AFP, Jammu

escalating unrest.

in three months of protests.

Yesterday, police opened

ment in a Hindu-dominated

about 210 kilometres (130

miles) from the town of

killed in the firing and several

government buildings... were

the angry protesters," top

local government official

Pawan Kotwal told reporters.

For three months, young

Kashmiris have thrown

stones at security forces and

rallied against Indian rule in

the Muslim-majority region,

resulting in clashes that have

left 92 people dead according

and mob attacks have risen,

apparently fuelled by reports

about the desecration of the

Koran by a small group of

Christians in Washington on

crowd had tried to attack a

the case but Ruhul Quddus

Talukdar Dulu managed to

minister Moudud Ahmed had

arranged presidential mercy

for Mohiuddin Ahmed Jhintu,

convicted in a double murder

case, after bringing him home

Shafique Ahmed said the

president will appoint a new

chief justice before September

29, since the incumbent Chief

Justice Mohammad Fazlul

Karim will retire on that day.

Replying to a query

from abroad in 2005.

He said the then BNP law

No scope

Police in Jammu said the

Since the weekend, arson

to an AFP tally.

Saturday.

FROM PAGE 1

implicate them.

"Four youths have been

Jammu.

NEWS

UK scientists devise one-hour test for TB

BBC ONLINE

Scientists in the UK say they have devised a new ultrasensitive test which can diagnose the presence of the tuberculosis bacterium in one hour.

The test has been developed by the Health Protection Agency

Its developers claim the test can spot all strains of the disease and could reduce both the incidence and the consequences of the disease world-

According to the World Health Organization, in 2008, an estimated 1.3 million people died from TB worldwide. GENETICSIGNATURE

The standard identification test for TB involves taking mucus coughed up from the lungs and growing a bacterial culture in the laboratory.

But it can take up to eight weeks to reach a diagnosis, by which time the individual might have infected many more peo-Other more rapid tests exist

which scan for an antigen found in many TB strains, but they may not detect all infections, say the HPA. The new test focuses on a

particular DNA region within the bacterium which the researchers says is present in all strains of the disease.

Once a sample is taken, a scientific technique know as a polymerase chain reaction" is used to amplify the volume of DNA available so that the genetic signature can be identi-

"This is a new test," says the HPA's Dr Cath Arnold, who led the study. "We're looking for a genetic marker which is present in all strains of TB we've seen so

We're confident that it will pick up very small amounts and ests so far have show that it seems to be as sensitive as the gold standard of using culture, but there are various aspects

which we need to develop further before we can offer it as an off-the-shelf product."

Details of the work are being presented at the HPA's annual conference at the University of

The HPA test comes just weeks after details of a rival project were published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The rival test is called "Xpert MTB/RIF" and its developers claim it can deliver a diagnosis in under two hours. They say their automated cartridge machine can also identify resistance to drugs used to treat

DIFFICULT DIAGNOSIS

Dr Mario Raviglione, director of the World Heath Organization's Stop TB department, says these new generation tests could potentially revolutionise TB treatment.

"The diagnoses of TB is extremely difficult today. If you had a test which rapidly and at the point of care could detect TB immediately you would gain weeks or months in treating that person and avoid them going around for another five to eight weeks infecting others."

Old airport

FROM PAGE 16

International Airport is constructed in Mymensingh the old airport in Tejgaon would be of no use.

According to the International Civil Aviation Organisation regulations, an airport must have 10,500foot-long runway of which 3,000 feet should be considered as zero-height zone and after that point every 50-foot allows one foot of gradual height increase for flight. No structure should cross the 150-foot height limit around the airport area to ensure smooth operations of flights.

Secretariat

ATM Asaduzzaman, director (Urban & Engineering Geology) of Geological Survey of Bangladesh, said according to old maps and aerial photographs, a major part of the Secretariat complex was on a section of Segunbagicha canal that was filled.

Buildings on that section are more vulnerable to earth-

Most of the old buildings of the Secretariat were not built studying the subsoil and they were built on ordinary foundation, he said. The simple reason was that foundation engineering was not in practice then, said Asaduzzaman.

