NEWS

Girl takes her life

FROM PAGE 1 husband, son, and a relative in Naogaon.

A Faridpur court, the same day, placed stalker Debashish Saha Rony on a three-day remand in connection with the murder of Chanpa Rani, whose twin daughters Hira and Mukta were his targets.

Against the backdrop of an alarming rise in stalking of women by unruly men in the country recently, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) filed a public interest writ petition with the High Court yesterday, seeking direction for the government to formulate a policy and guidelines for protection of women and girls from stalking.

Petitioner Fahima Nasrin, a BNWLA leader, said under the existing law the highest punishment for stalking is threeyear imprisonment, which seems inadequate as a deterrent in the face of increasing instances of the crime. The HC will hear the petition today, she added.

Yesterday's victim Rupali Rani of Bogra bordering Sirajganj, who was a student of class IX at Simabari SR Girls' School, hanged herself from a ceiling beam around 8:30am after stalker Sushil Shil, 18, kidnapped her and kept her confined in a room of his residence in Sirajganj. Sushil kidnapped Rani

around 6:30am on her way to a coaching centre in Sirajganj. He also forcefully put vermilion on her forehead to imply that she was married to him according to the Hindu cus-Discovering Rani's body

hanging from the ceiling, Sushil tried to flee the area, but local residents caught him and handed him over to police, said Amirul Islam, officer-incharge of Raiganj Police

Locals said Shushil had been harassing Rani with unwelcome advances on her way to and from school and the coaching centre over the

Final Kyrgyzstan polls results announced

BBC ONLINE

Five political parties will be represented in Kyrgyzstan's new parliament, according to the official results of the 10 October election.

The opposition nationalist party, Ata Zhurt, had the most votes but failed to win an outright majority. Parties will now have to form a governing

coalition. The final results were that she should be arrested for delayed while officials investigated fraud claims.

It follows months of political turmoil after President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was ousted in a mass uprising in

The country also witnessed bloody clashes in the south between Kyrgyz majority and ethnic Uzbeks, in which at

referendum.

FROM PAGE 16

release of Babar.

the petition.

Secretary of BNP Dr Shahadat

Hossain in the lead on the

court premises demanding

The order came after the

nvestigation officer of the

cases Senior ASP Mohammad

Moniruzzaman of Criminal

Investigation Department

(CID), Chittagong filed a

Meanwhile, the defence

lawyers filed a petition to the

court seeking a stay on the

order for 15 days stating that

Babar was sick. The court fixed

Shahadat Hossain, also a

physician, said Babar has

been suffering from severe

gastro intestinal diseases that

might have caused the bleed-

Sanaullah said though they

filed the petition to withhold

the hearing to ensure Babar's

treatment, the court passed

Public Prosecutor (PP)

Kamal Uddin told the journal-

ists that both the state and

defendant lawyers could

hardly place their arguments

the order ignoring it.

Babar's counsel advocate

today [Tuesday] for hearing on 1, 2004.

petition for a 10-day remand.

least 400 died. In June a new constitution introducing a parliamentary system was approved in a

Kyrgyzstan is trying to build the first parliamentary democracy in Central Asia, which is dominated by post-Pakistan.

Soviet era strongmen. Five out of 29 parties passed the 5% threshold to win seats in the new parliament, but none won enough to form a government.

10-truck arms case

last few months.

Rani's brother Kanak Kumar filed a case with Raiganj police in connection with his sister's death.

In another incident, police yesterday arrested stalker of a woman, Nabibur Rahman alias Luku, 35, from Rajshahi, who on Saturday had stabbed his stalking victim's husband Abdul Hannan, her son, and one of her relatives in Khash-Naogaon area of Naogaon.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday visited the residence of murdered Natore College teacher Mizanur Rahman in Chawk Laxmipur village under Charghat upazila of Rajshahi, and also Abdul Hannan and his son in Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Mizannur died in a hospital of the capital on October 24, after being severely injured from an attack by two stalkers of women, for protesting against their harassment of college girls.

COMMENT ON KASHMIR

Arundhati Roy accuses TV over protests

AFP, New Delhi

Award-winning author and activist Arundhati Roy has accused Indian TV channels of whipping up protests against her after her house in New Delhi was attacked over comments she made about Kashmir.

