Iran to back ME

peace deal

AFP, Washington

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said it would be "fine with us" if the Palestinians reach a "two state" peace deal with Israel, despite his opposition to the "racist" Jewish nation.

The firebrand leader, in an interview broadcast Sunday

72 more BDR

FROM PAGE 1 Department (CID), which is investigating the case, Magistrate's Court, Dhaka with a prayer for showing

them arrested in the case. The CID also sought 10 days' remand each for 10 of those BDR jawans. The court granted five-day remand for Whatever decision they take, each of them.

Those who were placed on remand are: Havilder Khalilur Rahman, nayeks Hatem Ali and Shahid Hossain, sepoys Kader, Mahfuzur Rahman, Abdul Hye, Abdur Rahman, Saifuzzaman, Nazrul Islam and Wahidul Islam.

Magistrate Faisal Atiq Bin Kader also sent the remaining 62 to jail.

With these arrests, the total number of arrested BDR members in the case now stands at 1,231.

A pistol, lost during the February 25-26 carnage at BDR Pilkhana headquarters, was recovered from a staff quarter yesterday when it was being searched.

Earlier, BDR authorities in a press release said a total of 121 firearms were lost from Pilkhana during the mutiny. **BDR JAWAN DIES**

BDR sepoy Mohammad Sadeq Miah, 28, of 41 Battalion died of liver cancer, BDR sources said. He is the 16th BDR man to die since March 9.

According to a press release issued by BDR headquarters, Sadeq, hailing from Raipura upazila of Narsingdi, was undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) since March 18.

Narsingdi Sadar Hospital and he died later that night.

He has been in and out of

appeared unhappy with President Barack Obama's failure to return a message of greetings and said nuclear negotiations could only proceed with a clear agenda. After triggering a storm with

with US network ABC.

anti-Israel remarks at a UN racism conference in Geneva, Ahmadinejad attacked Obama's "support of the massacre of Gazans, in support for the criminals who were responsible for that atrocity."

But having previously called for Israel to be "wiped off the produced the 72 BDR jawans map," he appeared to hold out before Chief Metropolitan a potential olive branch in backing the Palestinians' right to pursue a deal for statehood alongside Iran's arch-enemy.

"Whatever decision they take is fine with us. We are not going to determine anything. we will support that, Ahmadinejad said through an interpreter in the interview, which was taped Wednesday in

"We think that this is the right of the Palestinian people, however we fully expect other states to do so as well,' Ahmadinejad said, without saying whether Iran might recognize the Jewish nation as part of a "two state" agreement.

At the same time, Ahmadinejad stood by his speech in Geneva, which prompted a walkout by European diplomats. The United States and Israel boycotted the conference, where the Iranian leader launched a new verbal attack on the Jewish

Tk 14 for paddy

FROM PAGE 1

apprehended that rice price would fall. This time the target for Boro production was 1.8 crore metric tons. But the agriculture ministry sources said production of Boro would be more than the target.

Farmers may again suffer huge loss from Boro cultivation because of downtrend in rice price, which comes as peasants.

Tk 16-17 per kg in the major rice producing districts, may go down to Tk 13-14 when Boro harvesting will start in full swing after two to three weeks, farmers and officials concerned said.

worker, wanted a divorce to marry another woman. Doctors at the clinic agreed to carry out the abortion knowing that she had been

carrying for more than five months. Dr Bilkis Begum, gynaecology consultant at DMCH, told The Daily Star that abortion after eight weeks since conception constitutes a severe

Officer-in-Charge of Pallabi Police Station said a case has been filed against two doctors in this connection.

Police raided the clinic, but

found none. PM calls

FROM PAGE 1

Betar, TV, newspaper and loudspeaker in advance and directed power division to deliver electricity as per requirement of Wasa to ensure water supply after a gap of certain period.

She asked the Wasa authorities to maintain water supply during peak hour through its own generator and taking steps to set up new water pipes instead of old one.

The PM directed the authorities concerned to complete the work of Svedabad Water Treatment Plant Phase-2 and Pagla Water Treatment Plant within the shortest possible time.

Hasina also asked the power division to take necessary steps for supplying power in city areas.

Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Mollah Wahiduzzaman was present in the meeting.

Atıur

FROM PAGE 1 Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed expires on April 30.