Building no-1 and -2 are non-engineered structures and are more vulnerable, said Abu Sadeque, deputy secretary to the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management. The RCC buildings' vulnera-

bility needs to be evaluated. Building no-3 and -5 are also non-engineered, said the PWD chief engineer.

According to Ansary, the PWD has undertaken a programme to retrofit four buildings including building no-1 and -4 in the Secretariat, the Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters and Dhaka Medical College.

A four-member team including Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and Prof Ansary submitted an estimate to the

ride to get to the nearby

mosque, said Mosharraf, a

resident of Road-14, adding

they often fail to attend the

prayers being unable to hire

Residents said local law-

maker and Home Minister

Sahara Khatun has recently

initiated the repair work of a

road stretching from west side

of Road-1 to the bus stand.

Dhaka district administration

is implementing the repair

Md Sharif Uddin, DCC

executive officer of zone-9,

said Rajuk handed over

Nikunja -1 and 2 projects in

late 2008. All the roads of the

area were in a severe condition

during the handover, he

The fund for the job is expected to come from UNDP

However, Dewan Md Yamin, chief engineer of PWD,

Disaster Management

Programme (phase-II).

said his department entered an agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) more than a month ago to retrofit 10 buildings, eight of Bangladesh Secretariat, the Fire Service headquarters and Dhaka Medical College. The PWD will work with

Jica, which will provide technical assistance. Ansary said it costs around

Tk 450 to retrofit one square foot of a building but it is only Tk 10 additional cost to design and make a building earthquake resistant at the time of construction.

Every building owner should follow the building code and construction rules and make the buildings earthquake resistant during construction, he said.

Traffic jam **FROM PAGE 16**

whether it had taken Rajuk's approval before building markets in different parts of the city and followed the designs approved by Rajuk.

The meeting also raised questions about the legality of the authority given to the DCC mayor to allocate 25 percent of the DCC owned shops.

The committee then asked DCC officials to present a detailed report on the matter in the committee's

under Comprehensive next meeting. Roads in Nikunja

Tk 44 crore to repair the roads

which is now waiting for the approval of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council" said the

DCC official. GAS LEAKAGES IN

DIFFERENT ROADS

The leakages of gas have added to the sufferings of local residents, which also created panic among them.

The leakages are evident at around 50 spots including in Roads 5, 8 and 20, said

Mosharraf, a resident of the He added that Titas Gas authority repaired one leakage

around one and a half years back, which again leaked two days after the mending. "We are not aware about

the leakages but we will now take immediate steps in this regard," said General Manager (operation) of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company "We have taken a project of Limited, Md Khalid Hasan.

Two hanged in Sylhet jail after 70 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Execution of two convicted murderers has been carried out in Sylhet Central Jail at the wee hours today. This is the first incident of execution in this jail in the last 70 years.

Sabul Miah of Renga Daudpur village at Dakkhin Surma upazila in Sylhet, and Alamuddin Swapan of Mirar Paton village at Baralekha upazila in Moulvibazar district were awarded capital punishment in 2003.

Md Kamal Hossain, senior jail superintendent of Sylhet Central Jail told the Daily Star that the family members of the convicts met them at the Jail gate yesterday.

DIG prisons Fazlur Rahman, Magistrate Shahidul Alam and Sylhet civil surgeon Foyez Ahmed were present during the execution.

Coal ash a source of concern in China: Greenpeace

AFP, Beijing

China's coal-fired plants produce enough toxic ash to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool every two-and-ahalf minutes, creating contaminants that travel far and wide, Greenpeace said yester-

As the world's largest coal user, China's more than 1,400 coal-fired electrical plants produce at least 375 million tonnes of coal ash every year --2.5 times the quantity in 2002 the environmental group said.

"Every four tonnes of coal burnt produce one tonne of coal ash," Yang Ailun, a cli mate campaigner as Greenpeace China, told reporters at the launch of a report on the cost of coal in the Asian nation.

