No arrest

Talking to The Daily Star,

owners as they built the

hoardings that caused the

the hoardings despite

repeated protests from shop

owners," Salam said, adding,

"After the construction of the

hoardings, we again requested

the building owners in writing

to remove them from the roof

top. But the owners did not

Officer-in-Charge Kamal

Uddin said they did not arrest

Commissioner AKM Hafiz

Akhter said police filed a

general diary in this connec-

did not file a case in this con-

nection, the DC said when

family members of victims file

a case it makes it easier for the

police to proceed and easier

for the family to get compen-

authorities must be punished

for their illegal business,

authorities concerned at

Dhaka City Corporation,

Rajdhani Unnayan

Kartripakkha and the Fire

Service who did not come

forward to help police remove

the collapsed structure that

obstructed vehicular move-

took one car, the driver of

which was killed, into their

his target, the cruelty of stu-

dent politics took away his

loss, he went on that his

brother who was a student of

Islamic History had not been

visiting home since Eid-ul-

Azha last year saying that he

know how my brother was

killed and who were behind

his batch of Islamic History,

Abubakar secured 3.58 out of

were published and examina-

tions of the semester were

who was staying at Sir AF

Rahman Hall received severe

head injuries during the

clashes between BCL factions

at the hall and succumbed to

his injuries at Dhaka Medical

College and Hospital the next

DU authorities formed a nine-

member probe committee.

Following his death, the

The committee in its report

The report, however, could

Based on the report, DU

named 10 BCL persons

responsible for the violent

not clarify as to how Abubakar

was injured and who were

syndicate temporarily sus-

On February 2, Abubakar

held in September last year.

4.00 in the fourth semester.

Abbas said, "We are yet to

Among 136 examinees in

On March 13, the results

needed more time to study.

Overwhelmed by the great

Gulshan police said they

ment that night.

FROM PAGE 1

life," Abbas said.

custody as evidence.

Abubakar

causing deaths and injuries."

Hafiz said, "The building

He also rebuked the

When asked why the police

tion but did not file any case.

Gulshan Police Station

Gulshan division Deputy

respond to our requests."

anyone as of 8:30pm.

"The building owners built

deaths and injuries.

FROM PAGE 16

2 bodies found

The motive behind the killings was yet to be ascertained as neither the bus company staff nor relatives of the two victims could say why the trader had gone there and why both were

FROM PAGE 1

In the other incident, the body of advocate Abdullah Al Faruk, 40, of Shyampur was recovered from Dayaganj railway bridge area around 10:00pm on Monday.

Contacted, Officer-incharge of Jatrabari Police Station Md Moniruzzaman said the lawyer's body bore several marks.

Muggers might have stabbed him to death and made off with valuables, he suspected.

Wahiduzzaman, a relative of Faruk, said he had left his chamber at Motijheel around 7:00pm, and later found his body at Dhaka Medical College Hospital Morgue.

Quoting some local people, he also said Faruk was stabbed by muggers in Jatrabari area.

Asked about the murders at Arambagh, Emdad Hossain, a senior employee at the ticketing office, said, "We left office at about 1:30am yesterday leaving back Illias, who stays there every night. But we do not know why another person came there and who killed

Mobile phones of both went missing, he added. Sufian haliled from Senbagh upazila in Noakhali

and Illias from Motlab upazila in Chandpur. Sufian's nephew Ismail Hossain Rajeeb said his uncle had suffered huge losses in business, sent his family to his father-in-law's house and then he himself left his rented house in Fulbaria three months ago. He lost interest in business and

often used to spend time else-

BCL men

FROM PAGE 16 Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge of New Market Police Station MA Kamrul Islam said they picked up 15 activists from the college campus.

"But we do not know why he went to the ticketing office," he added.

Sufian's cousin Shahdat Hossain said he had to remain in hiding following feuds over financial matters concerning his business.

OC of Motijheel Police Station Tofazzal Hossain said they were probing the double murder but none was arrested

Franco-German spat fuels EU economic debate

AFP, Frankfurt

An economic policy dispute between France and Germany threatens to distract the eurozone as it faces fierce competition from Asian rivals, analysts and German media warned yesterday.