Dr Atiur Rahman completed his Honours and Masters in Economics from Dhaka University in 1973 and 1974. He obtained his MSc and PhD in Economics from London University in 1979 and 1983.

He is currently teaching Development Studies at Dhaka University. He is the chairman of non-government research organisation Unnayan Samunnay.

He had served as the director of Sonali Bank and chairman of Janata Bank. He also served as the senior research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

Caretaker govt Dhaka gone crazy

Dhaka City Corporation

the corporation is carrying out

a larviciding campaign in the

city, and preparing for the

rainy season to fight aedes

mosquito, which carries den-

Haque of the Met Office said

the country has been facing a

moderate to severe heat wave

over the last ten days, which is

above one to 6 degrees Celsius

higher than the usual temper-

chance of the weather improv

ing within the next two or

three days as there is no possi-

bility of rain during the period.

A moderate to severe heat

Sanaul said there is no

ature of the time.

Meteorologist Sanaul

gue virus.

NEWS

Commission's capacity to

been raised in the political

caretaker government system.

In that case, the Election

Commission (EC) must be

strengthened and it will need

the help of the judiciary to

conduct the polls, Sakhawat

said, referring to the judiciary

some proposals for electoral

political parties seeking their

already taken some measures

to bring structural changes to

due elections to Dhaka City

Corporation (DCC), munici-

palities and union parishads,

the election commissioner said

it might not be possible to hold

polls to about 4,500 union

polls might be held early next

year. Tenure of union parishads

expired between January and

laws, the polls were supposed

to be held within 180 days of

held at that time due to imposi-

tion of the state of emergency

and the ninth parliamentary

said the EC was prepared to

hold the election to Dhaka City

Corporation (DCC) but it could

not do so as the City

If the law is passed in the

next session of parliament in

June, the polls to the DCC

might be held in the upcoming

Risky abortion

Talking to reporters at the

DMC Hospital, Aduri's father

Sattar Sarkar said her daugh

ter went to Khan Doctor's

Chamber to have an abortion

He also said Aduri had

opted to end the pregnancy as

her husband Mohammad

Shahin, also a garment

The election commissioner

As per the then electoral

But the polls could not be

He said the union parishads

opinion on those," he said.

the EC administration.

parishads this year.

March last year.

expiry of its tenure.

election.

enacted.

added.

FROM PAGE 16

on April 24.

reforms to strengthen the EC.

He said they are drawing up

"We shall hold talks with

Sakhawat said they have

Commenting on long over-

and the EC in India.

right, he said.

told journalists at his office.

conduct the polls," Sakhawat some measures including (DCC) Nasim-Us-Seraj said increasing vigilance at the He said questions have pump houses to cope with the current crisis, and are trying to arena over the fate of the make the best use of their inadequate number of power The contention that a free and generators to increase water fair election is not possible without such a system is not supply.

About the dirty water with foul odour, Wasa officials said during dry weather they have to use excessive amount of chemicals to treat the water, which results in malodorous water, 'although that is safe'. And the dirty water is due to leaks in the supply pipeline, which are yet to be fixed, although some repair work

have already started. An official of Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC) said they received 1,225 megawatt (MW) of power during the day yesterday while the demand was for more than 1,800 MW. The company received 1,417 MW of power during the evening hours to meet a demand for more than 2,000 MW.

The demand for electricity increased by 200 MW to 300 MW in the capital during the spell of the heat wave, said the DPDC official.

A high official of Power Development Board (PDB) said due to a decrease in gas supply

300 MW Shiddhirgan) Power Plant, and 100 MW Haripur Power Plant have been sitting idle, while 360 MW ITP unit in Haripur has been producing only 280 MW. He also said power genera-

tion would resume in 180 MW Raujan Power Plant from early morning today. If all power plants would

work properly, the power Corporation Law was yet to be supply deficit would be of only 300 MW to 400 MW, which would require only two hours of load shedding instead of the current aggregate average of 8 winter. Similarly, the polls to to 12 hours, he added. municipalities might be held Prof Tafael Ahmed of medi after the DCC election, he

cine at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) said foods are rotting due to the hot weather, giving rise to diseases like diarrhoea. People are also complaining about nausea and dehydration, which may cause kidney failures, he added. Heatstroke is also on the rise due excessive sweating, he said. He advised all to avoid

staying outside during the heat wave, and to stay in cool places instead. He also advised people to keep drinking cold water through the day and to sponge their bodies with water periodically.