"This substantially erodes China's already-scarce land and water resources, while damaging public health and the environment," she said.

The group said many power plants did not follow regulations on coal ash disposal. It investigated 14 plants around the country and found many disposal sites were located too close to villages and residential areas.

It said it had also detected more than 20 different kinds of harmful substances in samples collected from the disposal sites of the plants, including lead, mercury and arsenic.

"Many of the coal ash disposal sites we visited had poor safeguards to prevent coal ash contamination via wind dispersal or leakage into water," Yang said. "This affects nearby villages most directly, but it also poses huge threats to all of China, as contaminants enter the food chain or are scattered by the winds far and wide."

Road blocked

FROM PAGE 1 bus counters from Amin Bazaı

as per their demand.

Police are taking preparation to file a case in connection with the accident, he said, adding, they are trying to arrest the driver and helper of the bus.

Meanwhile, an unidentified "deranged" woman was killed in another road accident early yesterday morning on

the city's Manik Mian Avenue. On information, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police recovered Rajoir road.

the body. Quoting locals, police said the woman had been roaming in the area for the last few months and that the locals did not know her identity.

Tremor

of 4.8 on the Richter Scale and stayed for a while. The third of 5.2 magnitude shook different parts of the country on Saturday afternoon.

Muggers kill FROM PAGE 16

as a regular driver of the company and suspected that muggers killed him in a bid to take away the cab. An investigation is going on

to know the details of the incident, said police sources. Police took the taxicab in custody.

Rabiul's wife Asma Begum filed a murder case with Kafrul Police Station in this connec-

War criminals

FROM PAGE 16

The premier told the delegation that process of trial of the war criminals has already started. "In this circumstance, the war criminals and their collaborators will try to foil the trial process. So, freedom fighters and all other patriotic forces should play a strong role to ensure trial of the war criminals."

Election of the Muktijoddha Command Council was held to elect genuine and capable leaders who can play an effective role for ensuring maximum welfare of the freedom fighters, said Hasina. "The freedom fighters have

gifted us the independence. It is our duty to ensure their and their family members' betterment," she added. Congratulating the newly

elected leaders Hasina asked them to work for welfare of the freedom fighters. "I am determined to ensure that all freedom fighters are getting their due respect and

facilities from the state," she

Hasina said the government is implementing various projects involving over Tk 200 crore for the freedom fighters. She requested the affluent freedom fighters to stand by those freedom fighters who are suffering from financial problems.

"Now many in the society have huge property and wealth. It has been possible only for getting an independent state," Hasina said.

The premier said it is difficult

Bangabandhu Bridge

FROM PAGE 1

In the meeting Muhith said, "The Bangabandhu Bridge is an important asset of the country. We need a technically sound firm to repair the cracks properly."

Meeting sources said some officials of the communications ministry and bridge division were strongly lobbying for the Chinese firm allegedly expecting a handsome commission.

Earlier on August 26, the cabinet committee on purchase asked the communications ministry to consult experts about whether the Chinese firm was capable of repairing the bridge.

A three-member committee of experts headed by Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury was against the firm's selection.

On August 12, a sixmember technical evaluation committee recommended the firm as it fulfilled the technical requirement and quoted the lowest, Tk 165 crore. Two Japanese firms World Kaihatsu Kogya and Nippon Road also quoted the closest Tk 285 crore and Tk 299 crore respectively.

Records show that the rejected Chinese firm also country.

failed to qualify for the repair works in 2008 and 2009.

The cracks on the 4.8kilometre Bangabandhu Bridge were detected in 2006. Later, a team of experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology found faults in the design and construction of the bridge, which compelled the government to impose restriction on speed and freight of vehicles. South Korean company Hyundai built the Tk 4,000 crore bridge in June 1998 with an expected lifespan of 100

Experts fear that the lifespan of the bridge might have reduced to half as the cracks are expanding due to the delay in the repair works.

