BDR jawan Golam Shaheen,

thing like this would happen."

"I was present at the meeting at the Darbar Hall where discus-

sion on Operation Dal-bhat was

going on. I was on the eastern

side of the hall. Suddenly I heard

a commotion and a moment

later firing began on the western

side of the hall where the high-

ups were seated," said injured

**BDR** Deputy Assistant Director

Ahmed, a physician at the BDR

Hospital, was also admitted to

the Holy Family Hospital with

I heard numerous gunshots on

Wednesday, I locked up our flat

at BDR Quarters-1. Suddenly I was hit in the abdomen by a stray bullet that penetrated a

door of the house," she said.

Runa Laila, wife of Farook

"When my two children and

"I was rescued after one and

Health Minister Prof AFM

Ruhul Haque and Prof Syed

Modasser Ali, adviser to the

prime minister, visited the

injured BDR members at the

condition and said the govern-

ment will bear the costs of their

Mutiny halts

They enquired about their

a half hours and taken to the

BDR Hospital. Later, I was shifted to the Holy Family

Hospital on Wednesday night,

she told The Daily Star.

hospital in the morning.

treatment.

Abdul Jalil.

bullet wounds.

## Speedy trial, punishment to killers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally in the city yesterday demanded speedy trial of Shah AMS Kibria murder case and exemplary punishment to his killers.

They said the killing case of Kibria, former finance minister and UN undersecretary general, remains pending for the last four years at different stages.

Bangabandhu Smriti ans." Chorcha Kendra organised the programme at the National Press Club to mark

Southeast Asian leaders yes-

terday faced renewed pressure

to deal with rights abuses in

Myanmar on the eve of an

annual summit likely to be

dominated by the global

International rights watch-

dogs and the United States

both urged Association of

Southeast Asian Nations

(Asean) leaders gathering here

this weekend to push for

reform in the military-ruled

nation, the 10-member

in the Thai beach resort of Hua

Hin, amid fears anti-

government protesters who

have besieged the premier's

office in Bangkok could turn

their attention's to the three-

China accused the United

States of hypocrisy yesterday

as it issued a report on the US

human rights situation, hitting

back at Washington's criticism

of its own rights record, state

ing stones at others while living

in a glass house is a testimony

to the double standards and

hypocrisy of the United States

in dealing with human rights

issues," the official Xinhua

news agency quoted the report

released by the information

office of the State Council, or

Cabinet -- a practice that has

The written account was

Tight security was in place

group's black sheep.

AFP, Beijing

media said.

as saying.

AFP, Hua Hin

economic crunch.

the minister with its President Shah Abdul Musabbir in the chair.

Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haq Mustafa Shaheed said, "Financial techniques and ideals of Kibria were so scientific and people-friendly that onefourth achievement of his techniques and ideals can make us good parliamentari-

Kibria used a planned method to resolve financial crisis of the country. As a

Asean leaders challenged

day summit starting Friday.

expected to discuss the forma-

tion of a regional human rights

body on Friday, a day before

heads of state formally meet,

but Amnesty International

and Human Rights Watch

the body must be empowered

to effectively address human

rights in Myanmar," Donna

Guest, London-based

Amnesty's Asia-Pacific deputy

military since 1962, is a mem-

ber of ASEAN but has long

been a thorn in its side, with

Western nations urging the

regional bloc to push the junta

summit must in particular

China accuses US of hypocrisy

been repeated every year for 10

years in response to US criti-

cism of China's rights situa-

It was published in retalia-

tion to a US State Department

report issued Wednesday

charging that the attitude of

Beijing's communist rulers to

The US report said China

had stepped up repression in

Buddhist Tibet and Muslim

Xinjiang, restricting dissent

and religious freedom in the

two western regions, while

maintaining heavy censorship

rights record remained poor

N Korea builds underground

and worsened in some areas," rights.

The rights groups said the

towards political reform.

in own rights report

"The US practice of throw- human rights had worsened

Myanmar, ruled by the

director, said in a statement.

"To be worthy of its name,

expressed concerns.

Asean ministers are

on rights, economy

the 4th death anniversary of result, the then Awami League government could tackle the price hike of essentials, he added.

The present government is determined to investigate the killing and punish the killers of Kibria, he said, adding: "But implementation of the initiative also requires unity of people, because antiliberation force is still continuing conspiracy against the trial."

Noted economist Dr Atiur Rahman said Kibria was a pro-poor finance minister of

address the rights of refugees

and migrants, in particular

Myanmar's Rohingya boat

people, whom the military of

fellow Asean member

Thailand is also accused of

recent harsh prison terms

handed down to pro-

democracy activists.

