue intervention in the bank's internal affairs. Talukdar asked the MD of the bank not to discharge an officer of the bank charged with corruption and poor performance.

As the managing director of the bank could not recognise him he felt insulted.

"We would have taken the issue seriously if the minister had forced the MD to resign," said Dr Atiur Rahman. "BB will not probe into the mat-

the incident ominous because the minister threat ened MA Samad with linking him to the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB). "The government should

tor," he said. The 65-year-old MD has quite a good image and honesty, he said. He had never

years in the banking sector. "The situation might have a negative impact on the country's financial sector,'

Meanwhile, sources in the government said the cabinet was embarrassed with the incident but still it is not thinking about taking any

"The prime minister's office (PMO) has ordered agencies concerned to let it know the fact," a source in the PMO said.

members of Special Branch of Police came to the bank on

## Another official termed Sunday for verification. PM reaches Beijing

Politicians, business community and the diplomatic circle see the premier's high-profile visit as significant for boosting ties between Dhaka and

Beijing. Hasina will hold official talks with Chinese premier today at the Great Hall where she will be given a formal reception. She will hold talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao on bilateral, regional and

international issues tomorrow. The PM will address a meeting of the Chinese and Bangladeshi business people today. She will also meet with the Chairman of China's National People's Congress and visit Kunming to see the proposed Chittagong-Kunming trans-border road

and railway routes. The accords expected to be signed by the two countries during Hasina's visit are Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement, Framework Agreement on Shahjalal Fertilizer Factory and Agreement on 7th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge

The prime ministers will also discuss a number of projects, including Chittagong-Kunming railway and road links through Myanmar, Second Padma Bridge, 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge, capacity building in agriculture sector, telecommunications and solar energy.

Since China is a major supplier of military hardware to Bangladesh, the defence cooperation between the two countries would figure promi-

nently. Dhaka may also request Chinese cooperation in building a deep-sea port. In 2009, the bilateral trade volume was recorded at \$ 4.58 billion with the balance heavily

Bangladesh leader would seek Chinese investment in Bangladesh to reduce the wide trade gap.

invest so that the process can go Hasina is scheduled to faster." return home on March 21. Communications Minister

Syed Abul Hossain, Industries Minister Dilip Barua, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Dipankar Talukdar accompany the premier on her visit to China.

Eminent citizens, members of parliament and a business delegation were also included in her entourage.

#### Pakistan court

FROM PAGE 16

Proceedings have been held amid tight security and reporters were not allowed inside the prison where the accused have been languishing, nor into the hearing that has been relocated to the

district jail over security fears. A Pakistani court has barred the Americans' deportation to the United States where they lived before travelling to Pakistan last year. The men have claimed to there was not much difference

have been tortured in custody but prison officials have denied the accusations. Prosecutors and police had

called for the five men to be charged with plotting militant attacks in Pakistan and attempting to commit an act of terror against countries that are at peace with Pakistan.

ity work.

labourforce. Although those countries Mentioning that the Korea have not been named has developed a lot in planning, Pakistani officials have said budgeting and export, Muhith the young men planned to travel to neighbouring Afghanistan and join up with Taliban-led militants fighting strengthened. US and Nato troops. The suspects, however,

Replying to another question, he said that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official visit to China will focus on economic insist that they wanted to and trade relations between the travel to Afghanistan for char-

#### Gang targets Elderly man run over by **FROM PAGE 1** Kamal's phone was found car in city switched off since then. A

month later, a person named Car hits traffic Faruk called her and said the gang wanted Tk 1 lakh more for cop on duty her husband's release. STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aminul also told her about the gang's demand over the phone.

Nilufar said they sold all their belongings to pay the ransom and deposited it with the bank account of Osman Haider, a member of the gang Bangladesh Banshilpa in Iran. "My husband along with a

> few others was then taken to Pakistan. A few days later, Aminul called me and said the gang would not release him unless they are paid Tk 2 lakh more," Nilufar said. They sold their house and

deposited Tk 2 lakh on March 7 with the bank account of Kabir, a gang member in Pakistan. One of Nilufar's relatives

later suggested her to contact Winrock International, an organisation working to com-

police everything and filed the

Nilufar said a gang member on Tuesday asked her over the phone to withdraw the case if she wants to get her husband

An official of DB police said they arrested six people and are now investigating the case.

them lucrative jobs in Greece.

were held hostage in Pakistan. Later, 30 of them were released after paying ransom to the gang.

