Nasty 'fun'

FROM PAGE 1 on Thursday. They then gave him some

drink in a can. Taking a few sips, Chand threw the can and tried to run away but the three culprits chased him down and took

him behind a shop, witnesses

added. They then held him tightly and poured alcohol in his mouth, his mother Kohinur Begum told these correspon-

Intoxicated, Chand lurched down a few yards and

He regained conscious in the afternoon after he was made to drink some tamarind juice, but fell sick again immediately afterwards. He was first admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and was later transferred to NIDCH.

fainted.

Chand's father left the family of six and married another woman two years ago. His mother has been working at Karwan Bazar fish market to support the family

On the fateful day, she gave Chand Tk 5 to buy breakfast after repeated request.

"My child could not eat the breakfast he longed for," she

Terming the incident brutal, criminology experts said degradation of social values is responsible for the

"It indicates that we have so much to do to safeguard our children," said ASM Shahjahan, former inspector general of police.

The culture of impunity has encouraged the criminals to commit such an act in broad daylight, observed Shahjahan, also former adviser to a caretaker govern-

According to him, this is only one glaring example of children being abused. "We would not know it, had the boy not died."

Nehal Karim, a professor of sociology at Dhaka University, said the tragic incident

One hurt

in the right leg.

ROM PAGE 20 admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was hit

Abu Aziz, sub-inspector of Badda Police Station, said the Palash group began to build a tin-shed structure on the field of DIT project in the area in the morning.

Soon after, the group led by Jahangir went there and the court observed. asked them to stop the construction work, which led to an altercation, said the SI.

In the afternoon, Jahangir's men attacked the Palash group with firearms when the latter fired back, he

On information, police rushed to the scene but found none except the vic-

Police are looking for the culprits and preparing to file a case, Aziz told The Daily

BGB jawans

FROM PAGE 20

Earlier, a prosecutor read out charges before the Special Court-10 in Pilkhana, led by Col Khondakar Obaidul Ahsan.

Asked by the court whether they were guilty or not, only two of them, Sepoy Ahsan Habib and Sepoy Hasan Ali, pleaded them-

selves guilty. The plaintiff of the case Nayek Subedar Giasuddin gave depositions against 20 accused. The court was

adjourned till 9:00am on March 9. The accused were alleged of leaving Darbar Hall, showing solidarity with mutineers, revolting with fire-

arms, staying inactive to prevent mutiny and failing to control unruly colleagues.

In another case, two witnesses placed their depositions yesterday before Special Court-7, set up at 13 Rifles Battalion of Pilkhana, against 57 suspected jawans of Rifles Security Unit. The accused also cross-

examined three witnesses. The court postponed the trial until 9:00am on February 27.

A total of 73 people, including 57 army officers, were killed during the murderous mutiny at Pilkhana headquarters of the border guards on February 25-26 in

revealed the extent of degeneration of social values in the country.

The culprits must be punished, said Karim, also a criminology expert.

Omar Faruque, officer-incharge of Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station, said they recorded a general diary in this connection and will convert it into a murder case upon receiving the postmortem report.

He also said they are trying to catch the criminals.

HC asks cops

FROM PAGE 20 police in Narsingdi to appear before it on March 21 with the investigation reports on the cases filed

over the separate incidents.

The OCs have to explain their actions and developments of the cases to the HC that day.

It passed the order following a report published on The Daily Star yesterday with the headline "Tumpa Abduction, Murder: Same gang killed her brother last May".

The report says the police suspect the same gang that allegedly killed schoolgirl Ayesha Akhter Tumpa after kidnapping her from the capital on February 14 also killed her brother Al Kawsar Masud alias Babla eight months ago.

The body of Tumpa, 15, a student of class Ten at Begum Rahima Adarsha High School in Segunbagicha, Dhaka, was found floating in a canal at Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) dam on February 16.

Tumpa's brother Babla once slapped a member of that gang for stalking his sister in Segunbagicha. After 15 days on May 31 last year Babla's body was found floating in the Kakon river of Narsingdi, according to the newspaper report.

The court yesterday also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned and the police to explain within four weeks why they should not be directed to take effective measures to arrest and punish the culprits.

Expressing grave concern over the incidents, the HC bench also ordered the police to provide necessary security to the victims' family members and the wit-

nesses of the cases. Tumpa would not be victimised if the law enforcers took necessary steps over the murder of her brother,

Meanwhile, another court yesterday sent Tumpa's alleged stalker Nurul Hug and "boyfriend" Sayeedur Rahman Sayeed to jail after Shahbagh police produced them before the court seeking a seven-day fresh remand each.

