Schoolgirl burnt

But as The Daily Star drew his attention to her last statement, the OC said he then

Tobarak, who lives in the same village -- Kona Bhawal -- swooped on Pinky at around 7:30am when none of her

Pinky, a class-ten student,

had emptied the kerosene bottle on her and threw a lit matchstick setting her ablaze, statement her daughter gave before death.

Flames swallowed up Pinky in no time.

At the time, her mother was on a walk in the neighbourhood. As she heard a shrill scream, she sprinted to her house to find a burning Pinky throwing herself into

others, they took her to DMCH burn unit at around 2:00pm. After fighting for life for several hours, the girl died

laru Mia, used to tease Pinky house at night.

Alfatun Bhuiyan, Pinky's rickshaw-puller father, said Tobarak on numerous occasions had told Pinky that he would throw acid on her if she did not marry him.

able, they sought an end to it through village arbitration, but to no avail.

Locals said most of the villagers are afraid of Tobarak as his brother work as a

a gifted dancer. Only a few days ago, she won Tk 10,000

in a dance contest in her

On March 17, Afroz Moni, a student of Kishoreganj Azimuddin High School, committed suicide failing to withstand relentless teasing.

class-nine student at the capital's West Agargaon, and Umme Kulsum Elora, 14, killed themselves in January and April under similar circumstances.

Ecnec okays

FROM PAGE 16

The project titled 'Capital Dredging of River Systems In Bangladesh' would cost Tk 1,028 crore.

Under the project, capital dredging will be done from the upstream of Sirajganj Hardpoint to Dhaleswari uptake and from Bhuapur Tarakandi Embankment to Nolin Bazar to maintain navigability of the rivers. The Ecnec also approved

Tk 944 crore project for Buriganga, New Dhaleshwari, Pungli, Bangshai and Turag rivers.

The aim of this project is to increase water flow in the Buriganga and the Turag and maintain their navigability.

It also aims to free the rivers from illegal occupation and develop irrigation and fisheries. The project work will start

on July and end by June 2014. The Ecnec also approved South-Western Coordinated Water Resources Planning and Management (revised) project at a cost of Tk 283 crore, project for setting up Barisal Engineering College at a cost of Tk 74 crore, Development of National ICT Infra-Network for Bangladesh Government (BanglaGovNet) project at a cost of Tk 281 crore and

Strengthening the Research

and Exploration Capabilities

of the Geological Survey of

Bangladesh project at a cost of

Shujan President Prof

Muzaffer Ahmad said refor-

mation of political process,

decentralisation of power, and

the empowerment of the local

government bodies are para-

mount to build a country free

prime minister, leader of the

opposition, chief justice,

lawmakers, and those who

hold the constitutional posts

publish their wealth accounts

International Bangladesh

Chairman M Hafizuddin Khan

alleged the ACC is not getting

any cooperation from the

government, instead a few

measures have been taken to

sion play an effective role, and,

to make it more effective, the

chairman and members of the

commission should be given

constitutional posts," he said.

Alam Majumder said, apart

from political will, a proper

legal structure, active institu-

tions and social awareness are

Columnist Syed Abul

On March 20, the law min-

ister told reporters at a func-

tion that Pakistan had been

necessary to curb corruption.

Maksud moderated the

Shujan Secretary Badiul

"We want that the commis-

Transparency

He demanded that the

from corruption.

in newspapers.

make it ineffective.

Tk38 crore.

Sub-inspector Mizanui Rahman of Sabujbagh Police Station said an unnatural death case was filed in this connection.

Moniruzzaman Monir

rushed to Dhaka Medical

College Hospital. He died there

Monir and the girl once were

The girl and some of

money collectors of a private

Monir's colleagues said Monir

had taken several suicide

attempts by taking sedatives as

the girl had been denying his

proposal. He also wrote the

girl's name in his hand with a

These incidents pushed the

girl to leave the job and join a life

insurance company. However,

Monir used to visit the girl's

girl said, "I liked Monir as a

friend, not as a boyfriend and

did not want to marry him for

her for the last two years, she

Monir had been proposing

Monir's elder brother Saheb

Ali who was also present during

the incident said, "Monir took

me to the girl's house saying

that he had to pick up some

medicines from a house in

Maniknagar. I had no earlier

knowledge of Monir loving the

did not love him, Monir sud-

denly pressed a hidden knife

into his abdomen, Saheb Ali

When the girl said that she

Talking to The Daily Star the

Man stabs

FROM PAGE 16

yesterday at 2:00am.

firm at Dholaipar.

knife, they added.

house quite regularly.

various reasons."

added.

added.

