PM opens fair

commerce.

She also spoke about

financial assistance and sup-

port from the government to

enhance trade and invest-

ment and establish new trade

establishments in the coun-

chamber leaders of the gov-

ernment's all out support to

any of their noble initiatives,

removing trade barriers and

opening new horizon and

tions of WTO, the Prime

Minister said it has brought

both challenges and pros-

pects for the countries like

and the exporters have to

work together with fresh

strategies for further expan-

sion of trade and creating new

markets and increase

Bangladesh's capacity to face

challenges posed by the

Hasina said the govern-

ment has intensified its diplo-

matic efforts to increase

export of Bangladeshi prod-

ucts along with attracting

foreign investment for the

sions are underway with a

number of potential countries

including USA to get duty and

quota free access of

Bangladeshi commodities to

Trade Fair, Hasina expressed

her firm conviction that

arrangement of such fair on

regular basis will help inno-

vate and diversify new prod-

ucts and increase their qual-

ity along with the enhance-

ment of technological profi-

play a key role in strengthen-

ing national economy by

standardising domestic prod-

ucts and opening new vista

and ventilator for the coun-

try's commerce and invest-

Khan and FBCCI president AK

Azad also spoke on the occa-

visited the fair venue and went

round different stalls. She also

inaugurated a stall

Bangabandhur Songe

13 countries including host

Bangladesh are participating

in the fair with a hope of big

participation of enthusiastic

byres and visitors from both

Other participating coun-

tries are India, China, Iran,

South Korea, Thailand, USA,

Turkey, Singapore, Japan,

Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, UAE

and EPB are jointly hosting

the fair -- an annual feature

colliding with MV Abdullah

Al Ashique-1, another lighter

vessel said sources at

Chittagong Port Radio

The vessel was heading

The Ministry of Commerce

A total of 36 trade bodies of

Kichhukkhon'

home and abroad.

and Pakistan.

FROM PAGE 20

Control room.

Commerce Minister Faruk

Later, the prime minister

She hoped that the fair will

Referring to the Dhaka

Moreover, she said discus-

globalisation of trade.

She said the government

About rules and regula-

opportunities for them.

Bangladesh.

country.

their markets.

ciency.

ment.

She assured the business

FROM PAGE 1 both home and abroad.

The prime minister said the present government would not do business rather provide all out assistance to the business persons. "You

support any of your good initiative," she told the entrepreneurs. **Export Promotion Bureau** (EPB) organised the inaugural

ceremony at Bangabandhu

International Conference

will do business and we will

Center (BICC). About the minimum wages of the garment workers, which were fixed by the present government at Tk 3,000 at the entry level, Hasina said this amount is very negligible. "I know most of you spend more than Tk 3,000

She advised the business leaders to attach special attention to high-value products, newer designs to make them attractive and strictly maintenance of quality of products especially for foreign buyers.

every day for shopping," she

She also stressed on attaining competitiveness to face the tough race in global market and establish a strong base of Bangladeshi products.

Hasina said the government wants to further consolidate Bangladesh's position in regional and international trade and business through increasing export of high quality products of the coun-

She said the present probusiness government will continue all out efforts so that Bangladesh can raise its contributions to the world trade, export and investment.

The prime minister said the aim of her government is to free people from the curse of poverty and has been taking effective steps for their economic development.

She said Bangladesh has now stood in the international arena as a country with immense economic prospects following her government's hard work erasing the negative image earned during the BNP-Jamat govern-

The prime minister, however, said steering the nation to an expected level is not possible by the government alone. "So the present government has already finalised a guideline under Public Private Partnership for enhancing trade and improvement of infrastructure," she said.

Hasina said the business community must come forward with the highest innovative capacity to turn Bangladesh into an emerging business giant of the

The prime minister listed a number of steps being implemented by the government in several key areas like power generation, construc-

since 1995. tion of Padma Bridge, ele-Ctg port All they want

FROM PAGE 1

240 will go back home happy, leaving a large majority disgruntled. Add to this a possible

delay of more than three

minutes to issue each ticket, towards Narayanganj after loading the clinkers from its and there could well be mother vessel MV Jian trouble on the horizon. In that event, it is the BCB who Qiang, they said. Twelve crewmen on the will be culpable, as they have vessel saved their lives by failed to disseminate inforgetting on board MV mation among the masses in Abdullah which was empty due time. The news of the and was heading for outer issuing limitations has only filtered through at the elev-

anchorage to load goods, enth hour, and that too from they added Joynal, the master of MV the banks, not the game's Abdullah, said MV Manik governing body. Now, all they can do is stand with Mia collided with his vessel

while they were crossing The wave of expectations Two survey ships from the port were sent to locate the

ship and a buoy lifting vessel BLV Lusai was sent to salvage After locating the spot a buoy was set up in the afternoon to mark the spot to