About 100 female protesters from a Hindu nationalist party surrounded her residence on Sunday to demonstrate against a speech last month in which she said the disputed Muslim-majority region had "never been an integral part of India.

Roy said at least three television broadcasting vans were in place before the crowd arrived. The protesters "broke through the gate and vandalised property" as they chanted slogans against her,

'Some TV channels and newspapers are in the process of brazenly inciting mob anger against me," she said in a statement late Sunday.

Roy, winner of the 1997 Booker prize for her novel "The God of Small Things", is a fierce critic of India's tactics in Kashmir, where protests against New Delhi have claimed more than 100 lives since June.

Her speech led to demands sedition, but police declined to press charges.

Kashmir has been beset by anti-India violence, curfews and strikes since early June, when a 17-year-old student was killed by a police tear-gas shell. Since then, a total of 111 protesters and bystanders have died.

A poll published last month showed that a majority in Indian Kashmir favoured independence for their region.

Political discontent has simmered in Kashmir since the partition of the subcontinent on 1947, when a Hindu ruler took his mostly Muslim subjects into India rather than

The agreement of accession to India gave Kashmir autonomy in many areas, but much of this has been eroded since then.

and the court order came

Chittagong Central Jail from

was accused and shown

arrested in the country's

largest ever arms haul cases.

On the same day, CID ASP

Moniruzzaman submitted a

loaded with weapons and

ammunition from the

Chittagong Urea Fertiliser

Limited (CUFL) jetty on April

found submachine-guns, AK-

47 rifles, submachine car-

bines, Chinese pistols, rocket

shells and launchers, hand

grenades and bullets stuffed in

around 1,500 wooden boxes

during unloading those from

destined to reach the Indian

insurgent group -- United

were smuggled in as part of

conspiracy for subversion

while being at Chittagong on

April 3, 2004.

Liberation Front of Assam.

The arms were allegedly

But Babar said the weapons

two vessels at the CUFL jetty.

Police and coastguards

Police seized 10 trucks

10-day remand prayer.

Babar was brought to

Earlier on October 3, Babar

amid the furore.

Dhaka on October 29.

Fine slapped

FROM PAGE 16 The Daily Star also published follow up stories with photos on this issue.

Following the publication of reports, DoE instructed the industrial units to install fume extraction devices in the chimneys. They were also asked to submit air quality reports.

The authorities of the units remained indifferent to these instructions so far.

Mother jumps

FROM PAGE 16

stood up and started running towards it around 7:30am, giving witnesses the impression that she was a passenger and was trying to catch the train," he said, adding "When she reached the train she dived under it still holding on to her child."

The police recovered their severed bodies from the rail tracks later in the morning. Manik, a railway porter

and a witness to the incident, said he assumed the woman was sitting on the rail track to console her crying baby as the platform was quite crowded. "When she started run-

ning towards the train, we shouted at her forbidding her to run as it wasn't possible for her to catch it but within moments she jumped onto the tracks with her baby", he said. Shahana's family sources

said she was mentally unsta-

Her husband Azharul Islam, an employee of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, said he went to bed around 2:00am after giving Shahana, her medication and found her and the child missing after he woke up at dawn for his prayers.

"We immediately started looking for them in different places and found the bodies in the railway station," he

Shahana's brother Habibur Rahman said she had been mentally sick since she became pregnant with

Azharul Islam's brother Abdul Hai said earlier when she was missing for days last Ramadan they found her in Chittagong.

Different drivers

FROM PAGE 1 fined for jaywalking.

While pedestrians yesterday continued to remain oblivious to this poorly enforced drive, it's the motorcar drivers and motorcyclists who have earned applause obeying the rules.

Most of the drivers yesterday voluntarily fastened their seat belts. Many of those who did not, apparently forgot to do it, as it is not a common habit. Majority of motorcycle riders were seen wearing helmet.

"I was driving to the office as usual. On the half way, noticed a police car and some motor cars parked on the side of roads," said Moni Haque, an executive of a private company, "it suddenly struck me that I should fasten my sea belt and so did I."