Indian Maoists FROM PAGE 16

remaining CRPF personnel and the Maoists.

The attack comes two days after Maoists set off a land mine blast in Koraput district of eastern state of Orissa, killing 11 security personnel of elite anti-Maoist Special Operations Group.

On February 15, 24 personnel of Eastern Frontier Rifles were killed in a Maoist attack on their camp in West Bengal's West Midnapore

dent, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh talked to Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram over telephone to make an assessment of the situation. Both of them

called it a "horrific" incident Chidambaram said it showed the "brutality and savagery" or the Maoists.

Chidambaram said something must have gone "drastically wrong" in the joint operations as the CRPF personnel seemed to have walked into a trap laid by the Maoists.

Helicopters were placed to evacuate the injured and bring back the bodies, Chhattisgarh Director General of Police

The city dwellers have been facing acute water crisis over the last few weeks.

Wasa sources said it currently produces some 190 crore litres of water a day, whereas the demand goes up to 220 crore litres during summer.

Meanwhile, locals of Gulshan road No. 24-32 held a meeting to find ways to over

come water crisis in the area. Asif Ibrahim, a resident of the area, said people are not getting water from the main pipeline over the last three to four weeks. They bring water

Some of the residents will meet this evening to discuss how to mobilise support for a campaign seeking an immedi ate resolution of the crisis.

Diarrhoea

FROM PAGE 16

vehicles it is providing safe water to the areas where there are acute water crisis.

If there is leakage in the water line, the dirty water may enter into the pipe and contaminate it, they said.

Very soon Wasa will be able to provide safe water to the

NGOs, sources said. Furthermore, Wasa has taken a long-term project funded by the ADP to replace all the pipelines in the city,



FROM PAGE 16 the shoddiness of work.

"WDB officials made a hasty estimate during winter when the breaches were smaller, and the water level was low, but now the depth and width of the breaches have gotten larger as they took quite a long time to issue work orders," said Jamshed Ali, a sub-contractor who was repairing an embankment at Jaliakhali in Dakope.

WDB officials however said a lack of availability of quality mud, existence of strong current at the breaches, uncertainty over funding, contractors' tendency for not participating in bids for repairing larger breaches, and appointment of inexperienced sub-contractors by main contractors are the reasons for the delay and shoddy work.

Dakope Upazila Nirbahi Officer Quazi Atiur Rahman said the situation is bad, as the water level is increasing.

It will not be possible to finish the job before the rainy season, he feared adding that a tug of war between WDB and the contractors over alloca-

Mamun's wife FROM PAGE 1

absentia, the court said her punishment would take effect from the day her arrest or surrender to the court.

Judge Mohammad Sirajul Islam of the Special Judge's Court-7 on March 27, 2008 awarded Giasuddin Al Mamun 10-year and his wife Shahina three-year rigorous imprisonment in the case filed for amassing Tk 111.3 crore illegally.

Of the total ill-gotten wealth, Mamun accumulated wealth worth over Tk 101.73 crore while Shahina over Tk 9.22 crore.

ACC filed the case with Cantonment police against them on May 8, 2007.

tion of money is basically lingering the work. Mossadek Hossain, WDB

executive engineer of Division-2 in Khulna, said they managed to repair around 80 percent of totally destroyed dykes in the belt, but are yet to start repairing the partially damaged ones.

"We've invited tender for repairing 96 kilometres out of the 190 kilometres of partially damaged dykes, and will soon start the work with a target to finish within 45 days," he said adding that the rest will be repaired later in phases. Aila struck the country's

southwest coast on May 25 last year, leaving 190 people dead and thousands destitute.