2011 World Cup with India signal other ships to avoid and Sri Lanka, and unlike in the area, said Chittagong 1998 the national team will Port Authority (CPA) Deputy Conservator Captain

"We are informing all vessels by sending messages about the accident," he added.

Bangladesh will host CPA Secretary Syed Farhad Uddin Ahmed suspects dense fog may have caused the accident. Movement of vessels through the port was normal and six ships have left the port as per schedule since the accident, he added.

BNP picks by-election vated expressway in the candidates capital and easing trade and

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday nominated its candidates for the upcoming by-elections to Habiganj-1 and Brahmanbaria-3 constituencies.

Officials at the opposition chairperson's office told The Daily Star last night that the party had nominated Sheikh Shujat Miah for Habiganj (Nabiganj and Bahubal upazilas) and Khaled Hossain Mahbub for Brahmanbaria (Sadar and Bijoy Nagar upazilas).

The officials said that they had already notified the candidates over the phone about their nominations.

Election Commission declared the constituencies vacant following the deaths of Dewan Farid Gazi (Habiganj-1) on November 19 and Lutful Hai Sachchu (Brahmanbaria-3) on November 22.

Body of police mosque imam tound

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The decomposed body of Maulana Hafez Mohammad Ishague, 50, was recovered from a flat at Wes Shewrapara on Thursday.

He was Pesh Imam of the police officers' quarters Jame Mosque adjacent to the Ramna Police Station. Mohammad Shoaib

brother of Hafez Ishaque identified his body at Dhaka Medical College morgue. Shoaib said an unidentified man took away Ishaque

by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw after Johr prayers on December 20 and since then he remained missing. He also said they filed an

abduction case with Ramna Police Station on December Hafez Ishaque's cell phone was found switched

off after a few hours of his

abduction. Shoaib said Hafez Ishaque was working as the imam of the mosque for 26 years and he had no enmity with anybody. He lived with his family in a quarter adja-

cent to the mosque. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station Reaz Hossain said they on information went to a house of West Sheorapara Thursday night and broke open a flat of a six-storey building and recovered the body. The hands and legs were tied with shackles and his mouth was gagged with

scotch tapes. DMC morgue sources said that the imam was strangled to death. OC Reaz suspects that several persons were involved in the killing.

Only 5 for Jamaat FROM PAGE 1

Chapainawabganj being confident about their victory

in the municipality election. BNP leaders were unwilling to comment on the issue of the main opposition's compromise with its key ally

Jamaat. They said it is for the local BNP leaders to decide on the candidature.

Interestingly, in several municipalities, two BNP candidates have been listed as candidates.

Enayet Kabir and Manir Hossain have been listed as BNP-backed candidates in Lalmohon of Bhola; Mashiur Rahman Bablu and Amzad Hossain in Gurudaspur of Natore; Abu Taher Mia and Mazharul Islam in Kishoreganj; Dewan Modasser Shafi and Shafiqul Islam in Madan of Netrakona; Shafiqur Rahman Bhuiyan and Akter Majhi in Chandpur; and Ashraful. Billal Hossain Majumder and Humayun Kabir

Jamaat wanted BNP to back its mayoral candidates in at least 40 municipalities.

Pradhan in Kachua.

Acting Jamaat chief Moqbul Ahmed and its acting secretary general recently met BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to discuss the selection of mayoral candidates. Jamaat leaders however denied seeking any support from BNP in the municipality polls.

Books to reach

FROM PAGE 20

The education minister said the students of class one to nine of all educational institutions will get new textbooks within the first week of this month.