They also highlighted

Separately the US ambassa-

dor to Asean, Scot Marciel,

called on the region to push

Myanmar's rulers for "political

progress" using their contacts

of the Rohingyas on its agenda

for the rigidly organised sum-

mit, but Thai Foreign Minister

Kasit Piromya said it might be

discussed at an informal

dinner with his colleagues late

rity", according to Xinhua.

The report also claimed an

increasing number of restric-

tions had been imposed on

civil rights in the United States

and said there was no proper

protection of prisoners' basic

after a visit by US Secretary of

State Hillary Clinton to Beijing

appeared to signal a detente

the sensitive issue of human

The spat comes just days

Wednesday.

itsaid.

rights.

"The government's human between the world powers on

Asean has not put the issue

and access to the country.

abusing.

the country.

Giving different examples of the former minister's contribution to the development of agricultural production, he said Kibria's economical plans were peasant-

Atiur said Kibria introduced VGF card and allowance for elderly people, including widows, for the first time in the country, adding that these innovative initiatives depict his fight for poverty alleviation.

UNB, Rangamati

leader and newly elected Upazila Parishad Chairman Santosh Kumar Chakma was set free on Tuesday, 35 days after his abduction.

Santosh, who got elected chairman of Barkal upazila on January 22, was abducted by a gang of armed criminals on January 20 while returning to the district town from Tripurachhara area in Barkal upazila after electioneering.

demanded a ransom of Tk 50 lakh for his release.

diately clear whether any ransom was paid for his release.

UNB, Dhaka

MEd, MBA, CEMBA and CEMPA programmes run by Bangladesh Open University China cited widespread (BOU) scheduled for today violent crimes in the United have been postponed due to States as posing "serious threats to its people's lives, unavoidable circumstances. Examinations of BEd property and personal secu-

> The fresh schedule of the postponed examinations

would be announced in due time, it said. Concerned students have

been asked to contact BOU's regional and coordinating offices for further informa-

## remarks fuel island row with China

AFP, Tokyo

Aso said yesterday Tokyo would call on the US to help it defend a disputed island chain, triggering immediate protest from China.

part of Japan's sovereign territory," said Aso at a parliament panel.

protected under the Japan-US security pact" if they are to be invaded by another country, he added.

China Sea, known in China as the Diaoyu islands, has long been a bone of contention between the two Asian giants, both of whom claim rights to lucrative undersea gas fields in

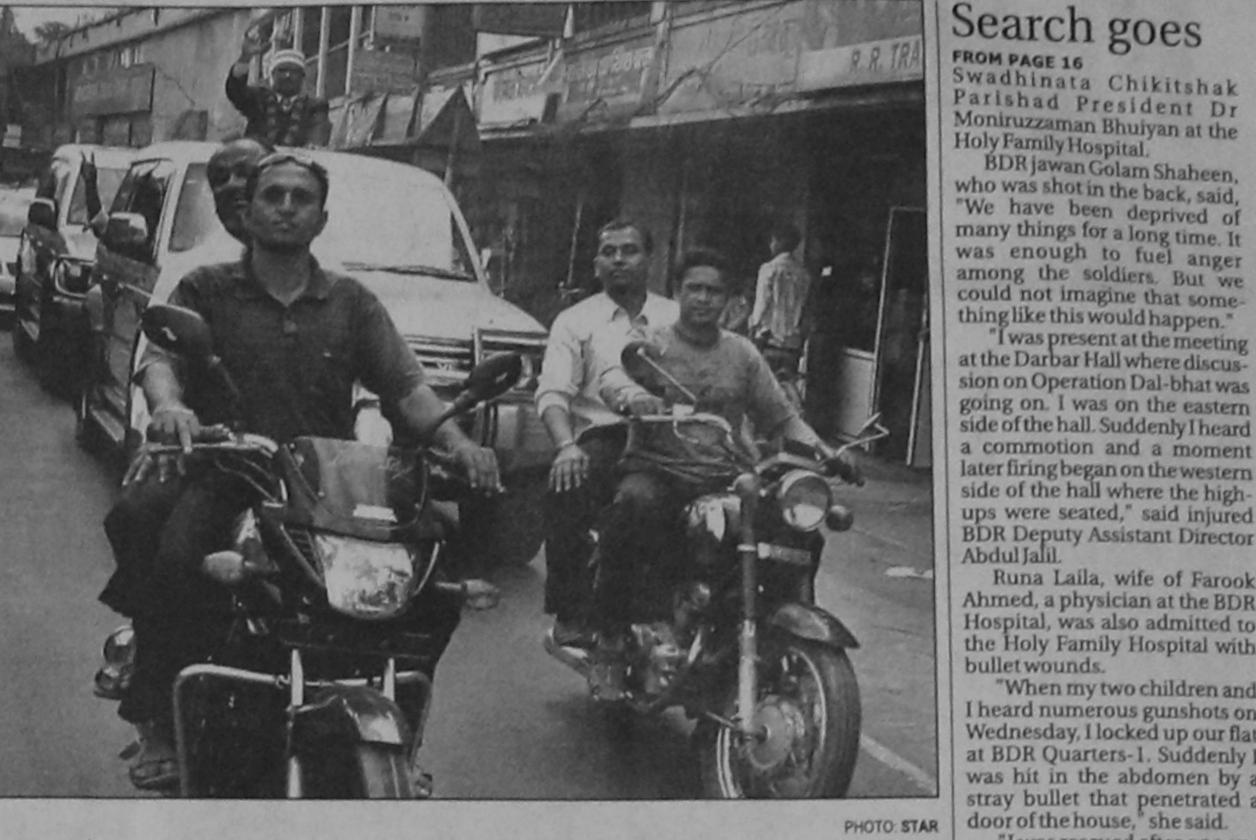
Pressed by an opposition member at parliament, Aso said his government would "reconfirm at an early date" the security deal with the United States over the islands.