Earlier Nurul was interrogated for five days and Nurul for three days.

Aati canal

Haque of Dhaka-14, were involved in the activities that continued over the last two months.

The massive earth-filling had closed the confluence of the two streams flowing to the right of the Martyred Intellectuals' Bridge, added locals.

Some local landowners complained to the DoE team that they had been forced by an influential quarter to sell their land.

The labourers, engaged in the digging and filling, said the site was associated with a project called Dhaka West Power Plant.

But nobody from the plant authorities was found during the drive. There, a signboard reads "Proposed Fuel Preservation Centre: Rented by Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation" and "approved by the government".

The DoE said nobody took permission from them for such project.

About 200 bighas of wetland adjoining the river was being filled up for the site, the workers said adding they already had filled around 200 feet long and 50 feet wide segment.

"Of the 200 bighas, 60 bighas were for the power plant and the rest for housing projects," said a worker.

Failing to reach lawmaker Aslamul, The Daily Star sent a text message to him last evening, requesting his comment on the drive. He is yet to respond.

Bus collides with CNG, 6 killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Six people were killed when a bus and a CNG threewheeler collided on the Brahmanbaria-Comilla highway yesterday afternoon, near Shantipur village under Kasba upazila of the district.

Witnesses said two people, including a child died on the spot while the remaining four succumbed to their injuries after being taken to the hospital.

Two of the deceased were identified as Md. Nooru Mia, 45, of Comilla and Nayeem, 30, of Kashba while identity of a woman in her late twenties, a man aged around 30, a child and the three-wheeler driver could not be known.

Police said the threewheeler carrying six passengers was heading towards Companyganj from Kasba when a speeding bus coming from the opposite direction smashed head-on into the three-wheeler.

The bodies were sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Police seized the bus though its driver managed to flee the scene. A case has been filed with Kasba Police Station in this connection.

10-truck arms FROM PAGE 1

case docket immediately, he failed to submit it within office hours yesterday, they said. State lawyer and Public

Prosecutor Kamal Uddin said the IO would submit it today. Muniruzzaman appealed

for time extensions for 12th

time since he started investigating the case on February 4, During the tenure of the last caretaker government, a Chittagong court on February 12, 2008, ordered further

investigation into the case

following an appeal made by the then public prosecutor Ahsanul Hoque Hena. In February 2009, a Chittagong court ordered to change the IO following an appeal by the state lawyer and ASP Moniruzzaman of CID, Chittagong was appointed as

the fifth IO of the case. Since February 12, 2008 the court has so far extended time 17 times. On November 24, it granted three months to complete investigation.

PP Kamal said the case is not an ordinary case. It is a very important case as involvement of many important people in the arms smuggling has already been revealed.

He said they moved the petition to properly complete the investigation.

Muniruzzaman in the petition said he needed more time as he was yet to find information about the vessel used in carrying the arms and ammunition.

Police seized 10 trucks loaded with weapons and ammunition at the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) jetty on April 1, 2004.

Police and coastguards found submachine-guns, AK-47 rifles, submachine carbines, Chinese pistols, rocket shells and launchers, hand grenades and bullets stuffed in around 1,500 wooden boxes during unloading those from two vessels at the CUFL

BGMEA building

Hossain asked the lawyers to place their opinions tomorrow during the hearing on a suo moto rule issued earlier.

On October 3 last year, another HC division bench issued the rule upon the authorities concerned asking explanation as to why the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and **Exporters Association** (BGMEA) building in the city's Hatirjheel area should not be demolished.

The rule was issued following a report published in a daily newspaper on October 2 stating that the building was constructed without any approval from Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk).

Advocate GHM Muniruddin placed the news item before the HC and said the BGMEA building was illegally built.

The matter came up before the bench as per serial for hearing yesterday.

Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain appeared for the government.

Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 1 protesters.

The Daily Star could not reach the Bangladesh ambassador in Libya or any staff of the embassy despite repeated attempts yesterday.

The foreign secretary claimed that communication could not be established with the ambassador Monday night, but "we have contacted him this [Tuesday] morning".

A Libyan citizen reached by telephone told The Daily Star from Tripoli that the rioters were attacking mainly the foreign companies, prompting hundreds of foreigners to leave the country.