Yesterday's meeting of the cabinet committee on purchase also approved two companies--Max Power of the US and DJ Waver GMBH of Germany--to set up two rental power plants with a capacity of generating 276.5 megawatt of electricity.

Max will set up a 78MW qualified for the task and gas-based plant at Ghorashal while DJ Waver a 198MW gas and furnace oil-based plant at Shikolbaha or elsewhere in the

Floods engulf

FROM PAGE 1

villages. Growing river erosion has added to the sufferings of the flood-hit.

Contacted, Executive Engineer of the FFWC Amirul Hosain said water level at 11 measuring points out of 73 across the country was above danger level, it was rising at 42 points, falling at 27 points and remained steady at three

points. The Jamuna was flowing 48 cm above the danger level at Sirajganj point and the Padma 68cm above the red mark at Bhagyakul point and 60cm above it at Goalundo point.

Our Madaripur correspondent reports: Over 100 villages have been inundated due to damage of flood control embankment in Sadar upazila and Madaripur-Sreenadi-

Many areas in Shibchar, Rajoir and Sadar upizilas have become vulnerable to river erosion due to rising water level. At least 300 acres of farmlands, 60 houses and 25 shops in Sadar and Rajoir upazilas have been eroded.

people in Kalkini and the three other flooded upazilas continue to suffer. According to a report from

flood situation in five upazilas

worsened yesterday as the

Around 50,000 marooned

Jamuna further rose. Crops on more than 4,000 hectares of land have been

JS special body FROM PAGE 1

Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the committee, said that besides members of the special committee, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed and Law Commission Chairman Mohammad Abdur Rashid will attend the closed-door meeting on special invitation.

damaged. And over 200 houses and other structures have been eroded by the mighty river.

Civil surgeon of the district hire doctors, engineers, Dr Nurul Islam said medical teams have been formed for every union in the flooded upazilas. Many of the flood-affected

tion is yet to initiate any relief programme. A report from our Jamalpur correspondent says: Floods hit five upazilas inundating houses and thousands of

have moved to different high

lands. The district administra-

hectares of aman crop just in four days. Water Development Board sources said the Jamuna was flowing 29 cm above danger mark at Bahadurabad Ghat

yesterday. The affected upazilas include Dewanganj, Islampur, Melandah, Madarganj and Sharisabari.

Aman crop, vegetables and sugarcane on about 25 thousand hectares of land have gone under water. Deputy Commissioner Siraj Uddin told this corre-

spondent that relief operation

for the flood-hit will start

Kamal, Jamal our Sirajganj correspondent,

FROM PAGE 1 including his brother Sheikh

Abu Naser, brother-in-law Abdur Rab Serniabat, nephew Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni, Moni's wife Arju Moni, Shahid Serniabat, Baby Serniabat, Arif Serniabat, Sukanto Abdullah Babu, security officer colonel Jamil Uddin Ahmed and Abdul Noim Khan Rinto were also killed. Bangabandhu's daughters

Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, survived the carnage as they were in Germany at that time.

FROM PAGE 16 to take best care of the freedom fighters only by government. All

in the society have responsibil-

ity to stand by the freedom

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had

established the command

council in 1973 and gave huge

property for the Muktijoddha

Welfare Trust. "But after

Bangabandhu's assassination,

proper attention was not given

to the welfare of the freedom

fighters. Rather the anti-

liberation forces including the

killers of Bangabandhu were

busy to distort real history," she

for betterment of the freedom

fighters, the then government

tried their best to rehabilitate

new generations were kept

deprived of knowing the real

history of war of liberation in a

planned way. "Now the younger

generation become very much

enthusiastic to know the real

mentioned the landslide victory

of Awami League-led Grand

Alliance in the December 29

2008 election. Major part of the

voters were young who came to

know the real history of the

War Affairs Captain (retd) A B

Tazul Islam and Principal

Secretary to the PM M A Karim

State Minister for Liberation

In this regard, the premier

history," she said.

liberation war.

were present.

The PM observed that many

the killers of Bangabandhu.

She said instead of working

Hasina said Bangabandhu

fighters, the national heroes.