"The primary and secondary level textbooks will reach the students within a week, if the distribution at all educational institutions doesn't complete by today," Nahid

Bangladesh is the only country in the world that has printed 23 crore copies of textbooks for free distribution, he said, adding, if there is even one percent shortage of books, they would cover it from the five percent buffer stock. Elsewhere in the country,

the distribution programme was launched amid a festive mood with ministers, members of parliament, deputy commissioners, district education and primary education officers handing over the books to students, report our district correspondents. However, some schools

did not distribute books due to holiday yesterday. In the wake of recurring

textbook crisis in recent years, the government in 2009 took a decision of free book distribution at both primary and secondary levels for a possible solution. In earlier years, the stu-

dents and their parents had to wait four to five months to get their books, which eventually hampered their stud-The education ministry

last year distributed around 18.8 crore textbooks to some 2.76 crore students despite obstacles like a devastating fire at a warehouse that reduced a huge amount of papers and some primary level books to ashes. Besides, crisis over distri-

bution in due time also emerged in some areas.

The number of students increased this year because of free book distribution, pushing the government to print more textbooks. Of the total books printed this year, around 10.45 crore copies are for primary level and around 12.75 crore for secondary level.

The education minister urged the students and their parents not to follow any guidebooks. He also called upon the schoolteachers to complete the syllabus in the classroom.

State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak distrib- Dobbor uted books at Residential Model School and College in Mohammadpur in the capi-

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen formally inaugurated the distribution at Lalkhan Bazar Government Primary School under Double Mooring in Chittagong, reports our correspondent in the port city.

Shipping Minster Shahjahan Khan inaugurated the distribution at

SC launches

FROM PAGE 20 SC Registrar M Ashraful

He was speaking at the orientation for e-Registration at the SC Judges' Lounge yesterday afternoon.

The procedure for filing a case or petition with the SC, however, remains the same as before.

The registrar said the

litigants can now stay updated and monitor the status of cases through the website (www.supremecourt.gov.bd) that also contains the daily cause list of the Appellate

and the High Court divi-A similar system will also be introduced for lower courts across the country by the end of this year, said

Fowzul Azim, an SC special officer, said the website is being updated with details of the cases being heard and disposed of at the divisions every day. The outcome of a day's hearing will help the litigants decide their next course of action. He said the SC website

will help keep the court records updated and ensure people's access to those.

SC officials concerned attended the orientation ceremony.

Rajoir Model Primary School report.

in Madaripur, while Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor

Khairuzzaman Liton also handed over books to students. Similar reports of distribu-

tion also came from Barisal Khulna, Pabna, Kurigram and Khagrachhari, among other districts.

Jamaat fails FROM PAGE 1 Talking to The Daily Star

several leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami admitted that they are going through the worst time in the party history after the arrests of its top

leaders on charges of crimes

against humanity.

Jamaat has planned to stage demonstrations abroad, specially in the UK, the USA and some other Middle Eastern countries, using its supporters and like-minded organisations against the war crimes trial and government's 'repression,' said the leaders.

Presently the crisis-hit party is conducting indoor activities due to the stern stance of the government. Some leaders, wishing

not to be named, said they are working under different organisations to start antigovernment movement. Two years of the Awami League-led grand alliance government have already

passed, said the leaders,

adding they are now waiting for the tenure to come to an end. "Only three years of the present government is remaining and we will be able to start a strong movement against the government very soon," said acting secretary general ATM

Azharul Islam at a discus-

sion meeting on December So far five top leaders of Jamaat, including its Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, are

facing war crimes trial. The party is now assessing the consequences after the probable arrest of its former chief Ghulam Azam as the state minister for law has already said he will also be brought to book.

Jamaat opposed country's Liberation War in 1971 and many of its leaders were allegedly involved in crimes against humanity during the nine-month-long war.

Kobber

FROM PAGE 20

Belabo Police Station, said a gang of seven to eight robbers got on a Sylhet-bound bus of Greenline Paribahan in the guise of passengers from Dhaka, reports our correspondent from Narsingdi.

As the bus reached Narayanpur Bus Stand of the upazila around 3:00am, the robbers demanded valuables from passengers at gunpoint.

Hearing screams of the passengers, locals rushed to the spot and managed to catch five of the gang. The villagers beat them up, leaving one identified as Anis,

35, dead on the spot. The four injured are Ananto Mandal, 26, from Tangail; Bijoy Nath, 30, from Narsingdi; Mahbub Alam, 35, from Mymensingh, and Masud, 36, from Khulna.

They were first taken to Belabo Upazila Health Complex and shifted to Sadar Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

Four passengers of the bus also received minor injuries while trying to resist the robbers. A case was filed with the

police station. Meanwhile, a gang of robbers stabbed a man to death at Khatrapara village in Savar, reports UNB.

criminately leaving him

dead on the spot.

in the morning.