Though the spontaneous act of fastening seat belt is an encouraging sign, which indicates that city dwellers have not lost respect for traffic rules, law enforcers howeve fined a lot of people for not

fastening seat belts. The traffic drive totally left out jaywalkers and pedestrians. According to the traffic department, disciplining the pedestrians of Dhaka was a daunting task and the depart-

ment was not yet prepared for Motorcar drivers say if the authorities really want drivers and pedestrians to obey the law, they have to demonstrate effective enforcement of the

"If there is no punishment for violating traffic rules, we will revert to the culture of not fastening seat belts," said Mohammad Helal, a professional driver.

Gharial

FROM PAGE 1 Foundation and forest department officials were present during the release of the rare

Fishermen and other local people had flocked to the

Tapan Kumar Dey gave Tk 1,000 to fisherman Haren Halder in appreciation of keeping the gharial alive.

Haren Halder of Purba Balikanda village along with six others found the gharial while fishing in the

Padma. Tapan urged all the fishermen not to kill any gharial, as it is one of the most endangered reptile species of the world.

Japanese company

FROM PAGE 16

EGCB's playing foul to favour one bidder from the very beginning. Allegations have also been placed with the Japanese government.

The sources say a technically qualified company like Sumitomo has been disqualified on technical grounds so that its financial offer remains sealed. "Because if Sumitomo's

offer is opened, it is most likely that its price would be cheaper than that of the competitor," comments an official. An EGCB member however

claimed to The Daily Star that the technical offer of Sumitomo's power plant had "several major flaws". He ruled out the allegations of EGCB's siding with any bidder. This is not the first time

under the current government that allegations are raised against the EGCB in a power tender. A couple of months ago, the government had to scrap a tender for a 300 MW power project in Siddhirganj after 20 months of floating it as the EGCB could not handle it fairly. When the EGCB floated the

October last year, interested bidders were surprised that it had broadened the range of power generation for bidders.

Usually, bidders are asked to offer power generators with a capacity of 10 percent more or less. But in this case, the EGCB increased the range to 15 percent so that only bidders that offer a particular type of power generators could take part in it.

As a result, the tender was confined to only a few bidders like Sumitomo and Marubeni that offered generators manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) and Siemens.

Then the interested bidders pointed their fingers at the bidders' prequalification (PQ) documents prepared by the They showed that the PQ

documents did not match with other standard PQ documents of the country and it allowed be completed by 2013.

bids with power generator without any proven record of its performance.

They said a Japanese bidder was set to offer a brand new but unproven power generator manufactured by MHI that would give the bidder an extra edge in terms of offering low power tariff. This particular MHI model is "M701F4".

Amid such allegations, the Jica sought clarification and the EGCB modified bid documents ensuring that any power generators offered by a bidder would have to have at least two years experience. It was then alleged that the EGCB was leaving some gray

areas in the bid so that its

favoured bidder can quote a proven generator model made by MHI and actually deliver the unproven MHI generator model by showing it as a machine that had "evolved" from the proven generator. The EGCB once again clarified that each model would be considered separate from

not show two different models as one evolving from another. Then EGCB took a long time tender for Haripur project in to technically qualify both destruction of property, the Marubeni and Sumitomo.

another model and one could

Both the companies submitted their technical and financial offers on October 18.

The EGCB, amid tight secrecy, maintained that the financial offers will be opened after reviewing the technical offer. The EGCB forwarded the main highlights of the technical offers to the Jica.

According to the technical offer, Marubeni has offered MHI model "M701F" and no the controversial "M701F4" Sumitomo has offered a Siemens generator. Officials say the Siemens

generator was more efficient than the MHI generator, so it was most likely that Sumitomo's price offer would have been very competitive. But now that door has been closed, says an official.

This project is expected to

Pabna assault

FROM PAGE 16 commissioner's (DC) office in September.

Senior Judicial Magistrate of Speedy Trial Tribunal of Pabna Md Parvez Shahriar granted them bail considering the time they served in jail.

The court however turned down the bail prayers of 12 other accused in the case filed for attacking and vandalising government officials' cars during the recruitment test on September 17.