Koko

Judge Muzammel Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 passed the order after Koko's lawyer submitted a petition praying for adjournment of the hearing.

The court also fixed the same

date for hearing on a petition

filed by Bangladesh Bank (BB)

seeking its permission to bring

backTk 19.7 crore that Koko and Saimon had allegedly siphoned off to Singapore. Deputy Governor of BB Ziaul Hasan Siddique on July 12 this year submitted the petition seeking permission to bring

Earlier, on August 4 this year, the government cancelled Koko's parole for breaching conditions and asked him to return to the country by August 31 and surrender before the

back the money.

But the High Court on August 26 stayed the government decision and extended his parole for 40 days following a writ petition challenging the legality of the government decision. Koko was arrested on

tion with the Gatco graft case and was later released on parole for treatment abroad while Saimon had been absconding since the case was filed. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case against Koko on March 17,

2009 under the Money

Laundering Prevention Act.

September 2, 2007 in connec-

According to the deposition of the ACC, a portion of the money deposited in Koko's bank account was from an account of China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd in the USA. China Harbour was operat-

ing in Bangladesh during the

time of the transfer of the

money as it was constructing the New Mooring Container Terminal. On November 15, 2009 the court accepted the charge sheet

Bangladesh eyes

against Koko and Saimon.

FROM PAGE 16

said, adding that Bangladesh could export many products like pharmaceuticals and clothes to those countries. Bangladesh exports some products including medicine, fruit juice and jute goods, but the amount is insignificant and not persistent, he observed.

According to statistics of the Export Promotion Bureau, Bangladesh's export to Ghana was \$1,462,000, \$1,346,000 to Liberia, \$883,000 to Senegal and \$199,000 to Ivory Coast in 2009-10.

African countries could be Bangladesh's market, he said.

"They asked what they could export and we have invited them to the Dhaka International Trade Fair next year. We can have soon more dialogues, engage our business leaders and entrepreneurs for expanding trade," Quayes said.

He added those countries have admiration for Bangladesh because they have seen Bangladeshi peacekeepers, fruit juice products and social activities by Brac. They are also interested to

healthcare experts for their capacity building, Quayes said. The foreign secretary said as the first step the government might appoint honorary consuls to establish physical linkages with the West African countries and then sign memo-

foreign office consultations. Gradually, trade deals

randums of understanding for

could be signed, he noted. Prime Minister's Personal Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, EPB Director General Rakhal Chandra Barman, Director General of Foreign Ministry (Africa) Wahidur Rahman, Managing Director of Bangladesh Oversees **Employment Services Limited** (BOESL) Mohammad Abdullah were the other delegates.

India, China

FROM PAGE 16 Tibet, Arunachal Pradesh,

interests.

Assam and in the lower reaches of Bangladesh, they said. This will help build peace

and trust between the two countries. Building dams on Siang or Brahmaputra in India and Bangladesh will therefore be considered as seeking conflict, the organisations added. Arunachal Citizens' Right, North East People's Alliance,

Adi Students union, NEFA Indigenous Human Rights Organisation were among the organisations which are signatories to the letter. Bangladesh has already expressed concern over India's proposal for a power

project in Manipur state even ment's resolve to bring all though New Delhi has assured newborns under birth regis-Dhaka that nothing would be tration programme, and to done to harm the latter's ensure ethnic minority children's right to education said the state minister.

missionary school in

Four die in Kashmir

as crisis talks begin

Mendhar. Violence spread to new areas of Indian Kashmir yesterday, with four more protesters shot dead by police, as the government held crisis talks

Prime Minister Jammu and Kashmir is that of Manmohan Singh called for calm and said he was dialogue and discussion,' "shocked and distressed" by Singh said. the demonstrations engulf-The premier, who admitted last week that he was ing the disputed Himalayan "groping" for a response, area, where 18 people died on Monday in the bloodiest day

A cross-party meeting of political leaders in the capital to show leadership. ended with no new initiatives, however, besides a finding mission to the area, decision to send a factfinding mission to "meet all but there was no consensus on partially withdrawing a sections of the people and gather all shades of opinion". tough military law that grants

> The Armed Forces Special Power Act enables the army and paramilitary forces to detain suspected militants indefinitely and is seen as fuelling a sense of injustice and military occupation for

attacked and burnt down by ing, the government said. No senior ministers or mainstream national politi-

cal figures have visited the

in Meherpur and one in Shathia upazila in Pabna.