Barbed comments have been voiced in recent days over how eurozone economies should tackle global competition and internal trade, with Germany defending its drive for labour reform and exports against charges it neglects consumption.

French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde got the ball rolling Monday when she questioned German economic policy, suggesting its hefty trade surplus was a burden for eurozone part-

German Economy Minister Rainer Bruederle hit back on Tuesday.

"For countries, which in the past have lived off entitlements and neglected their competitiveness, to point their finger at others is politically... understandable, but still unfair," he told the Frankfurter Allgemeine daily.

Berlin's finance minister later sought to defuse the latent spat between the top eurozone economies.

Wolfgang Schaeuble professed a "friendly and trusting" working relationship with Lagarde and said he had expressed his viewpoint with a football metaphor.

80pc billboards

FROM PAGE 16

on the roofs of private build-

The DCC did not authorise any hoardings after that even though thousands of hoardings had been set up illegally at different points of the city, said an official of the DCC. It, however, failed to take any effective measure against them citing various reasons.

Earlier, the DCC conducted a drive against unauthorised hoardings following a number of hoarding-related accidents that killed three people in the city in 2006 and 2007.

The DCC in July, 2007, decided not to allow any hoardings and signboards on rooftops and asked building owners, through ads in a number of national dailies, to

pull them down immediately. On September 9, 2007, Rajuk published a notice in several national dailies also asking building owners to pull down hoardings on their rooftops by September 16, 2007.

The initiatives of the DCC and Rajuk to pull down hoardings from rooftops came to a halt on December 10, 2007 when the High Court issued a stay order against the move,

Taking advantage of this

Complainant of the case

the complaint of the com-

Four soldiers were alleg-

edly involved in the killing of

Col Mujib, Lt Col Enayet and

Maj Moqbul, a member of the

submission specifically men-

tioned the roles of the accused

which are punishable offences

He added many of the

according to the BDR Act.

helped the rebels.

Prosecutor Tarik during his

prosecution told reporters.

mutiny.

plainant.

order, advertisers have been setting up thousands of unsafe and unauthorised hoardings on rooftops and elsewhere in the city that pose serious risk to people.

"There are many reasons for a hoarding to collapse...the base of the board not being built properly, use of poor base materials or angles of the board not being properly set,' said Ali Alam of Shatorupa Ad.

Chief Town Planner of the DCC Sirajul Islam said, "Who have been continuing their drive against illegal hoard-

He said the hoarding that collapsed Monday did not have DCC's permission.

Rafiul Islam, president of Outdoor Advertising Owners Association, said the authorities concerned should form a probe committee to find out the reasons behind the hoarding collapse. He said the committee could punish people if found responsible.

The hoardings, apart from being unauthorised and poorly set up, tend to give motorists another reason to

take their eyes off the street. "They are very flashy and colourful," said Saleh, a traffic sergeant at Gulshan-2 inter-

said a DCC official.

310 BDR rebels FROM PAGE 1 armoury and armaments of around the Darbar Hall. Elite victims' families, arson, insti-Rapid Action Battalion and gating others to take part in police personnel were also the mutiny and tried to deployed. destroy evidence by hiding

Nayeb Subeder Giasuddin on grave, he said. Monday filed his complaints The prosecutor further said accusing the alleged rebels of during the mutiny Lance their involvement in the Nyack Abdul Hannan said, "We don't need army officers [in BDR]. Go back, your days The prosecutor's allegation against them was identical to

slain officers' bodies in mass

Habilder Yusuf Ali instigated others to take part in the mutiny by saying, "Army killed Bangabandhu (president

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman) and Zia (president Ziaur Rahman), so they would not be spared," he added. Forty-seven witnesses are likely to deposit their state-

ments before the court on May 9 if the court frames charges against the accused. The other members of the

accused directly took part in the mutiny, while others court are Lt Col AKM Golam Rabbani and Maj Saieed Some of them were also Hasan Taposh. A representative of the attorney general involved in killings, looting arms and ammunition from was also present in the court.

