Qatar to continue to

Says Qatar Emir

UNB, Dhaka

Oatar will keep on recruiting Bangladeshis and continue its development programmes in Bangladesh "despite economic crisis allover the world".

Qatar Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani gave the assurance when Bangladesh Ambassador to Qatar Md Shahdat Hossain presented his credentials to him on February 9.

Bangladesh's role in the United Nations with particu-

APPOINTMENT OF HEADMASTER

HC asks govt

to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yester-

day issued a rule upon the

government to explain why its

notification stating that there

was no post of the headmaster

in the registered primary

lar reference to its contribution to the UN peacekeeping

recruit Bangladeshis

He said, "People from Bangladesh are good and we're happy with them.

Bangladeshi workers may create some minor problems in some other countries but not in Qatar. I hope they'll remain good here."

The Ambassador conveyed to the emir the greetings and compliments of the president The Emir also praised and the prime minister.

The emir recalled the visit of the PM to Qatar and

reciprocate his appreciation operations. In response to the invita-

tion of the president and the PM conveyed to him by the Bangladesh envoy, the emir said he would visit Bangladesh at a convenient time.

requested Ambassador to

The Qatar Emir also renewed his invitation to the Bangladesh prime minister and mentioned that he would be happy if "my sister (Bangladesh PM) visits Doha in March-April 2009".

Empowerment key to ensure women's rights

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political empowerment is a key to ensuring fundamental rights of women and changing their status in the society, said the experts at a roundtableyesterday.

adviser to a caretaker govern-Alam Majumder, country director of Hunger Project, presented the keynote speech.

Sultana said, "Women are being discriminated at various levels in the existing social structure. They must claim their rights by being active at personal and political levels."

Dr Majumder hailed the occasion.

announcement by the Minister for Local Government Syed Ashraful Islam to hold direct election in reserved seats for women in future.

"However; the ruling party must ensure what they announced in their election manifesto regarding increasing of reserved seats up to 33 percent," he added.

Human rights activist Hamida Hossain said, "Along with participating in the parliamentary election, women members must take the role of decision makers in their own political parties."

Vice-president of the Hunger Project Prof Latifa Akand, Action Aid representative Nigar Sultana, women entrepreneur Tajima Hossain Majumder, USC Canada Director Hosne Ara Khandaker, Dr Golam Murshid, actress Dilara Zaman, gender experts, and representatives from different women's rights organisations were present on the

Schoolgirl dies as gate collapses on her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-year-old schoolgirl died when an iron gate of a building collapsed on her at Moghbazar in the city yesterday.

The girl, Sanjida Akter, along with her aunt Rahima Begum was walking past the building on her way home from her school at around 10:30am when the gate collapsed as several

people tried to force it open. Sanjida, a student of class one at Siddharta Kindergarten, had been staying with the family of eminent writer Imdadul Haque Milon after her parents got separated.

With serious injuries in her head, Sanjida was rushed to Maghbazar Ad-din Hospital. Later, she was taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

Witnesses said the main gate of the house was jammed shut and four to five people tried to force it open, but it broke and collapsed on Sanjida.

Imdadul Haque Milon told The Daily Star that he brought the girl to his home six months ago after knowing that her parents got separated and she has none to look after her. Her two aunts work in the house of

"I and my wife tried desperately throughout the day to save her life, but to no avail. It feels to me as if my own daughter has died," said Milon.

He filed an unnatural death case with the Ramna police station.



Participants in the 85th Annual Convention of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Bangladesh that concluded in the city on Sunday.



UNB, Dhaka

Cox's Bazar

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country

during late night till morning, Met Office said. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over

the country. Highest temperature 32.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 16.6 degrees Celsius at

The sun sets in the capital at 5:55pm today and rises at

6:29am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Humidityin Temperature in City/Town Celsius percentage Min Morning Evening Max 15.5 Dhaka 30.0 17.0 41 Chittagong 29.6 12.5 68 43 29.5 Rajshahi 15.5 75 45 29.5 Khulna 72 14.5 44 Barisal 29.8 65 41 Sylhet 31.3 15.0 55

19.6

32.2

KILLING OF TWO SISTERS Drug addict, his accomplice sent to jail

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Drug addict Md Yunus, who killed his two sisters at Debidwar, and his accomplice Shafiullah were sent to jail after the police produced them in a judicial magistrate's court yesterday.

Both of them confessed to the court that they were involved in the killing of Tuhina, 11, and Sharmin, 8, that took place at Surjapur village on Saturday, the police said.

Meanwhile, residents of Debidwar upazila demanded exemplary punishment to both of

They also sought intervention of the home minister to eliminate drug traders from Debidwar, which is known as a haven for inter-district drug traders.