immediate protest from Beijing.

"China expresses strong disatisfaction" with Aso's comments, said China's foreign ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu, adding Beijing "has already lodged stern representations with the Japanese side".

"The Diaoyu islands ... have been part of Chinese territory for a long time, and China has indisputable sovereignty over these," Ma said in a statement

on its website.



A motorcade carrying newly elected Upazila Chairman Idris Mia moves towards the upazila office to attend the first meeting with the upazila officers and staffs at Patia in Chittagong yesterday.

## India building aircraft carrier

with surface-to-air missiles,

AFP, New Delhi

India has started building its own aircraft carrier, the navy announced yesterday, amid a protracted dispute with Russia over the cost of a Soviet-era carrier.

The navy said the keellaying ceremony for the vessel would be held Saturday, but production of components for the 260-metre (858-foot) ship had already begun. "With this project, India

joins the select club of 40,000tonne aircraft carrier designers and builders," the navy said in a statement.

The carrier will be armed over a 2004 deal to buy a refur-

The bodies were sent to

Captain Majharul Hayder,

December last year, served as

a staff officer to the director

His wife Nushrat Nur

Badhon, daughter of

Inspector General of Police

(IGP) Nur Mohammad, was

rescued from the BDR head-

quarters at Pilkhana

The whereabouts of the

family members of the six

other army officials are yet to

headquarters end up in the

BDR, she said already a high-

level committee headed by the

home minister has been

formed to examine their

Hasina, who held a series of

problems for making a recom-

meetings with her cabinet and

senior leaders of Awami

League and its allies at Jamuna

earlier in the day, also sought

cooperation of the people in

overcoming the existing crisis.

surrender arms, as confronta-

tion begets confrontation.

Stop these suicidal activities,"

the law into their own hands

and obey the chain of com-

2:23pm, the prime minister

assured the rebels that there

would be no harm done to

them if they accepted the

Sheikh Hasina urged BDR,

police, ansar and the armed

forces to refrain from paying

she directed the BDR men.

"Exercise restraint and

She urged them not to take

In the address, made at

mendation in this regard.

FROM PAGE 16

Lalbagh police said.

general (DG) of BDR.

Wednesday night.

be known.

Mitford Hospital.

Gate of death

who got married only in locals including relatives of

The drains from the BDR tact his nephew Lt Col

PM appeals, warns

Buriganga through Wednesday morning.

latest radar and an array of other combat systems from Israel, France and Russia. naval officials said. "This is the most presti-

gious project that the Indian navy has taken up in-house so far," the navy said. India currently has only one operational carrier -- the

first, INS Vikrant, in 1997 after more than 35 years service. Viraat is scheduled to be phased out soon.

INS Viraat -- after scrapping its

The South Asian country has been involved in a longrunning wrangle with Moscow

Kellarmore, Swarighat,

were found at the sluice gate in

Hazaribagh, hundreds of

those who are missing have

been watching the sewage

Muazzem Hossain, at the

sluice gate, told reporters that

his younger brother Maj

Humayun was at the BDR

headquarters when the

mutiny began and he is miss-

weeping, as he anticipated

the worst. No one in the

family has been able to con-

Shamsul Azam since

heed to the instigation of any

vested quarters as well as to

remain alert to the rumours

from certain quarters trying to

requested all to hold patience

deep shock at the loss of life of

some officers of armed forces,

BDR members and civilians in

the bloody revolt and men-

tioned her feelings and experi-

ence of pain and sorrow of

departed souls and conveyed

sympathy to members of the

ment is advancing to resolve

the crisis through discussion

opinions and parties not to

make any comment or resort

to any activity, in greater

national interest, which could

deteriorate the situation and

but not by applying force.

hamper public safety.