"Ten of us paid Tk 1.52 lakh

each for our release," he said. The gang members are from

## Economy stops

FROM PAGE 1

across the country as well. Messrs Masud and Brothers

Managing Director Abul Bashar Chowdhury said around 1,500 tonnes of rice imported by his company could not be unloaded from a lighter vessel anchored at a jetty in Chittagong due to the strike yesterday. "We might have to pay a

good amount of money per lighter vessel every day for the delay caused by the strike," he

Our Chittagong correspondent reported that around 350 lighter vessels including 95 loaded with goods were stranded at different private jetties stretching from Firingi Bazar Bridge Ghat to No 15 Patenga Ghat, while many were also anchored in the Karnaphuli

while 35 others were stranded with goods to be unloaded at Chittagong.

allocated by Water Transport Coordination Cell (WTCC), an organisation that coordinates lighter vessels, remained empty and were waiting in the Karnaphuli river to get to the outer anchorage, said sources in

Eighteen cargo vessels laden with imported wheat, sugar, salt, fertilisers, and clinkers, remained unloaded at the outer anchorage.

"Chittagong Port Authority has nothing to do with the strike resulting from a row between employees and owners of inland water vessels or lighter vessels. But, CPA is concerned about the strike, since it caused mother vessels to remain stuck at the outer anchorage of the port and count demurrages, said CPA Secretary Syed Farhad Uddin Ahmed.

Our Khulna correspondent reported that about 50 cargo ships were waiting to be unloaded in the Pashur river near Mongla Port yesterday.

"Ninety percent of the country's fuel oil is transported from Chittagong to others parts through lighter vessels. If the strike continues all petrol pumps will run short of fuel,' said Mahmudur Rahman president of Bangladesh Oil

Rahman added. Smooth supply of agricul-

tural inputs during the peak boro season will also be hit hard if the strike continues, as fertiliser supply to northern regions from different fertiliser factories and Chittagong Port has been affected.

will not be affected at the field level right away, it will be hampered in two to three weeks if the strike continues," said Md Faizur Rahman, a fertiliser

#### 350 shanties FROM PAGE 16

broke. They could not save their belongings while many homes.

This is the fifth fire incident at this slum in three years, said

countrywide indefinite strike. About 1.5 lakh water transport workers went on the strike on the first hour of Tuesday, for the second time within the last four months, to press home their 22-point charter of demands, after a marathon tripartite meeting among the

Shah Alam, senior vicepresident of the workers' association Noujan Shramik Federation, told The Daily Star yesterday, "Since announcement of our last pay scale in 2004, prices of essentials increased making it hard for us to survive with the current salaries. Besides, the workers have to stay occupied in their jobs almost 24 hours a day without proper rest. There is no

proper provision for leaves and job security either." The demands also include security for workers, cancellation of the tenure certificates for

masters and drivers of vessels proper implementation of the marine law, dredging of all rivers to ensure navigability, and prevention of robberies on waterways Senior Vice-president of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (Passenger Carriers) Owners' Association

Badiuzzaman Badal however said, "Apart from the salaries, the workers also receive free food, accommodation, two bonuses, and up to 35 percent dearness allowance, which they did not consider as benefits. They have to follow the labour law before coming up with demands.'

Cargo Vessel Owners Association, and Shadharon Ponnobahi Jahaj Malik Shomity in a press conference vesterday termed the strike illegal, calling upon the workers to immedi-

ately with draw it. Different workers organisa-Karmachari Oikkyo Parishad on

the other hand expressed solidarity with the strike. Cash incentives

### FROM PAGE 1

So, we are encouraging potato

Faroquesaid.

"With the cash incentive,

The commerce ministry will now put forward the proposal to the finance ministry for approval, the high official said.

cash incentives has been placed before the commerce ministry in the meeting. Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Commerce Minister Faruk Khan and some officials concerned were present.

Dr Uttam Deb, research

director of the Center for Policy Dialogue, said the cash subsidy on export has some positive impacts on farmers, but for longterm solutions there is no alternative to increase capacity of cold storages.

bank loans could be effective to encourage private sector in setting up more cold storages, he said, adding that the power generation should also be increased

## Dhaka college FROM PAGE 1

him and promised him a vital position in the coming college ınit committee. Galib took part in Tuesday night's clash for Titu group,

involved in a number of clashes

on the campus before. They

said a top BCL leader backed

Yesterday's raids were conducted in two phases. The first phase started around 12:15am and lasted until 5:00am. But police immediately launched another raid sensing Chhatra League activists preparing for a fresh clash, said Officer-in-Charge AM Kamrul Islam of New Market

machetes, iron rods and a huge number of sticks from the dormitories. At least 10 students were injured in Tuesday's clash

between the cohorts of recently dissolved college unit education and library affairs secretary Titu and assistant secretary Shihab Uddin. Around 20 gunshots were exchanged and 15 handmade bombs blasted

during the clash.