"The Tripoli airport is full of foreigners, who are being evacuated," he said at Libyan time 2:15pm. Everybody in the city is staying home, said the Libyan. The telephone call dropped before his name could be known.

Mijarul Quayes said the situation in Libya, especially in southern region is volatile and it is very hard to get access.

He said he had talked with the Bangladesh ambassador in Tripoli ABM Nuruzzaman about possible evacuation of Bangladeshi citizens to safer places and the ambassador informed that he has already contacted with international organisations in Libya regardingevacuation.

Replying to a question, Mijarul Quayes said there are only two officers, including the ambassador, in the Bangladesh mission in Tripoli. The other officer, who is the labour attaché, is now in Dhaka to attend a government meeting.

He said there was no attack on the Bangladesh embassy and the ambassador was working from home and yesterday he went to chancery. But its not possible to keep the embassy open under the current situation.

Asked about the resignation of the Libyan ambassador in Bangladesh, the foreign secretary said a note from the Libyan embassy said that "the ambassador is no longer with us and the second man has taken over the charge of

New Zealand

and turned central Christchurch into a rubblestrewn disaster zone littered with dazed and bleeding residents.

The city's cathedral lost its spire while the six-storey Canterbury TV building was reduced to a smoking ruin.

Rescue helicopters plucked survivors to safety from the rooftops of buildings where staircases had collapsed and emergency workers used giant cranes to pull office workers out of ruined

city buildings. Media reports quoted Christchurch's mayor Bob Parker as saying that up to 200 people may still be trapped inside ruined buildings. Police drafted in urban search and rescue teams in an urgent

attempt to locate survivors. A woman trapped under her desk in one of the city's worst-hit buildings gave an interview by telephone from

beneath the rubble. Power was cut to thousands of residents, mobile phone networks were disrupted and road and rail transport was badly hit after the violent tremor, which tore

gaping fissures in asphalt. Water mains were also burst, unleashing a torrent of water that joined with heavy rains to inundate the suburb of Bexley and cause surface flooding in other areas of the

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, who is also New Zealand's head of state, said she was 'utterly shocked" by the disaster while the national cricket team, in India for the World Cup, reacted in horror to the grim news.

The quake is the deadliest to hit New Zealand since a 7.8magnitude tremor killed 256 people in the Hawke's Bay region in 1931.

Seismologists said that despite being smaller, the latest tremor was more destructive than the earlier quake because it was nearer to Christchurch's centre and much closer to the earth's surface.

New Zealand sits on the 'Pacific Ring of Fire", a vast zone of seismic and volcanic activity stretching from Chile on one side to Japan and Indonesia on the other.

Charge d'Affaires".

Assistant Secretary (Cooperation) Eshtiwi Elfilaidni is now the acting Charge d' Affaires.

Although Ahmad Ateya Hamd Al-Imam, who joined in Dhaka on July 10, 2008 is no longer the ambassador, he will get protocol, security and other admissible facilities as per the diplomatic tradition. Official sources said the

Libyan ambassador informed

a top official at the foreign

ministry Monday about his resignation and the Libyan foreign ministry in a note sent yesterday, officially informing Meanwhile, recruiting agent in Dhaka Didarul Huq of Heaven Overseas told The Daily Star he received a mes-

sage from a Bangladeshi working in a Tripoli hospital that the hospital authorities asked the employees to remain in the camps, as clashes were rampant in the Quoting a Bangladeshi working as a laundryman in Tripoli, another recruiting

agent AHM Moyeen Uddin said late on Monday night the foreign workers were not able to go out of their camps or homes in Tripoli. The relatives of the Bangladeshis in Libya, meanwhile, are passing days in

worry over their loved ones

fate in the troubled African "Informed of clashes, have been trying to contact my brother, Jasim, in Libya. The phone line was so disturbing that I could not talk to him to know about his condition," Mohammad Alamgir of

Chandpur told The Daily Star.

Sri Lanka blocks Indian politician from funeral

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka yesterday turned back three Indians, including a state legislator, who had come for the funeral of the mother of slain Tami Tiger rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Thol Thirumavalavan, a legislator from the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, and two of his associates were denied entry at the island's international airport, immigration controller Chula Perera said.

"When they were questioned at the immigration counter they were not clear about their visit," Perera

Thirumavalavan told the Chennai-based Hindu newspaper that they had wanted to attend yesterday's cremation of Prabhakaran's mother, Vallipuram Parvathi, 81. Prabhakaran was killed by government forces in May 2009.