BDR mutiny case

FROM PAGE 16

Special Court-2 is set to give judgment at around 4:00pm on the mutiny charge since the February 25-26 BDR carnage.

All the 29 accused placed their written and oral arguments before the threemember jury panel headed by BDR Director General Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam.

Prosecutor of the case and commanding officer of 25 Rifles Battalion Lt Col Sirajul Haque and public prosecutors Mosharaf Hossain Kajol and Monjurul Alam also placed counter arguments before the

The proceedings of the day ended at 2:15pm starting from 8:30am.

Trial of the mutineers started on February 3 after complainant Subedar Maj Aminul Haque Sheikh read out the allegations brought against them before the court.

A total of 31 witnesses out of 40 gave depositions before the court on Sunday and Monday.

The same court on Sunday framed charges against 29 alleged BDR mutineers.

Campaign

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Ansar and VDP, National Security Intelligence, Rapid Action Battalion, and the director general of Prime Minister's Office. Home ministry officials say

the ministries put little importance on the campaign although the government showed seriousness in combating militancy. "The home ministry itself is

not as serious as it was before, a senior official told The Daily Star seeking anonymity.

In the last meeting, each of the ministries and authorities was given specific tasks but they failed to deliver. Only the religious affairs ministry arranged some religious gatherings last winter highlighting the impacts of mili-

The education ministry has been asked to organise teacher-student conventions at district, upazila and union levels on militancy. It was also supposed to take measures to incorporate essays and short stories in textbooks from the

session 2010. "But no representative from the education ministry attended the last meeting to talk about its activities," said a deputy secretary of the home

ministry. The meeting asked the education ministry to come up with update in the next meeting. The information ministry

was tasked with making docu mentaries, short-films, dramas, advertisements and video clips against militancy and putting those on the media. But no such step was taken. The DGFI was assigned to

make an anti-militancy shortfilm and send it to the home ministry for approval. This film was supposed to be aired in state and private TV chan nels and released in cinemas across the country. But the ministry has yet to

receive the film.

The home ministry officials said a meeting chaired by the prime minister should be convened immediately to gear up the campaign. "The ministries concerned should also observed.

The government also decided to engage 60 lakh Ansar and VDP members to fight militancy as networks of these two agencies are spread even to the remotest parts of

Buriganga grabbing

directives, including one upon the government, to complete the demolition of illegal structures and remove the debris by November 30 this year.

On January 24 this year, the HC again directed the government to start the demolition as stipulated by its earlier previous order.

As directed by two district administration surveyors, who carried lists and proper maps of the area, the bulldozer moved first to demolish wellprotected premises of Insaf Foods. A large signboard in front of the gate warned that the HC in 2002 had issued a permanent stay order against any move to demolish the premises.

Its owner Haji Mohammad Enayet Ullah told The Daily Star over phone that the demolition team had no right to break any part of his industrial structure.

"We have a valid High Court order which forbids anyone from demolishing our premises. This demolition is illegal," Enayet Ullah claimed.

The President of the Sultanganj unit of the Awami League Haji Solaiman also protested the move for demolition and rang up the local

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Quamrul Islam for his help. Solaiman then handed over the phone to on-duty magistrate Md Al Amin. Al Amin politely explained the minister that he was there to oversee law and order during execution of the HC direction. "Sir, if I am barred from

doing my duty I shall have to inform the learned court about it immediately," Al Amin told the minister in presence of scores of pressmen and officials. The officials in-charge of

the demolition, however, did not have any plan at hand for navigability of rivers as Bangladesh and India use the removal of huge amount of debris as they proceeded for the next target. According to the Dhaka district administration survey,

jurisdiction of the district

administration.

magistrate.

along the 69 kilometres stretch of the rivers Buriganga, Turag and Balu there are 4021 illegal occupiers of the river area. ports of call. There are 852 concrete and 1,223 semi concrete structures and 1,946 illegal land-fills on the three rivers under the

or longer-term transportation of ODCs from Ashuganj. The day for the next demo-As per the joint communilition drive would be qué, India will make necessary announced soon, said the investment in this regard.