Chief Entomologist of

Afghan blasts, bullets kill 14

AFP, Kabul

Fourteen people, including 11 policemen, were killed in shootings and explosions across insurgency-plagued Afghanistan, authorities said Sunday.

A roadside bomb blast killed five policemen and two civilians in the Zhari district of southern Kandahar on Sunday, the interior ministry said in a statement. Two other police were injured, it said.

The ministry said the police were on patrol "inspecting the opium fields"

"Planting mines by the enemies of Afghanistan indicates that there is close link between drug traders and the terrorists," it said.

Afghanistan produces 90 percent of the world's illicit drug supplies from its poppy crops which the government has a policy of eradicating.

Another three policemen were killed and two wounded in a similar incident in central Wardak province, just south of the capital Kabul, the ministry

The ministry blamed the attacks on the "enemies of Afghanistan" -- a term authorities use to refer to the remnants of the Taliban, who are leading an insurgency after the 2001 US-led invasion ousted them from power.

On Saturday, three other policemen were killed and two wounded in a roadside bomb explosion in eastern Khost province near the border with Pakistan, said senior police official Sher Ahmad Kochi.

A senior civil servant was killed in Kandahar on Sunday in a drive-by shooting by gunmen speeding past on a motorbike, an official said.

troops are stationed in Afghanistan, with the United States preparing to deploy an extra 21,000 troops as part of a sweeping new strategy to counter the increasingly deadly Taliban-led insur-

(EARLIER NEWS ON PAGE 7)

Hasan rights

FROM PAGE 16

The state minister described the one hour and 20 minute meeting between the King and the PM as "successful" saying that it was a "rare" occasion as the Saudi King addressed Hasina as his sister.

on the previous occasion too.

sive discussion with the Saudi King and the Saudi foreign minister when they assured her that the restriction will go on Bangladeshi workers who will now be able to change

wave has also been sweeping He said previously there through Khulna division, and was compulsion on through the regions of Dhaka, Faridpur, Rajshahi and Iswardi while a mild to moderate heat wave has been blowing through Rajshahi and Barisal divisions and the regions of Tangail, Madaripur, over there. Sitakunda, Comilla and

Chandpur, he said. One person died and 1,261 were infected with diarrhoea throughout the country in the 24 hours preceding noon to Saudi Arabia. yesterday, according to a statistics of the control room

Republicans still struggling at Obama 100-day mark

of the health directorate.

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama's Republican foes are still struggling to find their voice and shed the "party of no" label, 100 days after he took over the White House and launched his audacious agenda.

For the first time in eight years, Republicans control neither the White House nor either chamber of the US Congress, and face a vastly popular Democratic president determined to enact his ambitious plans. They have endured public

squabbles over who speaks nationally for the party, a poorly received formal response to Obama's debut speech to Congress in February, the botched roll-out of a rival budget that lacked key numbers, and have lost too many legislative fights to

"We don't have a majority It's very difficult to pass legislation," Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters asking him to grade the party's performance since Obama's January 20 inauguration.

In response to the "party of no" jibes, Republicans point out they have offered alternatives to major White House backed legislation and complain Obama has not done enough to fulfill campaign promises of working with

them. But they have put much of their energy into criticizing Obama for his economic policies that would add trillions to the US national debt, and for his foreign policy they see as overly accommodating to countries like Iran or Venezuela and insufficiently

aggressive against terrorists. "Some of our biggest achievements are the ones you don't read about," said McConnell spokesman Don Stewart, warning for example that "If Republicans hadn't been here, taxes would have increased even further" in the

budget. The early returns have been poor: Recent public opinions show Obama's foreign policy to be vastly popular, and Republicans lag behind Democrats and far behind the president when Americans are asked whom they trust to pull the economy out of a paralyzing recession.

And Republicans lost a razor's edge House special election in New York state after portraying the race as a referendum on Obama's response to the global economic crisis -and did little to veil their disappointment.

"The Republican Party must be competitive in districts like NY-20 if we are going to regain our congressional majorities" in the 2010 midterm elections, said Republican national committee chairman Michael Steele.

"They're floundering," said Norman Ornstein, an expert in About 70,000 foreign congressional politics at the American Enterprise Institute.

Ornstein pointed to House Republican leaders' delight at their ability to stay united against Obama's 787-billiondollar economic stimulus package when it passed in February in what they trumpeted as a sign of strength.