The girls were buried at their family graveyard yesterday after completion of autopsy at Comilla Medical College Hospital. Several hundred men, women and children who gathered there broke The gruesome murders left

Amena Begum, 60, a neighbour, who witnessed the killing, and Tuhina's uncle Abu Musa Bhuiyan dumbstruck. The girls were killed early

After the killing, the killers started shouting -- 'dacoit.' Hearing their scream, local people rushed to the spot and caught the youths. Later, they

Saturday when they were asleep.

Election to JS

were handed over to the police.

FROM PAGE 16

"We have a discussion about holding polls to the seats reserved for women in parliament on March 22 but this is not final," a senior EC official told The Daily Starafter a meeting on the issue. The EC official seeking ano-

decided to send letters to three major political parties--Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Partyinforming them about the elections schedule. "If the parties do not reply to the letters within three or four

nymity said the commission

days, we will think that they do not have any objection on our scheduled date," the official added. Top-level election officials attended the meeting presided over by Chief Election

Huda at the EC secretariat yesterdayand discussed the matter. "We have discussed on the elections to reserved seats for women in parliament but we are yet to reach any decision," Election Commissioner Sohul Hossain told reporters after

lasted for one and a half hours. Replying to a question, he said the commission will come up with the final date for holding elections to the reserved seats for women

emerging from the meeting that

within a day or two. Sources in the EC hinted that the DCC election is likely to be heldin April.

Now, the parliament has 45 reserved seats for women who are elected by the lawmakers. Awami League, key party of the ruling alliance, will get 35 seats while rest of the seats will go to other parties in proportion to their representation in parliament.

According to the rule, elections to the reserved seats for women would be held within 90 days after publication of general election results in gazette.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam on February 14 said that the government would amend the constitution to hold direct elections to the reserved seats for women in the House from the next parliamentary polls.



Seminar

Department of Zoology of Dhaka University, NRI, RIU and Aid Comilla jointly organise a seminar on bamboo flowering, rodent outbreak, and food security. Venue: Zoology department auditorium. Time: 11:25am.

Discussion

Dhaka Language Club organises a discussion on 'International Mother Language Day 2009' Venue: North South University. Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable

Energy & Power organises a roundtable on increasing efficiency of de-rated power plants: Strategy for implementation'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Rajshahi University Alumni Association organises a discussion in memory of Dr Shamsuzzoha. Venue: Liberation War Museum premises. Time: 4:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 5:30pm.



President Zillur Rahman stands in silence after placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectual Memorial at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Impartial, efficient judges needed to try war criminals

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said trial of the war criminals will not be ensured even if a special tribunal is formed judges for the tribunal.

trial of war criminals the special tribunal must be comprised of impartial, qualified and courageous judges," said senior judge Syed Amirul Islam at the seminar.

war criminals and the present Matin Khasru said.

perspective" was organised by Gono Odhikar and the special tribunals are Sangbidhan Sangrakkhon yesterday.

without appointing coura- war criminals is an excellent was the case of Bangabandhu geous, impartial and efficient piece of legislation under Sheikh Mujib killing when at which the war crimes can be one stage eight judges of the "To ensure justice in the tried as per international appellate division felt embarstandard. The trial of war rassed to deliver the justice. criminals must be held for the sake of humanity, civility, civilisation and rule of law and Chairman Misbahur Rahman it has nothing to do with any political motivation," former The seminar titled "Trial of law minister Advocate Abdul

trial of 370 cases, including 81 in

Dhaka, is going on, the fact is that

impartial and committed to Kendra at Supreme Court establishing rule of law the trial of war criminals might "The law we have for trial of have faced the same fate as

He said unless the judges of

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam Bangladesh Islami Oikya Jote Chowdhury, Barrister Tania Amir and former minister Fazle Rabbi Miah also spoke at the seminar.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq appeared for the petitioner. 900 corruption cases face

DUJA executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 900 corruption cases have been facing legal complexities because of the lengthy process of trial and some loopholes in the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Act, 2004.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) had sent recommendations to the government for amendments to the ACC Act with a view to enabling the commission function more smoothly, but it was sent back to the commission for Commissioner ATM Shamsul review.

Director General (Admin) of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Col Hanif Iqbal spoke about these issues at a routine press briefing at the commission office yesterday.

The ACC would submit the recommendations again soon after a review of them, he said.

Out of 900 graft cases, 521 cases are either stayed or remain pending because of writ petition filed against the proceedings of

Though ACC claimed that the

legal complexities

sources said.

Atharo Sataker Goddo: Itihas O Sangkalan' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The launching ceremony of the book 'Atharo Sataker Goddo: Itihas O Sangkalan' (Prose of the 18th century: History and compilation) by Dr Golam Murshid was held at Liberation War Museum premises in the city yesterday.

The first 73 pages of the 388-page book contain the history of prose of the 18th century, its evolution in the 19th century, and trait of language at that time and some treasured information, says a press release.