Rajshahi. Mahmudur Rahman,

assistant director, health and administration of Department of Livestock, said they are

"We are also distributing leaflets to make the people aware about anthrax," he said.

A total of 43 cows and 56 goats were reported to have died of anthrax over the last

But no case of human death from the disease has been reported to date, he said.

New policy

FROM PAGE 1

14 as children, but the new draft policy extends that age up to 18 years in line with the UN standard. People between the ages of 10 and 18 will be considered juve-

least 2.65 crore children in the country live below the poverty line, with little or no means to meet their basic needs. It says the government will start a united effort with

education to children.

The draft policy prohibits employment of children under 14 years of age as fulltime workers. Employers must allow domestic child workers to meet their parents at least once a month. Issues of child autism,

disabilities, homelessness, welfare during and after natural disasters, and sanitation in schools are also emphasised in the draft. It says the government

imbue them with the ideology and spirit of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the spirit of the war of independence and patriotism. It reiterates the govern-

Singh told the meeting of

political parties in New Delhi that dialogue was the only way out of the crisis, but that peace and calm had to be

in New Delhi to tackle the restored first. "The only path for lasting peace and prosperity in

> chaired the all-party meeting at his residence, with the government under pressure Political leaders decided to send a cross-party fact-

the armed forces sweeping fire on an angry crowd in the powers and immunity. previously quiet town of Mendhar, a Muslim settlearea to the south of Kashmir,

> Kashmiris. The fact-finding mission will help inform policy mak-

Kashmir valley since the unrest began three months Nine more

The districts where the cases of infected people were found are Narayanganj, Pabna, Sirajganj, Meherpur, Kushtia, Tangail, Manikganj Shatkhira, Lalmonirhat and

seven were found in Gangni

and one in Mujibnagar upazila

director of IEDCR, said vaccination the animals is the main way to control anthrax. Bidhan Chandra Das,

vaccinating the animals in the affected and its surrounding

few months.

According to the draft, at

non-government and chari-

table organisations to pro-

vide free health services and

Wahida Banu, chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Odhikar Forum, told The Daily Star yesterday, "The social protection net will help reduce the number of homeless children, who are vulnerable to exploitation on streets, and to becoming drug users, sellers, or muggers. We hope the social safety net will cover the children's basic demands and protect them."

will produce audio visual presentations for children, to

in their mother languages. It promises increased participation of children in family and social affairs, and

programmes for intellectual development of juveniles. The draft also emphasises on children's access to entertainment, games, and arts at family, school and societal levels. It emphasises on

having playgrounds and toys at every school. It promises steps for ensuring playgrounds for children in all neighbourhoods, and incorporation of that principle in the government's urban planning while prohibiting physical punishment in educational

institutions.

According to the draft, the government will construct day care centres in all jails, so imprisoned mothers' and their children may stay together during the day time. It increases maternity leave up to six months, to

make it easier for working

mothers to breastfeed their

infants, in a bid to bring the

infant malnutrition rate The draft also promises governmental steps for revising the minimum age for criminal prosecution, following recommendations of the United Nations Child

It recommends probation, diversion, and counselling for delinquent children instead of detention. Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury said the new

Rights Committee.

policy pays more attention to qualitatively enhancing child health security and The draft policy will be on the ministry website at

to the cabinet for approval,

Superintending Engineer of Rajuk Md Anwar Hossain claimed that though Rajuk has developed the area, DCC is responsible for the maintenance job.

FROM PAGE 16

any rickshaw.

www.mowca.gov.bd till the end of this month for getting feedback from the people, and then after some modifications it will be submitted