"I asked them what the reason to send me back was," Thirumavalavan told the Hindu. "But there was no

satisfactory reply." Sri Lanka's minority Tamils share close cultural and religious links with

Tamil Nadu. Prabhakaran's mother died in hospital on Sunday following a stroke last year.

Gaddati vows

FROM PAGE 20

Sahara.

tary coup in 1969.

the podium outside one of his residences that was damaged in a 1986 US bombing raid that attempted to kill him. Next to him stood a monument of a fist crushing a US fighter jet.

"I am not going to leave this land, I will die here as a martyr," Gaddafi said on state television, refusing to bow to calls from his own diplomats, soldiers and protesters clamouring in the streets for him to go. Huge popular protests in

Libya's neighbours Egypt and Tunisia have toppled entrenched leaders, but Gaddafi said he would not be Barisal. forced out by the wave of dissent sweeping through his vast and sparsely populated oil producing nation, Dapdapia. which stretches from the Mediterranean to the

"I shall remain here defiant," said Gaddafi who has ruled Libya with a mixture of populism and tight control since taking power in a miliaddressed the rally.



Vendors happy with the business at fair

RAKIB AHAMMED

Not only writers, publishers and readers but vendors too, wait longingly for the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela as they get an opportunity to sell their products outside the fair venue during the monthlong festival. Spreading their wares on the pave-

ments leading in and out of the Bangla Academy premises, hundreds of vendors busily try to draw the attention of prospective customers. As the vendors are not allowed into

the book fair, they satisfied themselves with the sidewalks outside the fair premises and displayed their products ranging from toys, jewellery and home decor items to mouthwatering munchies.

Setting a table on footpath from day one of the fair, Amy sells handicrafts made of jute with a price range of Tk 40 to Tk 250.

"I have been getting a good response from my customers," she said.

Food stalls selling local snacks like Chotpati and Fuchka have become very popular among the fair visitors and never fail to draw a good crowd.

Shirin Akhter, a housewife, bought a cane basket costing Tk 45 from a vendor on her way out of the fair.

She said, "Besides buying books, I also found a necessary item for my kitchen."

Vendors of this group, however, remain on their toes as policemen chase them quite often to clear the paths for the visitors to the fair.

Yemen protesters clash with regime loyalists

AFP, Sanaa

Supporters of Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh armed with daggers and batons clashed violently with students yesterday in Sanaa before police intervened, an AFP reporter said, adding five people were hurt.

spent a second night camped at a square near Sanaa university, dubbed Al-Huriya (Liberty) Square, where they yesterday erected a huge tent. The crowd swelled to about 4,000 and as the pro-

About 1,000 students had

testers demanding Saleh's ouster moved yesterday morning from the square close to where Saleh's loyalists are bunkered down, the group attacked them with daggers and batons. The students, some of

whom were also armed with batons, responded.

Three students and two of Saleh's lovalists were wounded before police dispersed the crowd, the reporter said.

PM pledges

She was addressing a public rally at Dapdapia after inaugurating the Shaheed Abdur Rob Serniabat Bridge over Kirtonkhola River here.

The PM assured that the

hope and aspirations of the countrymen by taking the right steps in time. "Steps will be taken to restore the lost glory of Barisal which was earlier

government would fulfil the

well-known as granary of the country," she said. The government is taking an initiative for direct bus communication between Dhaka and Kuakata in Patuakhali, she said, adding that steps would be taken to further develop Kuakata as a

tourist resort. Hasina said the government would take steps to generate electricity in Bhola to ensure regular power supply in the southern region.

The PM said that the government would establish schools in the remote areas of the southern region. Mentioning the potential of ship-breaking and ship-

building industries in

Barisal and other coastal

areas, Hasina said if neces-

sary, the government will set

up another port in the region for economic uplift of the She also announced that the government would set up a Marine Academy in

Later, Hasina laid the foundation stone of the Barisal University at Awami League presidium

member Tofail Ahmed, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, former chief whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, among others, also

'Religion' saved

FROM PAGE 1 on fire.