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh President Prof Sirajul Islam presided over the programme while writer Golam Murshid and Prof Md Abdul Qaium, among others, discussed.

In another recommendation,

a decrease in the number of ACC has sought the authority to ask for assistance from any special courts and recent changes in the political scenario government, non-government or have slowed the trial process, autonomous bodies, if necessary, Other recommendations

include empowering the com-The Anti-Corruption mission to employ police to Commission have been dealing with a total of 1216 graft cases, investigate the cases filed by the including 710 filed by the police. police. Charge sheets in 151 cases are The ACC Act has been

now being prepared for submisamended twice since the inception of the commission. The recommendations of

The first amendment was made on April 18, 2007 that included empowering the commission to make arrests and deal

or order for a stay on the case with money laundering offences.

sion to the court, sources said.

ACC include making the com-

mission a party in the petitions

filed by the accused seeking bail

POLY MURDER

Police suspect drug addict cousin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police suspected that drug addict cousin might have killed Eden University College student Poly on Sunday at Lalbagh in the city.

After preliminary interrogation of Shoilendra Mitra and his son Swaswata, police said the incident is not a robbery at the flat that can cause the killing.

The body of Poly Rani Halder, 25, of Pirojpur, was recovered from the kitchen of her maternal uncle Shoilendra Mitra's residence, on the second floor of a seven-storey building around 10:30pm on the day.

Detective Branch (DB) of police are interrogating Shoilendra and his son Swaswata in their custody.

body had several marks of stab injuries.

Poly's brother Polakash Halder filed a murder case with Lalbagh police station yesterday accusing unidentified killers, police said.

House owner Hasina Begum told The Daily Star that Poly, her uncle and cousin would reside at the flat as her aunt Smriti Kona Gain, wife of Mitra, stays at Sonargaon. Kona works at the Family

used to come to the flat at weekends. Police sources said Swaswata, 22, is an unemployed youth who studied up to class nine and used to take drug.

Planning Department there,

Hasina said, adding that she

Police said Mitra unlocked the door, which was locked from outside and found the body lying in the kitchen and none was in the flat then. Poly completed her SSC

from a school at Zia Nagar of Pirojpur in 1999 and completed HSC from Open University. Poly's father Paritush Halder is a farmer, family sources said. Later, she had been staying

Morgue sources said the at her maternal uncle's residence for the last two years after admission to Eden College, family sources said. Kona said of the two keys of

the house, her husband Mitra used one and her son Swaswata another. She said her son would

the same in rural areas.

respect Poly and there was a good relation between them.

Terming the latest govern-

ment move a 'noble one', he

ment must conduct thorough

viding them with price sup-

port. For example industrial

workers at Savar and Gazipur

Ex-BNP MP Giasuddin granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted three-month adinterim bail to detained former BNP lawmaker Mohammad Giasuddin of Narayanganj in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission

Upon a bail petition filed by Giasuddin, a HC bench of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury issued a rule upon the government to show cause within two weeks as to why the petitioner should not be granted regular bail in this case.

A court of Narayanganj sent Giasuddin to jail February 27, 2007, when he surrendered before the court in connection with a money laundering case.

The ACC filed a case against him on charge of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information.

Deputy Attorney General Motahar Hossain Saju yesterday told The Daily Star that the HC earlier stayed the proceedings of this case against Giasuddin, who was shown arrested in 10 criminal cases.



DU CORRESPONDENT

Shahjahan Shuvo of the daily Ingilab and Riadul Karim of the daily Janakantha yesterday were selected president and general secretary of the executive committee of Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) for the year 2009.

Other office bearers are: vice-president -- Saidur Rahman of the daily Ittefaga treasurer -- Daud Mohammad Isa of Bangladesh Today and joint secretary -- Najmul Hossain of Channel i.

Members are Jamal Uddin Jami of New Nation, Hasan Titol of ATN Bangla and Abul

Kalam Azad of Desh Bangla.

RU CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Jalil, a freedom fighter at Bagmara in Rajshahi, passed away due to a cardiac attack at his house on

Saturday at the age of 71. He left behind his two wives, six sons and seven daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried with state

Raishahi and Bagmara unit command of Muktijoddha Sangsad in separate statements expressed deep shocked at his death.

Death anniversary STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 10th death anniversary of Kazi Aref Ahmed, one of the organisers the Liberation War and one of the founders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), was observed through different programmes yesterday, says a press release.

The days' programmes include placing wreaths at his grave, milad mahfil and discussion.

JSD President Chairman Hasanul Huq Inu MP chaired the discussion at Col Taher

Auditorium in the city. JSD General Secretary Syed Zafar Sajjad, Mainuddin Khan Badal MP, among others,

spoke at the programme.