She prayed peace for the

Hasina said her govern-

She urged all irrespective of

losing near and dear ones.

bereaved families.

In her fervent call she

The premier expressed

destabilise the situation.

and maintain peace.

Mutawakkil was found

pouring out of there.

Since the first two bodies

Babubazar and Sadarghat.

Admiral Gorshkov. The original price for the refit was 970 million dollars,

bished Soviet-era carrier, the

but Russia later demanded an additional 1.2 billion dollars. The two sides eventually

settled for an extra 900 million dollars, but the carrier has yet to be delivered and the latest reports suggest the Russian export firm Rosoboronexport wanted to increase the price tag again.

The 137-ship Indian navy is in expansion mode and has new warships from the US navy and submarines from

A Wasa engineer said, "The

bodies seem to have been

dumped into the sewage line

through manholes and the

flowing water carried them

. There are around 10

manholes inside the BDR

headquarters compound,

he said. The diameter of the

sewer line from BDR head-

section, with five metre diam-

eter, goes out under Gate-4

Sluice Gate. The other ends in

Hazaribagh canal at

arrangement for proper treat-

upon? They are your brothers -

words to the mutineers.

sovereign country.

the BDR headquarters.

Pointing out the talk with

delegation of the rebels, she

the health minister.

Kalunagar.

out the sluice gate

#### FROM PAGE 16 near the besieged BDR headquarters remained closed

yesterday. However, the SSC examination took place as per the schedule and no further announcement postponing the exam has been made. The examinees took their Accounting exam amid a tense atmosphere on Thursday.

University at Arts Building and Curzon Hall on February 28 have been postponed until further notification.

All examinations of Dhaka

Besides, the viva voce of Gha unit was also suspended yesterday. The postponed viva voce will be held on March 1, said a press release yesterday. BOU

Examinations of Bangladesh Open University (BOU) HSC, BA, BSS, MEd, MBA, CEMBA and CEMPA programmes scheduled for today (Friday) have been suspended. BEd exam to be held from February 27 till March 9 has also been postponed and a fresh schedule will soon be notified, saida BOU release.

sewage line under Pilkhana is between three and four Students have been asked to contact BOU's regional and coordinating offices for further The underground subinformation.

Chhayanaut

All examinations of Chhayanaut quarters has two sections. One scheduled for February 27 and 28 have been postponed due to the BDR mutiny. and runs up to Nawabganj

Re-union Today's re-union programme of

Adamjee Cantonment Public School and College has been postponed, a press release said yesterday. DRU programmes

The Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) annual picnic today

(Friday) at Mansurabad picnic spot in Gazipur had been postponed yesterday after an emerment for the injured has been gency meeting of DRU executive made under the supervision of committee with its president Shamim Ahmad in the chair. A fresh date will be "Who are you firing bullets

announced soon, said a DRU don't make sisters widow and press release. Puja Committee make mothers sonless," Hasina The Mahanagar Sarbojaneen

said directing her emotive Puja Committee yesterday postponed their Mahanagar The prime minister said it Family Day-2009 scheduled for is her government's responsitoday at Dhakeswari National temple. The fresh date will be bility to protect the fundamental rights of people as the declared later, said a puja committee press release. Others Programmes

citizen of independent and The publication ceremony of In her about 7-minute weekly Ajkal scheduled to be speech, the prime minister held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel described the situation before yesterday was postponed. her government took power,

The scholarship distributing her party's election pledges ceremony for the poor and and the steps taken by the meritorious students organised by Brihattara Comilla Samiti has government to resolve the been rescheduled for March 9, BDR' armed uprising, includ-3:00pm at Institution of ing sending her delegation to Diploma Engineers Bhaban.

Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association yesterday postponed its prize distribution programme while Rissho Kosei-kai Dhaka suspended its today's discussion meeting titled

said that she listened to them patiently and requested them to surrender their arms and go 'Family Education'.

## Most malls in Dhaka run without fire safety

She mentioned that backtothebarracks.

FROM PAGE 16 Director General of Fire

Service and Civil Defence Brig Gen Abu Nayeem Md Shahidullah said both the markets had no safety mea-The Fire Prevention Act Nayeem added.

must be included under the provision of mobile court so that action can be taken against the violators. In that case negligence might reduce, he added.