On April 4 last year, she was raped allegedly by Kallus Mardi, Nirmol Murmu, Julian Mardi, Jewel Mardi, Semon Hembrom, Simon Murmu, Porimol Soren, Ilias Murmu and Ranjan Mardi. Reverend Bernard Tudu, a

case, the families of the nine "rapists" had moved to leave the village comprised of 36 indigenous Christian families. Fearing that the community would be weakened if they left, the local indigenous

leaders initiated the settle-

priest of the church, yesterday

said that after the filing of the

Talking to The Daily Star at Rajshahi Caritas office, Tudu however denied the church's involvement.

place on the church premises weeks after the rape incident. He only kept the compensation money to hand it over to the victim's family. SM Rokon Uddin, super-

intendent of police in

Rajshahi, said the church

He said the settlement took

authorities had the rapists confess to the church. Police had pressed charges against the nine on August 11 last year, but the court acquitted the accused as no prosecution witness

appeared. The SP said an unnatural death case has been filed following Serafina's suicide. However, no actions have been taken yet against the people involved in the out-of-

court settlement, he added. Meanwhile, the villagers said the "rapists" are still at large threatening the victim's family not to file any more M Noor Khan, director o

Ain o Salish Kendra, a legal aid

and human rights organisa-

tion, said there is no scope for out-of-court settlement during the trial of a rape case. Involvement in this sort of settlement is a punishable "The entire process was illegal as it was done to avoid

involved in it must be punished," observed Khan. Visiting Amtulipara village yesterday, this correspondent found deep shock and silence gripping the members of the

trial. All those who were

victim's family. "If the priest asks me to accept the settlement, what else can I do? I have to live here with three other daughters," said Serafina's father Cornelius Mardi, a farm

Reverend Tudu, however, denied that he ever met Serafina's father.

labourer.

Soren, Lobin Hembrom Jotin, Monir Murmu, Amin, Bhawani, Fabian Murmu and Moti Mardi were among those who forced him to accept the settlement. Serafina's mother Susana Soren alleged that instead of

taking actions against the rapists, the community leaders fined her husband Tk 1,200 for yelling at the rapists. Godagari Pargapa Parishad president Biswanath Tudu, among other community leaders, headed the settlement. He said the settlement was accepted the judgment, what is the problem here?" he Dhonai Soren, president

of Kakonhat Poura Pargana

Parishad, said he had walked out of the meeting to protest the fining instead of a trial. Soon after the settlement the accused started roaming freely again, adding to the humiliation and torments

Serafina had been going

through.

After she set herself ablaze on February 17, she was admitted to the surgery ward of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. MA Hannan, head of the

burned and was referred to Dhaka for better treatment But her family took her back home under a risk bond.

Serafina's father said he

surgery ward, said the girl

had 75 percent of her body

took her home as he could not afford going to Dhaka. Jatiya Adibashi Parishad has protested the rape incident and the settlement and demanded punishment to

those responsible. Eng survive

I've worked really hard in the last two weeks and it was just one of those days," said the

"It is a really good deck and

picked up the ball pretty

early and it was one of those days when everything came naturally." Before the match, ten Doeschate, who has the high-

England in the 2009 World Twenty20 would help bolster Dutch resolve. The match, refreshingly, was alive till the penultimate over, as England put in a resolute batting performance that made up for their horror day on the field. Netherlands, for their part, put in a spirited

start the innings off on the right note. There were meaningful contributions from all the batsmen; the reliable Jonathan Trott scored 62, and was third out with England needing 69 runs off the last ten overs. After that, the battle-

Borren (35 not out). England spinner Graeme Swann picked up two wickets for 35

SCORES IN BRIEF

(Kervezee 16, Barresi 29, Cooper 47, Doeschate 119, Grooth 28, Borren 35 not out; Broad 2-65, Swann 2-35) ENGLAND: 296 for 4 in 48.4

Result: England won by 6 Man-of-the-match: Ryan

wickets.

FROM PAGE 1

est ODI average in world cricket, said memories of a win for the Dutch over

fielding performance that always kept them in the game. The way was shown by captain Andrew Strauss, who scored a brisk 88 off 83 balls to

hardened Paul Collingwood (30 not out), in partnership with Ravi Bopara (30 not out), took England home in this World Cup's closest match to date. Earlier, ten Doeschate was ably supported by Tom Cornelius said Moheswar Cooper (47) and captain Peter

NETHERLANDS: 292 for 6

overs (Strauss 88, Pietersen 39, Trott 62, Bell 33, Collingwood 30 not out, Bopara 30 not out; Ten Doeschate 2-47)

aimed to maintain peace. "While both the sides ten Doeschate.