Jr school certificate exams in Nov first week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first Junior School Certificate (JSC) and equivalent examinations will be held in the first week of November. Nearly 20 lakh Class VIII

students of schools and madrasas across the country will take the exams under eight general education boards and the madrasa education board. However, the examinations will be held under uniformed question papers. The pattern of subject-wise question and marks for the exam was published on the

website of the education ministry, Dhaka Education Board and Inter-education Board, says an official handout. The websites are www.moedu.gov.bd, www.dhakaeducationboard.go v.bd and www. educationboard.gov.bd. The exams will be held on nine subjects, each for 100

marks. The pass mark has been fixed at 33 for each subject.

The subjects are: Bangla paper I, Bangla paper II, English paper I, English paper II, General Mathematics, General Science, Samajik Bigyan (Social Science), Religion, Krishi Shikhha (Agriculture Studies)/Home Economics.

There will be no practical

Results will be published on Grade Point Average (GPA) system and academic transcripts would be issued instead of certificates after the results. Grade A+ (5.00) will be given

for 80-100 marks while A (4.00) for 70-79, A- (3.50) for 60-69, B (3.00) for 50-59, C (2.00) for 40-49, D (1.00) for 33-39 and F (0.00) for 00-32 marks. The authorities have fixed the age-limit for the class VIII

students, according to which a student not bellow the age of 11 years and not more than 17 years can study in class VIII. The education boards concerned will send schools and madrasas the published copy of

question and marks. TRIPURA POWER PLANT

the pattern of subject-wise

Indians in city to assess facilities for machinery transport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-member Indian technical team is now visiting Bangladesh to expedite the process of improving roads and waterways to transport heavy machinery for setting up a power plant in Tripura

Meanwhile, a joint team of experts from both the countries has prepared a report assessing the cost of renovation of Ashuganj port and improving 59 kilometres road from the port to Akhaura linking Tripura's Palatana where the power plant will be set up, shipping ministry officials said.

The technical team led by SP Gaur, chairman of Inland Waterways Authorities of India, arrived here on Sunday. The delegation met ship-

ping ministry officials on Monday and the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday. "During the discussion, we

told them that we need to develop both the Ashuganj port and the roads to facilitate transportation of the Over Dimensional Consignments (ODCs) for the Palatana power project," BIWTA Chairman Abdul Malek Mia told The Daily Star. He said that some rivers

would require dredging since the consignments will come to Ashuganj port through water-"The consignments will first come to Narayanganj

from Kolkata and then will go to the Ashuganj port," he The BIWTA chairman also said, "We need to improve

water routes for 98 percent of the total 10 lakh tonnes of their consignments." During prime minister's visit to Delhi in February this year, both India and

Bangladesh agreed to designate Ashuganj and Palatana as They also decided that a joint team would assess the improvement of infrastructure and the cost for one-time

> proper investigation. Earlier, Alauddin also dug out and took away the pipe of a tube well installed at the same school.

Women judges stir up old debate in Egypt

AP, Cairo

When women tried to join the bench on Egypt's top administrative court, the uproar from its judges was fierce. Women are too emotional, they insisted and who will take care of the family if the mother is busy with the arduous tasks of the courtroom?

In internet chat rooms, the response from Egyptian men and women was even stronger. Women are too fragile, they're not up for making life-changing rulings, and menstruation and pregnancy make them unfit to be judges. It took a street protest, gov-

ernment intervention and a Constitutional Court ruling over the past weeks to get women appointed to Egypt's State Council court for the first time. The final result was a victory, but many women's rights advocates are dismayed that after decades of struggle it took such a fight, and that such views still run so deep, even among the country's elite.

Especially given that women have already been judges for years on most Egyptian courts.

"I was surprised and confused why are we going back to square one to discuss some thing that is our constitutional right?" said Tahany el-Gebali who in 2003 became Egypt's first female judge when she was appointed to the Constitutional Court, the country's highest judiciary body. Egypt has a century-old

women's movement, and women have long served as government ministers and business executives, doctors and other professionals not to mention the large numbers working in factories, small businesses and household industries.

But the dispute illustrated how so far, progress for women

4 firms

FROM PAGE 1 Prof Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury selected the four companies after examining pre-qualification proposals of nine local and foreign companies, meeting sources said.