About 30 to 40 robbers with firearms broke into the house of Abdus Sobhan, 38, in the village around 3:00am, police said. They looted the party. valuables including gold ornaments and cash from the household at gunpoint.

When the gang members were about to leave the house, Sobhan started Jagannath University. shouting for help, and the BNP central leaders robbers, fearing attack by Khandaker Mosharraf locals, stabbed him indis-

Hossain and Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, and JCD Police recovered the body leaders also addressed the rally.

with joint team of Rab and Coast Guard, mentioned the

It was prepared based on incidents reported in the leading national dailies.

Besides, one person died from torture by Rab, while six were killed by police and two others by the army and BDR even before they were arrested, the report claimed. A total of 74 persons died

in jail last year. Of them, 18 were convicted detainees while the rest were accused. The summary of the study also said 14 persons

were killed in police torture while another became the victim of Rab and police torture after they were arrested. It revealed three committed suicide under police and

Rab custody, while another three died after falling sick in custody. People's lack of confidence in law caused the mob

beatings, stated the report. Four newsmen were killed during this period,

while cases were filed against 42 journalists for publishing news, it added. About 19 journalists

faced life-threats from unidentified persons, activists of ruling Awami League, cadres of Jubo Dal, contractors, drug traders and terror-According to the report,

administrators last year declared section 144 in seven divisions for 152 times. Sayeed Ahmed, coordinator of media and advocacy

unit of ASK, read out the

report. Executive Director of the organisation Sultana Kamal was present, among others. Odhikar, another rightsbased organisation, in its brief human rights report released yesterday said there

were numerous human

rights violation incidents in

Bangladesh in 2010 and the

law and order situation was

vulnerable. As many as 127 incidents of extra-judicial killings occurred during the period.

At least 556 women and girls became victims of rape while 137 others suffered acid burns, recorded the report.

All state

leader of the opposition in parliament alleged without

FROM PAGE 1

explaining this. Addressing a rally marking the 32nd founding anniversary of the party's associated student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the Mahanagar Natya Mancha premises in the capital, Khaleda said the AL government is doing things that are beyond tolerable limits, and it is heading

for dire consequences. She urged the government to publish what it has done for people's welfare during the past two years of its tenure.

Turning to garment sector, the former prime minister accused the government of instigating violence in the

Alleging that detained BNP leaders including Salauddin Ouader Chowdhury were severely tortured, Khaleda said, " think foreigners have got into the intelligence agencies of Bangladesh. People of this country cannot be so cruel."

Without referring to the proposed Bangabandhu International Airport, the opposition leader said there is no need to set up another airport only to be named after someone. Rather, the government should first solve the worsening traffic jam in the capital, she added. About JCD, she said all its

units will be formed comprising of genuine students, and those who are loyal to The rally was attended by

leaders and activists of different units of the student body including those at Dhaka University and

Haldemukhi canal in Sharankhola upazila around 2:00am yesterday on a fishing trip from Paikgachha, police said, quoting fishermen.

2010 witnesses Licensed yet

FROM PAGE 20 and detect flaws in the moni-

city

toring system.

The one-member subcommittee was formed by the standing committee on the health ministry on July 23, 2009.

The move came after many children died taking poisonous paracetamol manufactured by Rid Pharmaceuticals.

The experts' team, comprised of pharmacy experts and drug administrators, visited different drug companies to prepare a report for the sub-committee. Besides finding out about

the illegal import, it gathered that a significant number of small pharmaceutical firms are producing and marketing low-quality drugs. These companies neither follow the rules of drug administration nor have enough manpower and equipment to ensure quality, some of the team members said preferring anonymity. They, however, said big consequences.

companies are producing quality drugs and it is a relief that their produce covers 98 percent of the country's drug market. The sub-committee was

given three months' time to place the report in parliament. About 14 months have gone since the period expired but the committee has yet to submit the report. Nazmul Hassan, ruling

Awami league lawmaker and the lone member of the subcommittee could not be

despite repeated attempts. Sources at the Directorate

reached for comments

General of Drug Administration (DGDA) said that had the report been submitted to parliament within the given period, DGDA would have started working on the recommen-

dations. A DGDA official asking not to be named said the pharmaceutical companies, which are selling raw materials on the black market and producing low-quality drugs, might be behind the delay in submitting the

He also held the DGDA responsible for slack monitoring of the drug market.