FROM PAGE 16 Mahmud, however, kept

silent when a correspondent said the Saudi King had addressed Hasina as his sister The state minister said the

prime minister had an extentheir 'iqama' (work permit) and will not lose jobs if the company owners are changed.

Bangladeshi girls to return home from Saudi Arabia after attaining 18 years of age, but now that restriction will not be in place, thus allowing girls of 18 years to continue to stay Asked about restriction on

recruitment of Bangladesh workers, Mahmud said professionals like doctors and engineers are regularly going The Saudi authorities

assured the PM that effective steps would be taken to recruit Bangladeshi workers, he added.

Industrial cops FROM PAGE 16 and cooperation to the gar-

ment sector and said the government is dealing with issues of the garment industries with utmost sincerity as the largest portion of foreign exchange comes from this Sahara said all problems

regarding 'jhut' (garment byproducts) would be resolved and added that an integrated efforts from all is needed to solve the problem. She also announced committee comprising o

representatives from locals, deputy commissioner, law enforcing agencies, BGMEA, BKMEA and home ministry to tackle the jhut problem. State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj said the prime minister from Saudi Arabia announced

that Tk 3424-crore stimulus package would be reconsidered. The garment industry representatives demanded announcement of financial assistance and policy support for the garment sector imme-

diately to deal with the curren global financial meltdown. BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshedy said the competing countries like India, Pakistan and China are giving different types of subsidy and stimulus package to this industry whereas nothing has been given to the country's garment industry in the

package, he said. Apart from frequent power cut and acute shortage of gas supply, production cost has increased in garment sector while buying orders and prices of the product fall significantly across the world due to the meltdown, he said adding, "it would be difficult to run our factories in the upcoming months if we are not given the financial assistance and policy support."

recently announced stimulus

He also said around 35 factories are now unable to pay the salaries to their workers and the number will increase in the coming months.

Pointing out various problems exist in garment sector, the manufacturers said 'Jhut' has become a major problem for the industry as many criminal activities are taking place centring jhut business.

AKM Shahidul Haque, police commissioner of DMP, police could not trace 35 garment owners who went into hiding fearing labour unrest for nonpayment of their salary and

He suggested giving jhuts to Dhaka City Corporation for recycling.

Lawmakers Sarah Begum Kabari, Jahid Ahsan Rasel, Nazrul Islam Babu, Benjir Ahmed, Aslamul Haque, Asaduzzaman Kamal, Shahriar Alam and representatives from BGMEA also spoke.

Move to drop

FROM PAGE 1 and engineer Mosharrat

Hossain are among them. He said they asked the

committee to look into the cases as those were filed for political harassment. The home ministry in

March decided to withdraw all 'political' cases. The ministry gave one month to submit application for withdrawal of the cases. Deadline for appli cation has been extended for one month on April 15.

Asia on alert

At least 81 people have died from severe pneumonia caused by a flu-like illness in Mexico, according to WHO. Some of those who died are confirmed to have a unique version of the A/H1N1 flu virus that is a combination of bird, pig and human viruses.

people were infected with swine flu, and all recovered or are recovering and at least two were hospitalized. Mexico has closed schools,

US authorities said 11

museums, libraries and theaters in a bid to contain the outbreak, which may have sickened about 1,000 people there. "It would be prudent for

health officials within countries to be alert to outbreaks of influenza-like illness or pneumonia, especially if these occur in months outside the usual peak influenza season," Chan said at a telephone news conference in Geneva on Saturday. "Another important signal

is excess cases of severe or fatal flu-like illness in groups other than young children and the elderly, who are usually at highest risk during normal ties. seasonal flu," she said, adding, "the situation is evolving quickly.

At Tokyo's Narita airport among the world's busiest with more than 96,000 people using it daily officials installed a device at the arrival gate for flights from Mexico to measure the temperatures of

"We are increasing health surveillance following the outbreak of swine flu," said Akira Yukitoki, an official at the airport's quarantine station. He said more than 160 passengers arriving from Mexico on Saturday were screened by the thermographic machine. No one complained of fever or severe coughing.

The airport also plans to put up special signs for passengers going to Mexico, urging them to "wear masks, wash hands and gargle," Yukitoki said.