OPENING BANK A/C

5 farmers hurt in cop beating

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

At least five farmers were injured as police charged baton on them when waiting for opening bank accounts for agricultural input assistance card on Razoir upazila parishad premises of the district yesterday noon.

Witnesses said a chaotic situation arose when some 11,288 farmers from four unions of the upazila gathered at the upazila premises to open bank account, as the crowd went out of control four policemen charged baton on the farmers.

One of the injured Shadananda Sarkar said police charged baton while thousands of farmers trying to queue up for opening the accounts.

Officer-in-Charge Mashiur Rahman of the police station said a team of four policemen led by Sub-Inspector Hemayet was deployed on the premises to tackle the farm-Accountant of Upazila

Agricultural office Mohammad Selim said police charged baton as the situation went out of control. However, all the farmers

opened their bank accounts after the incident, he added. Among the injured farmers

are Sharat Chandra Modal, 28

Kulin Bairagi, 35, Kanai Baroi 27 and Shadananda Sarkar, Kulin Bairagi was admitted to Razoir upazila Health Complex with serious injuries

while others were given first

Blast blows

FROM PAGE 1 the building to find the engineer with two others trying to

seal a leak. He added, within seconds the house was filled with fire following a huge bang and the roofs tossed onto the ground in front of the build-

Manager Mohammad Babul Mia told The Daily Star other structures at the compound remained intact as Habib could manage to stop gas supply to the booster pipe after hearing the hiss-

Babul said they stored around 100 CNG cylinders, which remained intact.

He added Inspector Abdur Rob of the Directorate of Explosives visited the spot yesterday afternoon and he also suspects the booster pipe leak might have caused the explosion.

The refuelling station sources say there are two booster pipes in the CNG station and those need frequent repair due to mechani-

cal faults. The victims along with seven others during the accident were on night duty, which was scheduled to end

at 8:00am. A team of engineers from Rahim Afrooz, which installed the booster pipes and other instruments, was testing the instruments to detect the cause of the blast.

Ecnec okays

FROM PAGE 16

The capacity of the 10 power plants are Gopalganj 100 MW, Faridpur 50 MW, Bera 80 MW, Baghabari 50 MW, Katakhali 50 MW, Santahar 50 MW, Hathazari 100 MW, Dohazari 100 MW, Daudkandi 50 MW and Ghorashal 200 MW.

The other projects approved in the meeting are Comprehensive Village Development Programme-2nd phase under the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division; production and development of high quality seeds of paddy wheat and maize under the Agriculture Ministry; participatory small scale water resources sector project-3rd phase under the Local Government Division; primary education stipend project-2nd phase under the Primary and Mass Education Ministry; construction of Bangladesh Film Archive building under the Information Ministry; and modernisation and rehabilitation project for the units no

Plant Complex. Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam and advisers to the premier, among others, were present in

3,4 and 5 of Ashuganj Power

the meeting.

Yesterday in Sadarghat, only one steamer-launch run by BIWTA expenses and rent. bound for Barisal was running. There are usually over 100

Passengers suffer

NEWS

vessels carrying over 50,000 passengers to and from the capital each day. Speaking from Sadarghat,

FROM PAGE 1

Nargis Begum, a garment worker, said, "I planned to go home to Lalmohon in Bhola to visit my ailing son-in-law. "I came all the way from Mohakhali and now I have to go

to Gabtali to take a bus." Shah Alam, senior vicepresident of the workers' association Noujan Shramik Federation said, "Workers

remain on a pay scale

announced in 2004, which was

supposed to expire in 2009. "We were forced to call the strike as we have been waiting for anewpayscale for 14 months. "We've made repeated efforts

fortalks."

For general workers, the basic pay is Tk 1300 per month, while masters getTk2,400.

others, including his son and Workers also receive an another employee of his shop. allowance of Tk 600 for medical

Other demands from the workers include security, 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 preventing robberies on water-

Senior Vice-president of

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (Passenger Carriers) Owners' Association Badiuzzaman Badal said, "The workers are being stubborn. "They want a 200 percent

raise and they also want the dearness allowance, which is unreasonable." An official from the Directorate of Labour who spoke

on condition of anonymity said that two committees are working to resolve the issues. In Narayanganj, three

launches were attacked by workers, causing injuries to three people.