The committee has advised the Bridge Division to float the final tender to select one of the four companies.

In November last year, the Bridge Division invited international tender to select prequalified investors.

The experts committee categorised AR Track Hawai Rocket Rahmat (Bangladesh) and BPHB-BCC JV (Malaysia-Bangladesh) as unresponsive as they had not met the mandatory requirements to qual-

Soma Enterprise (India), Sino-Global (China-USA) and Simplex-Seri JV (India) were not selected as they failed to score 60 -- the minimum points to qualify.

The government has already appointed AECOM Australia Proprietary Ltd as consultant to the project. It will complete the work in three months. As per the preliminary

estimate of the communications ministry, the four-lane Dhaka Elevated Expressway (Gazipur-Narayanganj) will cover 32.1 kilometres and cost Tk 8,617 crore. Meanwhile, the cabinet

committee on economic affairs at the meeting yesterday decided to import 3 lakh metric tonnes of wheat from Russia on state-to-state basis. The committee also approved manpower and organogram of "National

Wage and Productivity Commission 2010" to fix the wage of state-owned industrial units. A 19-member committee headed by a retired secretary will be formed for the purpose, which will cost the govern-

month. The committee will work for six months.

ment about Tk 79 lakh per

AL men

FROM PAGE 16

around 15 years that cost over Tk one lakh.

Alamgir Hossain, the head master, was absent from the school during the incident. He, however, submitted an

allegation to Upazila Education Officer (UEO) yesterday in this regard. Didarul Islam, chairman of the school managing committee condemned the act and said the students used to play

those berries and the trees were home for many birds. Contacted, Mostafa Kamal, UEO (Primary) of Baufal said they would take step after

inherently different from men's and more centred around family and the home. The judges dispute centred around the State Council, which is the judicial body that settles legal cases brought against the government. Twenty-five women applied to become judges on the council, but the body's general assembly voted in February to ban women from serving on the Women's groups picketed the State Council, defending their right for the position. They

in the workplace has not soaked

down in the public conscious-

ness to create a widespread

change in attitudes particularly

at a time when many popular

Islamic clerics on television and

other media promote a mes-

sage that women's roles are

dardized tests to become counciljudges. They say their decision to ban women from the bench is out of compassion for us, they want to spare women the tiring, difficult work," columnist Ama Abdel-Hadi wrote in the independent daily, al-Masry al-Youm. "These judges have

obviously not worked as a

public school teacher, a nurse or

argued that the women had

passed all the necessary stan-

Night load FROM PAGE 16

amidwife."

load shedding will be continued, the source added. The authorities took the

increased 200 megawatt following a stoppage of power supply to the fertiliser factories, reports BSS. UNB reports: Two units, No 5 and 6, of the Ghorashal Power

decision as power generation

Plant, each with 120-megawatt capacity, were shut down following subsequent fire in their substations at 1:30pm and 4:00pm on Monday. The fire originated from

sparks, the officials said. Unit 5 returned to operation after the fire was extinguished by the fire brigade around

3:00pm Monday. Unit 6 resumed its operation at 3:00pm yesterday after experts from Dhaka came and repaired it, the officials added.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday formed two committees to investigate the fire incident and submit reports within seven working

Solaiman, 40, the security guard, who received severe burn injuries in his drive to douse the fire at unit 6, succumbed to his burn injuries at the Ghorashal Power Plant Hospital at 7:00am yesterday.

Clashes

FROM PAGE 1

him to a room in the university's second academic building for about three hours. They also beat him up. Shahnewaz had gone to the

campus to cover a discussion organised by the Prothom Alo Bandhu Sava around 5:00pm Monday. On information, the VC and other teachers went to the spot

around 8:00pm and tried to

rescue him. Failing to do so in

the face of resistance, they called in law enforcers. Two platoons of riot police around midnight went to the campus and tried to rescue Shahnewaz. The police attempt triggered the clash

fired around 15 teargas canisters to disperse the students and alleged outsiders. Police, however, managed

to rescue Shahnewaz.