"What we have to do now is to see ... whether all cases in Mexico are epidemiologically linked," said Hong Kong's Undersecretary for Food and Health Gabriel Leung. He refused to say whether Hong Kong would implement checks on people arriving from Mexico.

Asia has grappled in recent years with the H5N1 bird flu virus, which has killed at least 257 people worldwide since late 2003, according to WHO. Nearly 45 percent of the global bird flu deaths have occurred in Indonesia, with 115 fatali-

Scientists have warned for years about the potential for a pandemic caused by viruses that mix genetic material from humans and animals.

No vaccine specifically protects against swine flu, and it is unclear how much protection current human flu vaccines might offer.

advances, and the UN says

100,000 Tamil civilians who

have fled the conflict zone are

being detained in government-

camps are necessary as it

searches for former Tiger fight-

village on the edge of the Tigers'

territory and freed about 500

people held hostage, the gov-

come at a huge cost, rights

groups say, with the UN esti-

mating as many as 6,500 non-

combatants may have been

killed and another 14,000

wounded in the fighting so far

risked sowing the seeds of

further ethnic conflict on the

current tragedy if the military

end of the conflict only breeds

further enmity and ends hopes

for reconciliation and a unified

Sri Lanka in the future," the

White House said in a statement.

surgeon working for medical

aid charity Doctors without

Borders (MSF), said his team in

a state-run hospital near the

war zone had been over-

nurses cannot physically walk

around the ward," he said,

estimating 320 patients were in

people to treat them all."

Food crisis

historic highs because of the

global economic crisis, the

FAO on Thursday warned that

the cost of food remained high

in developing countries and

that "food emergencies"

An analysis of domestic

food prices in 58 developing

countries by the FAO found

that around 80 percent of the

countries were seeing higher

food prices than a year ago,

and around 40 percent were

seeing higher prices than

three months ago. In 17 per-

cent of countries, the prices

are the highest on record. The

situation is most dramatic in

economic crisis is contribut-

ing the problem, creating a

new class of hungry people

whose incomes are lower or

ple across the Asia-Pacific

region, the economic crisis

will also be a food crisis," she

said. "The prices may have

fallen, but their incomes have

Asian governments should

also consider long-term mea-

sures to prevent another crisis

In its report, the UN said

"For millions of poor peo-

who have lost their jobs.

fallen further still."

Heyzner warned that the

sub-Saharan Africa.

remained in 32 countries.

one 45-bed ward.

FROM PAGE 16

"It's so crowded that the

"There are simply too many

whelmed by injured civilians.

Paul McMasters, a British

"It would compound the

Sinhalese-majority island.

The United States has

The military successes have

ershiding among civilians.

ernment said on Sunday.

The government says the

Soldiers captured another

Sri Lanka rejects week after the latest military

run camps.

this year

FROM PAGE 16

depend on the response of the Sri Lankan government, Puleethevan told AFP by telephone from the last patch of rebel-held territory in the northeast of the island. UN humanitarian chief

John Holmes, on a visit to Sri

Lanka, had earlier on Sunday appealed to both sides to stop the violence, saying that recent fighting had taken "a terrible toll" on civilians. The UN believes up to 50,000 non-combatants are trapped in a strip of jungle

where Sri Lankan soldiers have surrounded the remnants of the once powerful LTTE. "We need a new humanitarian pause to get aid and aid

workers into the combat zone," Holmes said in a statement. The United States and the warned that Sri Lanka's leaders Group of Eight (G8) industrialised nations have repeated calls for a ceasefire, but the Sri Lankan government is determined to drive home its military assault and finally wipe

out the rebels. The Tigers controlled a third of the island in late 2006 but are now penned into a coastal area measuring just 10 square kilometres (four square miles).

Their founder and leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, is believed to be among the remaining Tiger fighters who have made a last stand, but the rebel spokesman declined to confirm the reports.

Streams of people have left rebel territory over the last

Second win FROM PAGE 16

to 139 for six in their 20 overs before South African left-arm seamer Abdulla picked up three wickets to restrict Rajasthan Royals 112-7. Third in the points table, Punjab now have two wins from four outings while Rajasthan are languishing at second from bottom with three points.