Fix target people for food rationing

FROM PAGE 16

caretaker government. would introduce rationing

country's population now live in poverty while 20 percent is ultra poor. Eminent agronomist Dr

Mahbub Hossain also expressed his doubt about the impact of the rationing system without identifying the members of target group and closing the administrative loopholes. "There must be checks and

tive will go in vain like the previous one," Dr Mahbub said. Both Prof Wahiduddin and Dr Mahbub mentioned instances of pilferage and mismanagement in the ration-

balances, otherwise the initia-

Public intervention in food The issue came to the fore grain markets of Bangladesh is Hasina said her government Bengal Famine of 1943, at the rationing system, the governheight of World War II. By the

ing system in the 1980s.

system was abolished because of mismanagement. A government study had found that 70 percent of rural rationing programme's food grains did not reach the target population. The government abolished rural rationing system and saved an estimated amount of \$60 million a year.

the level it was a few years ago. "In 1980s, I had found in my ment should also ensure that research that one-third population of a char did not have the producers get fair prices of ration cards although they all their goods.

Prof S Mahendra Dev, chair-

government provides price support to the poor. The Indian after Prime Minister Sheikh not new. It started during the said before introducing the government provides 35 kgs of food grains to the poorest of poor families at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 2 a kg for wheat and Rs 3 a kg for rice. This group is given a special card. The government also runs some five lakh fair price outlets across India, he added.

Thailand, said agriculture

sector is highly subsidised in

India, focused on how his

Thailand and irrigation is and lower-class government provided free to the farmers employees might be the initial there. BIDS Director General Dr

Quazi Shahabuddin, Atiur Rahman of Dhaka University, Uttam Deb of Centre for Policy Dialogue and Chris Austin of DFID, among others, spoke.

The speakers also stressed the need for increasing production of food grains using

research and collect informasystem to help all sections of late 1980s, public involvement tion about the experiences of people cope with the price hike in food markets included other countries in running rationing schemes to distribute of essentials. such systems. Over 40 percent of the food grains to all urban con-Dr Mahbub said the governsumers and the rural poor. ment should identify a fixed-In early 1990s the rationing Dr Somporn Isvilanonda, a income target group for promember of Rice Policy Panel of

target people. Prof Wahiduddin said the prices would not come down to Dr Mahbub said the govern-

were supposed to enjoy the facility," Prof Wahiduddin said, man of Commission for adding that the situation was Agricultural Costs and Prices of

modern technology.

schools should not be declared They pointed out that keepillegal ing women away from the main Responding to two separate stream of the society will only writ petitions, a bench of Justice slow down the progress of the ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Abdul Hye issued the rule. The roundtable was organ-Education secretary, direcised jointly by Girl Child tor general of primary educa-Advocacy Forum and the tion department, and four Hunger Project at the National others concerned were asked to Press Club in the city. reply to the rule within six Sultana Kamal, former weeks. The education ministry on ment, presided over the July 14 last year issued a circular roundtable where Dr Badiul

stating that there was no post of the headmaster in the registered primary schools, all the teachers of these schools will be considered as assistant teachers and the most qualified teacher of them will be appointed the headmaster. Moslem Uddin, headmaster

of Gopalpur Registered Primary

School at Kumarkhali upazila in

Kushtia, and Prabir Kumar

Shikder, headmaster of

Motpara Registered Primary

School in Kushtia lost their posts and new headmasters were appointed from other teachers as per the rules of the circular. They filed separate writ

petitions with the HC challeng-

ing the legality of the circular. They stated in their petitions that the managing committees of their schools about 20 years ago appointed them headmasters and the same committees demoted them to the assistant teachers as per the government

spirit of the natural justice. Barrister Syed Haseenul Abedin appeared for the petitioners.

'Ahmadis to

circular and it was against the

people's hearts with love'

His creation.

change

METRO DESK Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the world head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, called upon all Ahmadis to inform the people of the world that Islam teaches love for God and for

"Inform the world that the

followers of the Promised

Messiah do not use swords or

violence but will change

people's hearts through love

and affection," he said while

delivering the concluding

address to the 85th Annual Convention of Bangladesh Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat on Sunday, says a press release. Mirza Masroor spoke to thousands of Ahmadis assembled in Dhaka via internet streaming from London. Ahmadis through-

out the world watched the

broadcast live on the Jamaat's

satellite television channel 'MTA International.' During his one-hour address, Mirza Masroor spoke of the continued persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat in Bangladesh and other countries.

He said that the people of

Bangladesh had suffered at

the hands of cruel opponents

in the very recent past and had borne such trials with great fortitude and forbearance. He also said the Jamaat would never seek revenge against those who committed atrocities against the com-

munity. Speaking about the beliefs of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Mirza Masroor stated that all Ahmadis were blessed with full certainty of faith.