Chittagong Test **FROM PAGE 16** was an aberration from

and Mushfigur's valiant batting that the Tigers could put up a spirited display chasing an improbable target of 513 runs.

The two batsmen shared a 167-run partnership for the sixth wicket, but wicketkeeperbatsman Mushfigur missed a well-deserved hundred only by

fiveruns. Off-spinner Graeme Swann finally broke through Bangladesh's resistance when he put an end to Junaed's marathon 292-ball effort of 106 runs in the second over after lunch. The lanky left-hander offered a catch to Paul Collingwood in the slips but before that he reached the

three-digit mark magnificently. Junaed struck two superb boundaries against paceman Steven Finn on way to completing his hundred in 262 balls. It was an outstanding effort from the Rajshahi man as he occupied the crease for more than six hours and hit 17 boundaries in the process.

Mushfigur, who hit 79 in the first innings, was quick to follow his partner and this time also the bowler was Swann. It Mushfigur as the right-hander went down to charge the spinand was yorked.

missed his second Test hundred at the same venue but it was an innings to cheer about And his determination also encouraged his partner to bat through the first session to go for a happy lunch on 277 for five after resuming the day on 191 for five. During his 232-ball 95, Mushfigur smashed twelve boundaries.

the small crowd with a bighitting display as the righthander smote three fours and as many sixes during his 45ball 36 before becoming Swann's victim. And with the wicket, Swann became the first English off-spinner to take ten subcontinent and the first to take a 10-wicket haul after Jim Laker, who took 19 wickets against Australia in 1956.

The second and final Test starts on March 20 at the Shere-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

and then the Geological

3 local firms

On March 10, the ministry in a letter asked the BMD to issue the licences with certain

As per the conditions, the companies would explore peat coal in the blocks at their own expense. They would not conduct any activities that biodiversity, fishery, plants, ble. important structures, relics, cultural or religious struc-

covery. This licence does not ensure issuance of mining

Since the 50's, the Geological Survey of Pakistan

of peat deposits in various localities of Bangladesh. Amongst these discoveries, the deposits of Baghia-Chanda Beel in Madaripur, Kola Mauza in Khulna, Chatal Beel in Moulvibazar, Pagla and can affect the environment, Salla in Sunamganj are nota-

situated near the surface.

The reserve of the dry pear is calculated to be 150 million tonnes. In two separate studies in the 80's, it was found that the peat could be mined for the production of electricity in small power plants (10-20MW) and consumption in

messages on the occasion.

dent conveyed his heartfelt

felicitations to the children of

the country and urged the

young generation to be

inspired with the deep sense of

the children to know real his-

tory of the country and long

struggling life o

Save Modhupur

cultivation of bananas, papa-

yas, pineapples on the forest

Mahmud Hossain and Justice

ATM Fazle Kabir issued the rule

following a writ petition jointly

filed by Bangladesh

Environmental Lawyers'

Association (Bela) and the

Joyenshahi Adivasi Unnayan

commissioner (revenue) of

Tangail and upazila revenue

officer of Modhupur have been

made respondents to the rule.

forest act, evict illegal construc-

tions in the forest, frame rules on

village forestry and stop illegal

collection of revenue from the

Advocate Probir Neogi

The additional deputy

An HC bench of Justice Syed

The prime minister urged

patriotism.

Bangabandhu.

FROM PAGE 1

land.

Parishad.

FROM PAGE 1

as National Children's Day at state level.

the day.

Tight security measures have been taken centring the VVIPs arrival at Tungipara.

The president will place

party president Sheikh Hasina, will also place floral wreath at the grave of Bangabandhu at 10:00am and then attend a milad mahfil there.