The in-form Sangakkara struck seven boundaries and a six in his 51-ball knock after coming into bat at number three with the Punjab side in some difficulty. He shared a 75-run fifth wicket partnership with Irfan Pathan, who blasted a couple of sixes in his 33-ball 39. However none of the other Punjab batsmen could make an impression on the Rajasthan bowlers. Kamran Khan and Munaf Patel took two wickets each but the reply of the defending champions was almost pathetic. Losing wickets at regular

intervals from the start, it was only a 60-run seventh wicket partnership between Ravinder Jadeja, who made 37, and captain Shane Warne (34*) gave their innings some respectability. Although Punjab captain

Yuvraj Singh opened the bowling with offspinner Romesh Powar, it was paceman Pathan who took the first two wickets before fellow left-armer Abdullah picked up three important wickets -- Rob Quiney, Dimitri Mascarenhas and Jadeja.

Legspinner Piyush Chawla also had a good day, picking up two wickets for just 22 runs from his four overs.

Elizabeth.

In today's matches, Chennai Super Kings take on Deccan Chargers in Durban while Kolkata Knight Riders face Mumbai Indians in Port

and cope with the impacts of climate change. Governments need to develop seed varieties that are flood- and droughtresistant and invest in irrigation networks and protect watersheds to prevent chronic water shortages that will worsen as temperatures increase, it said.

family members were taking a 'stronger blow' to the On Saturday, when his him to his home in Narsingdi, Rice price, which is now at following doctors' advice, his condition deteriorated, the press release said. He was admitted to

hospitals since January 22.

allowed three other convicts of this case--Badal, Estema Khatun Minu and Parvin--to file regular appeals with the apex court against their convictions by recalling its earlier

The Appellate Division had earlier dismissed the leave to appeals of Badal, Minu and Parvin on the grounds that they did not file their leave to

petitions on time. The defence lawyers said that the SC allowed the leave to appeal of Hasan on the ground that there was material non-disclosure of certain

During the hearing of the petition yesterday, counsel for the convicts Advocate Khandker Mahbub Hossain told the court that principal accused of the case Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, who has not even filed any leave to appeal petition with the SC against his conviction handed down by the HC, had con-

fessed to the court that only he himselfhad killed Shazneen. Khandker Mahbub said there is no evidence of involvement of his clients in of the Second Special Tribunal the killing.

acmised, Advocate Anisul Huq said that this is a case of no evidence and the accused should be allowed to file appeal against their convic-He said that Badal, Minu

and Parvin could not file leave

to appeal applications on time

due to shortage of money. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) ASM Abdul Mobin opposed the leave to appeal of Hasan, saying that there is a strong circumstantial evidence of involvement of Hasan in the killing. If all the statements of the prosecution witnesses and the circumstances involving the

previous incidents of the

killing are examined, it will be

proved that Hasan had insti-

gated Shahidul to kill

Shazneen, he said, adding that the leave to appeal cannot be allowed. Khandker Mahbub

Shazneen muder case clients will file separate regu-

> daughter of leading businesson April 23, 1998, the day a party was hosted by Rahman.

> > injury and there were bruises on her private parts. After several weeks of the incident, Shahid was arrested and he revealed that at the instigation of Hasan, he raped Shazneen with the help of Humayun, Shaniram, Badal, Minu and Parvin. But during the trial, he confessed to have

rapingher. Humayun, a guard at Rahman's house who died later in custody, Minu and Parvin gave confessional statements before magistrates

Kazi Rahamat Ullah, judge for Prevention of Women and Another counsel for the Children Repression, Dhaka, on September 2, 2003, delivered the verdict sentencing six of the seven accused to death in the case. The convicts who were

> Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, a domestic help, Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan alias Azad, a contractor, Badal, the contractor's assistant, Shaniram Mandal, a carpenter, and Estema Khatun Minu and Parvin, maids.

Following the leave to appeal filed by Hasan, SC Chamber Judge Justice Amirul 2006, stayed the HC verdict.

Hossain told newsmen that following the SC orders, his

lar appeals with the SC against the HC verdict in five to six Fifteen-year-old Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, the youngest man Latifur Rahman, was raped and killed at their Gulshan residence sometime between 8:00pm and 10:15pm

Her body bore 25 marks of

killed Shazneen but denied

at different dates.

condemned to death were The HC Death Reference Bench on this case comprising

Justice Ali Asgar Khan and

Justice Emdadul Haque, in its

verdict on July 10, 2006,

upheld the death penalty of

Shahid, Hasan, Badal, Minu

and Parvin and acquitted

Shaniram of the charge. Kabir Chowdhury on July 17,