In most of the cases old markets have no fire safety equipment. But the situation of the newly constructed

markets is comparatively better, he observed. He went on saying that Supper Market shop owners according to the fire rules, every floor should have at least two fire extinguishers, hydrant point, water reservoir and a

contain a certain amount of water.

Every market also needs to receive trainings on safety net from Fire Service and Civil Defence and should continue it by themselves every month, Neyamatullah, owner of

Ohi Textile at Yakub Market, who faced a loss of Tk 50 lakh due to the blaze, said the market committee took no initiatives to set up fire safety equipment.

Prothoma Fashion, said no markets but two in the area have any fire safety measures. Vice-president of Yakub

association Mohammad Humayun Kabir admitted their lacking and said they are thinking to set up necessary tank on top which will always equipment.

Director of working committee of the market Annexco Tower AKM Nasir Uddin said they had fire extinguishers but kept those in the rooms of security guards, office and electricians.

"As construction work of the market has not completed yet we did not place those on different floors," he said. He could not say the completion date of the work although the entire market is running.

Prof Dr Nizam Uddin Tapan Ray, owner of Ahmed of Buet said most of of Buet said Bangladesh the city markets don't have fire safety measures, posing serious threat to the owners and

customers. The air conditioned mar-

added.

kets are the most vulnerable as of monitoring. those mostly keep close the entire exit but don't maintain sufficient escape routes, he

Although situation in the newly constructed markets is comparatively better but there are some markets, which even don't have any stairways to go to food courts on top. This might turn out to be deadly, Prof Ahmed observed.

As the old markets like Gausia have no alternative exits and are highly congested. 200 to 300 people may die, mostly in stampede, if any fire breaks out, he added.

Prof Mehedi Ahmed Ansary National Building Code and Building Construction Rules, 2008 clearly mention about fire safety net, which is not enforced properly due to lack

Raising awareness among the users is very necessary for the authorities concerned, he said.

#### violate a UN resolution passed AFP, Seoul after the last missile test. "We presume that what- source. North Korea has built an underground fuelling station ever claims North Korea at its long-range missile test makes, it will have launched a ballistic missile," said Seoul site, making it harder for US spy satellites to predict the

of the press.

said yesterday. South Korea's Dong-a Ilbo demand for such a satellite. newspaper, quoting intelli-Pyongyang completed the

Musudan-ri on its northeast North not to go ahead with the coast sometime between late 2008 and early this year. The communist state, defying international warnings, said Tuesday its prepara-

tions to launch a satellite are

making "brisk headway" but gave no date for the exercise. Seoul and Washington see such a launch as a pretext to test the Taepodong-2 missile, which could theoretically reach Alaska. They say a rocket launch for any purpose would



Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of an art exhibition titled 'Addition and omission' by Wakilur Rahman and Dhali Al Mamoon will be held. Venue: Galleri Kaya. Time: 11:00am.

### Discussion

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee organises a discussion on trial of the war criminals and International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

missile fuelling station

foreign ministry spokesman date of a launch, a news report Moon Tae-Young, adding that there was no commercial

China's chief nuclear gence sources, said envoy Wu Dawei visited Pyongyang earlier this week in underground facility at an effort to persuade the

launch, Yonhap news agency said, quoting an "informed

> "Vice Foreign Minister Wu visited Pyongyang to deliver a message of concern over North Korea's preparations for the launch of a rocket carrying what it claims to be a communications satellite," the unnamed source told Yonhap.

The news agency said the source would not comment on whether Wu's diplomatic mission would succeed.



## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh and Sylhet and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over

the country, Met Office said. Highest temperature 34.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 15.3 degrees Celsius at

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Rajshahi. The sun sets in the capital at 6:01pm today and rises at 6:22am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

Humidityin City/Town Temperature in Celsius percentage Evening Min Morning Max 23.8 26 33.9 78 Dhaka 21.0 30.0 Chittagong 15.3 33.2 Rajshahi 24.5 78 33.3 Khulna 24.6 83 33.6 Barisal 21.2 82 32.8 Sylhet 79 Cox's Bazar 32.0 23.0

## Abducted UZ chairman in Rangamati released

Abducted Awami League

Later, the abductors

However, it was not imme-

## BOU exams postponed

Examinations of HSC, BA, BSS,

programme scheduled to start from February 27 to March 9 have also been postponed said a BOU release.

# Japan PM's

Japanese Prime Minister Taro

"The Senkaku islands are

"Therefore, they should be The archipelago in the East

the area.

His remarks prompted an

Japan and China, two of the world's biggest energy importers, struck a deal last June to end the energy dispute by jointly developing one of them and holding talks on the oth-