Mela at Bangabhaban. The programmes include

hoisting of the national and party flags at Bangabandhu Bhaban in the capital and AL offices across the country at 6:30am, placing of floral wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban at 7:30am. A discussion will be held at

the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh in the capital with AL Presidium member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser in the chair.

ner but misjudged the length The Bogra man might have

Nayeem Islam entertained wickets in a match on the

conditions.

The companies would not explore radio-active minerals but if they find any, they would have to inform the BMD and the Atomic Energy Commission about the dis-

licence in the future.

Survey of Bangladesh discovered considerable quantities

Discovered in the early 50's, the Geological Survey of Pakistan found peat in 500sqkm of Baghia-Chanda Beel. The average thickness of this peat is two metres and

Bangabandhu

The day will also be observed

Ruling Awami League, its different associated bodies, socio-cultural and political organisations and ministries designed programmes to mark

wreath at Bangabandhu's grave there. AL leaders, being led by

On return, the president will inaugurate the Children's Day programme to be arranged by Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore

forest people. The president and the assisted by Iqbal Kabir moved prime minister gave separate the petition.

pended the accused. BNP demands

FROM PAGE 1 In his message, the presi-

day.

incident.

behind it.

party's central office at Nayapaltan in the capital.

occasions, demanded "midterm election" terming the government absolutely failed to run the country. He protested a threat by

Delwar, earlier in several

State Minister Kamrul Islam who warned to take legal action if anyone terms Ziaur Rahman the proclaimer of independence. He also said people know

Zia declared independence

on March 26-27, 1971 as

Sheikh Mujib was arrested on March 25. "Zia's proclamation o Independence is historically proven," he claimed.

Delwar also condemned filing cases against opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque for raising allegation against prime minister's son Sajib Wazed Joy, saying that ruling party has exposed their autocratic and indecent attitude. Earlier, in a joint meeting

the party has finalised the programmes to observe The petitioners urged the HC Independence Day. to direct the respondents to Party leaders Altaf correctly identify the borders of Modhupur salban under the

Hossain Chowdhury, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Amanullah Aman, Mizanur Rahman Minu, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Zainul Abdin Farroque, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Ilyas Ali, among others, were present at the meeting with Delwar in the chair.

Uproar in JS

FROM PAGE 1

"I expect fair conduct and decent language from all of you-Salam said he filed the murder -both treasury and opposition,' case against the building Hamid continued.

Earlier, the speaker decried the unruly behaviour of some lawmakers and use of indecent language on the floor on March 3. He said the way some lawmakers conduct themselves is shameful.

But again on March 10, treasury and opposition lawmakers wrangled bitterly, leaving the House in disorder for over five minutes.

Yesterday it all began during the question-answer session.

As Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui said the BNP-led government had closed the Adamji and other jute mills at the expense of national interests, the opposition lawmakers broke into noisy protests.

In response, the jute minis-

ter said, "Honourable speaker,

even if they all shout together their voice won't be able to down mine." Without mentioning any names, he said, "They shut down Adamji. Who are they? They are the confederates of the

defeated force. They are the beneficiaries of Bangabandhu murder. They are the inheritors of the killers." Soon the opposition members stood on their seats and protested the minister's

Immediately after the gues-

But the opposition deputies

tion-answer hour ended at 7:00pm, the speaker gave floor to opposition chief whip Zainul Abdin Farroque to speak on a point of order.

remarks.

were still on their feet yelling. As they drew the speaker's attention to the minister's comments, Hamid said, "I can' censure a minister. What can

do if a minister says something

while answering questions?"

JRC meet starts FROM PAGE 16

one. He said an interim agreement on Teesta waters might eventually lead to a long-term

Earlier, a technical com-

mittee meeting on sharing of Teesta waters and a secretary level meeting were held in Dhaka where a draft proposal of the treaty was handed over to Delhi. Constituted in 1972, the JRC is the highest forum for resolution of disputes on

rivers between the two countries. However, the two countries failed to hold ministeriallevel JRC talks in five years due to Delhi's unwillingness although the JRC charter says at least two meetings should be held every year, sources in the water resources ministry

The last ministerial-level IRC meet was held in Dhaka in September 2005.