Chhatra League sources said a number of BCL activists, who are not from the college, took part in the clash.

In the morning, several

hundred Chhatra League activists gathered at New Market Police Station and demanded release of the arrested students. While leaving the police station in a prison van Nayeb Jamil Hossain, a first-year

student of zoology depart-

ment, said police picked him

up while he was having dinner at South Hostel. Another arrestee Manzurul Islam said a number of students, who have no affiliation with politics or not involved in the clash, were picked up along

However, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Syed Nurul Islam said they picked up the students who were directly involved or trying to take part in the clashes.

with Chhatra League activists.

Three platoons of police and patrol police of New Market Police Station took part in yesterday's raids.

More VoIP equipment

BTRC to take action against WorldTel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BTRC official yesterday.

"A process of taking legal

"Earlier we got information

# 50 hurt in

Mymensingh

FROM PAGE 16 microfinance programme to

rating technologies such as mobile phone into microcredit sector to transfer money to the

the children of poor borrowers in freeing them from the old cycle of poverty, sickness and, above all, uncertainty. "We can do that. We have the capacity nobody else has--as much capacity as microcredit

we have to work with."

in other countries," he said.

"So this is the kind of challenge we all have to take ... to strengthen it rather than the

Bangladesh. He also sought MRA inter-

banks," he observed. tilted towards China. The

clarify the issue before the nation and the people involved in the banking sec-

faced such situation in his 40

said the BB official.

The bank officials said

Operate and Transfer' (BOT) system. delegation that met the finance minister included member of

> National Assembly Lee Jong Heuk and Korean ambassador to Bangladesh Taiyoung Cho. Talking to the reporters, the finance minister said that the PPP initiative is on the cards also in power sector. "Many want to

He, however, viewed that they didn't get enough response on PPP in the education and health sector as they had anticipated. Asked about his recommendation to increase allocation for 38 Ministries and Divisions while placing the half-yearly progress report on budget implementation in parliament, Muhith said,

"We did it every year, but the information is not made public. This time we made it public." Mentioning that the budget review was made this time a bit earlier than the normal period of April, he said, "We should share the information with all... mistakes could be rectified if the review process is made earlier."

Asked about the outcome of his meeting with the Korean delegation, the finance minister said that they would try to strengthen the relations with Korea. "The bilateral trade with Korea is not so big and we are also trying to give emphasis in this He said that in the 1960's

"but now they became our development partners and there is many a thing we could learn from them.' He also hinted to deepen the relationship with Korea as Bangladesh has a significant

between Korea and Bangladesh,

said that the volume of trade would increase generally if the economic relationship is have repeatedly denied any links to militant groups and

two countries. the DD.

Complete list

Sixty of those vessels were waiting to leave the Karnaphuli for transporting goods to different destinations of the country

Thirty-two lighter vessels

WTCC.

Fuel supply, power generation, industrial production, airlines operation, and fertiliser distribution will also be affected if the strike continues.

Tankers Association. Furnace oil based power stations, and fuel supply to airlines will have to be totally shut down as hundred percent of the furnace oil and jet oil are transported from Chittagong Port to Dhaka by water vessels,

"Although fertiliser supply

## were asleep when the fire

lost track of their family members during the rush for dousing the flames. People were seen looking for their dear ones around their gutted

bat human trafficking.

"We came to Dhaka, told case," she said,

released.

Meanwhile, Faisal, who used to work in Dubai, said the gang members took him along with nine others to Pakistan via Oman and Iran promising

They along with 27 others

Bangladesh, Oman, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, he added.

trader in Jessore. The strike is also causing

gers on all river routes. Feud between owners and workers of about 20,000 inland water transports over announcement of a new pay scale for workers led to the

immense sufferings to passen-

government, the workers, and the owners had failed to reach a consensus on Monday.

tions including Sramik

exports at this time, even if it requires, we will give some cash incentives," he said. Potential markets for potato export are Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka and export price

could be some \$200 a tonne,

traders will be encouraged to export the crop and it will help increase potato price in the domestic market thereby helping the farmers," he said.

The proposal of increasing

Reducing interest rates of

to deal with the situation.

they claimed.

Police Station. He said police recovered