Meanwhile, the complainant of the case magistrate Sarwar Alam was not present at the court.

The counsel for the accused called his absence a sign of negligence on the administration's part.

"The complainant of the case and a main prosecution witness has not appeared before the court todayyesterday. It seems that the administration is reluctant to continue the case any further", said advocate Abdul

Ahad, counsel of the accused. Those who got bail are former general secretary of Pabna Edward College BCL unit Abdullah Al Mamun, BCL activist Jony and Jubo League workers Abdul Mannan, Mohammad Sarwar and Sujan.

The case was filed with Pabna Sadar Police Station immediately after the incident accusing 31 leaders and workers of Awami League and its front organisations.

Earlier, the court granted bai to 11 accused while three others are still absconding. Another case was filed with

the same police station for

attacking administration officials in which more than 100 people were accused, including 31 leaders and workers of AI **FROM PAGE 1** and its front organisations. bars to face charges of geno-Twenty-one accused surrencide and crimes against humanity.

dered before the judicial magistrate's court on September 26 and four more on October 6. Besides, police arrested five people soon after the incident.

710 nurse

FROM PAGE 1

freedom fighters would be appointed to these positions at different government hospitals across the country. Proper training would be provided to them if necessary, she added.

The cabinet also decided to publish new advertisement for

Earlier the government opted to recruit 2,148 senior staff nurses and staff nurses this year, keeping 736 positions reserved for the children of

Only 26 positions were filled up under this quota.

The premier also turned down a proposal of the religious affairs ministry to appoint its state minister and secretary as chairman and vice chairman of Zaakat Board.

in this field for the positions.

Shamsul Haque yesterday

submitted to the tribunal a

petition, along with a copy of

the home ministry's recom-

mendation, seeking with-

Judge (In-charge) of the

Earlier, fourteen prosecu-

case could be withdrawn,

ernment asks me to take nec-

any case filed against any

person -- a dacoit or a political

victim said if a murder case

filed against robbers is with-

drawn considering it "politi-

cally motivated", how they

will get justice. He however

A brother-in-law of the

drawal of the case.

hearing on the petition.

its disposal.

tribunal.

personality."

Dacoity case

FROM PAGE 16

Syeda Hamid filed the case accusing five persons including gang leader Joynul Abedin the same day. Four others were included in the charge sheet by the investigation officer of the case.

Of the nine accused, five are on bail and four are absconding.

On August 26 this year, the home ministry decided to withdraw the case and sent a letter asking the district magistrate of Dhaka to take steps for withdrawal of the case. The letter said the govern-

ment has decided to withdraw the case considering it "politically motivated" and meant for "harassment". The district magistrate on

September 26 sent the letter to the Dhaka metropolitan public prosecutor (DMPP) for necessary action.

On October 28, DMPP Mohammad Abdullah Abu referred the matter to Special Public Prosecutor Syed Shamsul Haque of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 of Dhaka for sought anonymity.

cutors of the tribunal announced they had documents and evidence against 12 people.

this recruitment, added Azad.

freedom fighters under a quota.

nals in those countries had amended their rules of procedures several times while trying the war criminals. She asked to select scholars Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the international crimes tribunal can formulate and amend its

> International Crimes Tribunal Act, 1973. Registrar Shahinur said the war crimes court can issue warrant for arrest of anyone accused under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act, 1973. But for that to

happen, the prosecutors will

rules of procedure as per

section 22 of the

need to file petitions. tribunal Kaniz Akhter Nasrina The tribunal can also ask Khanam fixed November 9 for the law enforcers to produce a person accused of crimes against humanity even if he is tion witnesses including detained in any other case, complainant of the case had according to the new rules. given statements before the The amended rules say the

senior-most member of the Asked whether a murder tribunal will act as chief in absence of the tribunal's Abdullah Abu said, "I have chairman. nothing else to do if the gov-Any member of the war crimes investigation agency essary steps for withdrawal of can be assigned by the govern-

> ment to supervise investigation. Crimes against humanity fall under article 3(2) of International Crimes Tribunal Act, which also covers offences like war crimes, genocide, murder, abduction,

confinement, torture and

rape.