Meanwhile, instead of holding JRC talks regularly and reaching an understanding on Teesta, India has long been insisting on conducting a hydrological survey.

consuming, we can easily strike an interim deal," said the foreign ministry official. Earlier India and Bangladesh agreed to resolve the water sharing issue during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's India visit in January. Hasina and her counterpart directed their water resources

ministers to hold JRC talks in

the first quarter of 2010.

"Since such survey is time-

Even after that, some opposition MPs kept clamouring for the floor and did not allow their

chiefwhip to speak. Trying to keep order, the speaker urged them to calm

down. But as they disregarded Hamid's call, the treasury

bench members began shoutingback at them. Despite repeated requests from the speaker, the opposition chief whip did not take the

floor letting the bedlam continue. Things settled down only after Anee was cautioned. Farroque started speaking at

7:07pm. He blasted the government for creating obstacles to holding party programmes in front of BNP central office and for what he said was filing case against

him. Taking the floor on a point of order, treasury bench chief whip Abdus Shahid came down hard on the opposition lawmakers for their conduct.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two organisations of indigenous people yesterday rejected the BNP parliamentary committee's observation that the army pullout caused the recent hills violence.

They also demanded that a judicial committee be formed immediately to probe the violence in Sajek. "How the opposition chief

whip could blame the unrest in

Baghaichhari and

Khagrachhari on army pull-out when army personnel were involved in the attack on indigenous people, and two people died in their firing," said Sajek Land Protection Committee Convenor Gyanandu Chakma and Sajek Women's Society joint statement.

would not have happened had the army not been withdrawn.

sharing waters of common the hills violence. Leaders of indigenous people said, it was a rational decision of the hill people to boycott the BNP parliamentary com-

The statement of the chief whip made it clear that the

theyadded.

for boycotting the committee.

FROM PAGE 1

cial mentioned.

criminals.

FROM PAGE 16

nights, said Kamruzzaman when contacted. Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the criminal

to fire back, which triggered a gunfight, he said.

Rubel's body from the spot. Rubel is an accused in five murder cases and several extortion cases, the Rab offi-

Shafique Ahmed told US

authorities that his govern-

ment has almost completed

arranging the logistics for

holding trials of the 1971 war

Investigators and prosecu-

The law minister told reporters at the secretariat that US authorities have offered to provide legal, technical, mechanical, scientific and intelligence assistance to combat militancy and terror-

Bangladesh in recovering laundered money. The law minister declined

to respond to questions relating to the amount of money laundered and the names of the people involved, as he believes it is not in the interests of ongoing investigations to do so. The minister said that

ing the USA, Singapore and Malaysia. The USA has also offered to provide further training for Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)

money has been syphoned off

to various countries, includ-

US authorities also want to assist in bringing the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu back to Bangladesh, with authori-

tors will be appointed for the trial after preparations within the Old High Court building are complete. 9 foreign firms

China," he said. The existing two-lane bridges on those rivers are at risk from damage caused by overloaded vehicles, the minister said.

He said the Roads and

"The issue [bridges] will figure

high on the agenda during the

prime minister's visit to

constructs roads and bridges fit for trucks weighing not more than 10 tonnes. But most of the trucks carry freights of much higher weight, reducing longevity of the

bridges and roads. The unscrupulous traders do that to slash transport expenses, he said. "The government has

planned to set up four more load control stations to curb overloading," he added.

Convenor Ambika Chakma in a Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque, who led a BNP parliamentary team on a visit to the affected areas in Sajek and Gangaram Mukh in Rangamati, told newsmen on Monday that the violence

At a press briefing in Khagrachhari, he also said a vested quarter is responsible for

mittee during its visit in the

intention of their visit was to protect the killers and attackers,

In the statement, the organisations thanked the hills people

'Criminal' killed

opened fire prompting them

Later Rab recovered

US examining

FROM PAGE 16 mutual assistance in combating terrorism.

The US also wants to assist

and police personnel.

USA.

ties there making it clear they will deport the killers if they are found to be living in the

Highways Department usually

Judicial probe demanded on Sajek violence