Police charged truncheons and

During the clash, students along with alleged outsiders vandalised doors, windowpanes and furniture of a number of rooms in the two academic buildings, the library room and rooms in Khanjahan

VC Saifuddin Shah told The Daily Star that the incident was "unprecedented" and alleged that some vested quarters were trying to vitiate the existing peaceful academic atmosphere in the university.

Additional police forces were deployed in and around the campus to avert further untoward incidents. Khulna Press Club, Khulna

Union of Journalists (KUJ), Metropolitan Union of Journalists (MUJ) and Khulna unit of Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association (BPJA) will stage a human under the shadow of those chain programme today in trees. They also used to eat front of the press club building in protest against kidnap and attack on Shahnewaz. Meanwhile, police said a

number of students attacked four students of the university at Gallamari and Nirala leaving them seriously injured around 7:30am yesterday. The attack was made as the four were leaving the dormitories.

FROM PAGE 1 school. Nashfia Akand Pinky, a

needed to talk to the parents to know how she died.

parents or siblings was home. was studying for examinations when she saw him on

the doorstep with a one-litre plastic bottle full of kerosene. Before she could move, he Latifa said quoting from the

their pond. Latifa and another daughter of her soon got Pinky out of water. With help from

at 10:30 pm. Locals said Tobarak, son of on her way to school and throw brickbats on their

As harassment got intoler-

prison guard in Narsinghdi. Neighbours said Pinky was

Politics, business FROM PAGE 16 The ACC chairman said the duty of lawmakers in the parliament is to formulate laws, but they also get involved in activities which

will help them get votes in the

next election.

"This practice should be changed," he said suggesting proportional representation system for the parliamentary Ghulam Rahman stressed the need for strengthening the

local government bodies,

saying that strong local governments can stamp out corruption in the society. "The politicians only express the political will to strengthen the local government bodies but they don't

intend to make those effective," he said. He suggested making the ACC more effective, formulating effective and appropriate laws, reducing the lengthy judicial system, reforming the

administrative system and procedures to prevent corruption in the country. He said, to root out corrupion, a social movement

against corruption is to be

The ACC chairman also

"Pakistan believes in sover-

eignty of Bangladesh and

there is no question to inter-

fere by Pakistan in the internal

affair of this country," Qureshi

told reporters after meeting

with Law Minister Shafique

Ahmed at his secretariat office

The Pakistan envoy, how-

ever, said his county has not

yet made any formal state-

ment about trial of war crimi-

Replying to a question, he

said the issue of trial of alleged

Pakistani war criminals was

settled through the Simla

Ahmed said the Pakistan high

commissioner made it clear

that Islamabad will not launch

any campaign against

Law Minister Shafique

vesterday afternoon.

nals in Bangladesh.

Agreement in 1972.

FROM PAGE 1

media", he said.

roundtable. ASM Shahjahan said students of all levels are to be mobilised in the antiand Inam Ahmed Chowdhury corruption movement. were present.

Pakistan envoy

campaigning against the government's initiative to try war criminals. But he said yesterday there is no confusion over holding the trial of the war crimes and crimes against humanity

committed during the

Liberation War.

The trial will be held under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973, which covers trial of offences including crimes against humanity and peace, genocide, looting and arson, Shafique said. Earlier in the day, the law

minister told a delegation of

the International Federation

for Human Rights that the

provision of death penalty

should be in the laws of

Bangladesh to punish perpe-Bangladesh government's trators of heinous crimes. initiative to hold trial of those The delegation led by who committed crimes Laurie Berg, Australian repreagainst humanity during the sentative of the human rights Liberation War in 1971. body, met with the law minis-"Pakistan has changed its ter at his office to learn about position about holding trial of the human rights situation in war criminals in Bangladesh," Bangladesh and discuss if it is he said, adding that only the necessary to keep the proviwar criminals in Bangladesh will be tried. sion of death penalty.

slum areas with the help of the

sources added.

district. Concerned over the inci-

expressed shock over the attack and grief over the loss of While the prime minister

Viswa Ranjan said.

Water crisis **FROM PAGE 16**

The army men would maintain security and manage smooth supply of water at every zone across the capital.

from nearby areas by tank lorry.

lawmaker and also State

send their senior officials to the committee meetings to make it worthy," an official