Foreign secys

FROM PAGE 1 Dhaka in 2007.

Palestinian

increasing

settler attack

Palestinian children are com-

ing under increasing attack by

a handful of violent, extremist

Jewish settlers, a rights group

said yesterday in a report on

the human cost of settlement

two years by Defence for

Children International-

Palestine (DCI), investigated

38 separate incidents of settler

set out in sworn affidavits and

compiled in the report: "Un-

der Attack: Settler violence

against Palestinian children in

the occupied Palestinian

carried out in groups and tend

to be characterised by verbal

harassment, intimidation,

physical assault and the

opened fire, killing three chil-

dation was also reported in 15

cases, and stone throwing in

another nine incidents. Cursing

and verbal abuse was docu-

expansion and a growing

settler population in the occu-

pied territory have severely

impacted the security of the

Palestinian population, par-

ticularly children, whose lives

are increasingly threatened by

wilful attacks perpetrated by

extremist settlers," the report

colluded with the attack by

either joining in, turning a

blind eye or punishing the

victims rather than the perpe-

tended to be concentrated in

certain areas, with 21 attacks

carried out in and around the

southern city of Hebron, and

another seven near Nablus in

the north, close to the Yitzhar

and Bracha settlements --

"areas where settlers adhere to

extremist and violent ideolo-

On September 20, prose-

Talking to reporters at his

office vesterday, tribunal's

Registrar Shahinur Islam said

some minor changes have

been brought to 10 sections of

the rules of procedure. A

gazette notification to that

end was issued on October 28.

can further amend the rules

of procedure, which were

procedure can be amended

now that the trial proceedings

are underway, noted jurist Dr

Shahdeen Malik said such

amendments might be neces-

Yugoslavia, Rwanda and

Sierra Leon, he said the tribu-

Citing examples of former

issued in July, he added.

The tribunal, if necessary,

Queried if the rules of

War crimes

gies," the report said.

Incidents of violence

trators, it found.

In eight cases, soldiers

"Continued settlement

mented in almost every case.

dren and injuring another 10.

In 13 of the cases, settlers

Physical assault and intimi-

Such attacks are usually

The study, compiled over

kids face

AFP, Jerusalem

expansion.

territory.'

study found.

During the three-hour discussion, the two sides held a detailed overview of the bilateral relations over a range of issues including politics, economy and trade, defence, cultural, educational and consular issues, said a Pakistan foreign ministry press release.

Sources said, the Bangladesh side reiterated the issues of Pakistan's apology for the 1971 genocide, repatriation of stranded Pakistanis and sharing of assets.

violence towards minors that However, there was no official statement about resulted in the deaths of three children and injuries to 42 Pakistan's position on those demands, the sources added. Details of the attacks were Foreign ministry sources

> sides had agreed to hold a senior official level meeting in next few months to implement the decisions taken in the talks. Both agreed to initiate substantive preparatory work for leadership level visits and

told The Daily Star that both

intensify consultation. Decision was also taken to hold foreign minister level meeting in next six months to pave the way for head of government level visit sometime in 2011. Diplomatic sources said a

distance had created in the bilateral relations between the two countries since after the government had taken the initiative to try the war criminals. Since then there had been no such top-level meeting or discussion at different levels. The foreign secretaries

Economic Commission and bi-annual consultations at the senior officials' level. Yesterday, Bangladesh side sought free trade and tariff waiver on Bangladeshi prod-

also agreed to hold the next

meeting of the Joint

ucts, said sources. According to official statistics, the balance of trade has been in favour of Pakistan for more than 19 years in the Bangladesh exported

goods and commodities worth \$ 76 million to Pakistan during 2008-09 while Pakistan exported goods worth \$ 288m in the same period to Bangladesh. Both sides agreed to redouble efforts to promote

trade and investments

including joint ventures, and

cooperation in agriculture,

fisheries, livestock, science

and technology, education

initiate cooperation in counter terrorism, counter narcotics and illicit drug trafficking as well as to take steps to facilitate visas and enhance connectivity by direct shipping and more air links.