AK Azad, professor of clinical pharmacy and pharmacology department of Dhaka University and former DU vice-chancellor, said the expert team worked seriously and the report will also include spurious drugs and their

yet, he said, "No doubt, the pharmaceutical companies are powerful. But the government is not less powerful. The prime minister has taken the issue seriously and so has the team."

ment of DU. He said the team has

completed the report and will soon submit it.

Press Club polls

opposition-leaning panel of intimidating their agents.

Earlier on Friday, BNP-Jamaat-backed Sabuj-Abdal panel won by a landslide the election to the press club's managing committee for 2011-2012.

Witnesses said tension mounted towards the end of the vote counting when supporters of Sarwar-Saiful found they were losing almost all the posts.

They beat up two personal staff of outgoing president Shaukat Mahmud.

Throughout Friday night and till announcement of the polls result early yesterday, the club was virtually under control of outsiders. The rival panels blamed each other for the show-

Leaders and supporters of Sarwar-Saiful panel held a meeting on the second floor of the press club in the afternoon.

There, they rejected the results and vowed not to allow the new committee to run the club.

Addressing the gathering, forum leaders Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Altaf Mahmud, Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Shafiqur Rahman, Kartik Chatterjee and Shah Alamgir alleged that Sabuj-Abdal panel won the elec-

Pirates kill fisherman

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

A fisherman was killed and four others were injured critically when a gang of pirates fired bullets at their fishing boat in the estuary of the Pashur in the Sundarbans in Bagerhat early yesterday. The deceased is Bashirul

Islam Sheikh, 24, of Sreemantokati village in Tala upazila.

The injured are Zahurul Sardar, 35, and Ganesh Chandra Biswas, 40, of Sreemantokati village, Safiqul Islam Gazi, 28, of Katipara and Milon Biswas, 28, of Noakati village in Paikgachha upazila of said. Khulna.

They were admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital with bullet wounds, hospital sources said. At least 24 fishermen in a

boat reached near

After the meeting, supporters, mostly nonmembers of the Sarwar-

club office-bearers. The protesters chanted slogans against Sabuj-Abdal panel.

Meanwhile, a press statement on behalf of Sarwar-Saiful panel alleged that

ment. Contacted, newly elected President Kamaluddin Sabuj rejected the allegations and said the election

He urged all to refrain from stirring any unwanted

50 hurt

FROM PAGE 20

addressing a roadside rally at Moni Chattar at about 5:00pm on the occasion of the JCD's founding anniversary, police charged baton on BNP activists, who pelted the law enforcers with brickbats.

BNP activists, as the clash spread to Saheb Bazar point and adjoining areas. Rizvi later at a press conference alleged that police deliberately attacked the

leaders and activists were

Police lobbed teargas

canisters to disperse the

"The BNP men obstructed vehicular move-

sion for holding a roadside

The JCD later informed police that it would hold the rally at Bhuban Mohan Park. But it tried to hold the rally at Moni Chattar causing com-

At least 15 policemen were injured in the clash, he

rally at Moni Chattar.

said.

Regarding pressure from different companies for not making the report public

The team was led by Prof ABM Faroque of pharmaceutical technology depart-

tion through ballot rigging.

Saiful panel, brought out a procession inside the club. They broke open the notice board and tore apart the result sheets posted inside. They allegedly kicked ballot boxes and rooms of press

three election commissioners left the club immediately after the vote counting began. It accused the election commission chairman of a biased role. Despite objections by the agents, the EC continued the counting, read the state-

was held in a peaceful man-

controversy.

Makhdum College point.

When Rizvi started

"peaceful BNP rally". He claimed at least 100 BNP

hurt in the incident. However, Shahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station, brushed aside the allega-

ment on the busy street," he He said the district JCD was earlier denied permis-

muters trouble.

for tickets is quite understandable. The closest Bangladesh came to hosting an event of such magnitude was the ICC mini World Cup in Dhaka in October 1998.

marquee event.

fingers crossed.

Thirteen years on, Bangladesh will co-host the participate and more importantly the Tigers will play all Najmul Alam. their group matches on home soil, further escalating public expectations from the

eight games including two

quarterfinals. Besides,

Bangabandhu National

Stadium will host the open-

ing ceremony of the tourna-

ment on February 17, when

the whole cricketing world

will be in attendance.