The next round of Bilateral Consultations will be held in Dhaka in 2011. The dates will

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi has stressed the need for giving attention to the untapped areas of bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

He made the observation when Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes called on him in Islamabad vesterday.

achieve \$ 1 billion two-way trade target, up from \$ 364 million, in renewed efforts. cultural and economic coop-

The Bangladesh foreign secretary earlier paid a courtesy call on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Nawabzada Malik Amad

Jaywalking

FROM PAGE 1 filed 1,176 cases against indi-

226 for not using helmets and 38 for using cell-phone while driving in the city. Kamal Hossain, assistant commissioner of DMP

viduals for not using seatbelts,

all vehicles before zebra crossings to facilitate people cross the roads, he said. The DMP deployed traffic

to check jaywalking. Mohammad Mamunur Rashid, who was driving a car with his seatbelt fastened, said he started using it nearly two

secured. ment) Tapan Kumar Sarkar said they have three mobile

ul-Azha. number of mobile courts across the country after the

Iraq church siege

FROM PAGE 16

specifically mentioned two women in Egypt who radicals believe are being held against their will after converting to

believed to have been a car bomb going off at the scene.

About 100 people were inside Our Lady of Salvation time.

The blast was followed by gunfire as a group of armed men began by attacking the Iraq Stock Exchange building, police said, and then took over the Catholic church just across the road, clashing with guards

BBC's Jim Muir in Baghdad.

One eyewitness, who was inside the church, said the gunmen "came into the prayer hall and immediately killed the priest". The witness, who declined to give his name, said worshippers were beaten and herded into an inne hall.

stand-off as security forces surrounded the building with helicopters hovering over-The militants made con-

tact with the authorities by mobile phone, demanding the release of al-Qaeda prisoners and also of a number of Muslim women they insisted were being held prisoner by the Coptic Church in Egypt. But the discussions got

stormed the church.

said 52 "martyrs" had died in the fighting, along with six remain.

It was also decided to

be decided through diplomatic channels.

MIJARUL MEETS PAK FM Pakistan Foreign Minister

Mahmood Qureshi said the two countries could

He hoped that political, eration between the two countries would strengthen further.

Khan.

Motijheel zone (traffic), said most zebra signs at intersections got erased. They halted

police at 200 points in the city. Two to four traffic police were stationed at every intersection

weeks back and felt much BRTA Director (enforce-

courts, which would continue the drive in the city until Eid-They would increase the

Eid, he said.

and culture.

NEGOTIATIONS

ABANDONED Residents of Baghdad's affluent Karada district, where the attack took place, first heard a loud explosion at about 1700 (1400 GMT) on Sunday,

for an evening Mass at the

and killing some of them. It seems the church was the attackers' real target, says the

There was an hours-long

nowhere, our correspondent says, and the security forces Witnesses nearby said they

then heard two explosions from inside the church and more shooting. The gunmen reportedly threw grenades and detonated their suicide Maj Gen Hussein Kamal

and attackers - had been killed. The number of wounded are put at between 56 and 62 many of them women.

attackers, though a police

source earlier said 37 people -

worshippers, security forces

Pope Benedict XVI denounced the attack as he gave a holiday blessing on Monday. He said two priests had died in the siege, though it was unclear whether both were killed in the initial attempt to take hostages or

services. He said he was praying for the victims "of this absurd violence, made more ferocious because it was directed against unarmed people gathered in the house of God".

during the raid by security

He called for a new effort to end the violence. Iraqi Defence Minister Abdul-Qadr al-Obeidi said security forces approached

the building at ground level and from the air. "We took a decision to launch a land offensive, and in addition an airdrop, because it was impossible to wait - the terrorists were planning to kill a large number of our brothers, the Christians who were at

"So the operation was successfully done. All terrorists were killed. And we now have other suspects in deten-Witnesses say they saw US troops on the ground and US

Mass," said Obeidi.

clear. Many churches have been bombed in recent years including Our Lady of Salvation in August 2004 - and

spondent says.

military helicopters hovering above the scene, but the extent of their involvement is not yet

priests kidnapped and killed, but there has never been a prolonged hostage situation like this before, our corre-Christians - many from ancient denominations - have

been leaving Iraq in droves since the US-led invasion in 2003, and about 600,000