PM attends

Hasina is due to leave Dhaka

for Istanbul on May 7. In her

summit speech she is

She will hold bilateral

summit and return home on

FROM PAGE 20

Justice not

FROM PAGE 20 in the capital. She was only

15 and a student of class-IX at Scholastica school. After all these years' wait

for exemplary punishment to the killers, Shazneen's parents are still longing for justice as the Appellate Division could not hold hearing on the final verdict of the case, in which the High Court upheld capital punishment to five persons in 2006.

The five accused -- contractor Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan, domestic help Shahidul Islam Shahid, Hasan's accomplices Badal and maid servants Estema Khatun Minu and Parvin -were sentenced to death on September 2, 2003 by a lower for raping and murdering Shazneen and assisting in the crimes.

The HC, however, acquitted carpenter Shaniram Mandal, also sentenced to death by the lower court, from the charge. The five convicted appealed to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court the same Shazneen was killed in

Her family has arranged a milad mehfil after the Asr prayers at 5:15pm today at her father's residence a House No- NE(J)4 on Road-83 in Gulshan-2, Dhaka. Shazneen's father Latifur

Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group, and mother Shahnaz Rahman request all relatives, friends and will-wishers to attend the milad mehfil.

80pc survey FROM PAGE 1

Bangladeshi enclaves in Indian territory. Before the identification

of the enclaves, India will complete the headcount at the adversely-held enclaves by May 15. "Once both sides agree

upon areas that they possess, the only task remaining would be to exchange them," the official said. The key challenge

remaining for both the countries is how to overcome the "difference of opinion" on patches located in northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya, which is hardly 20 percent of the total areas under dispute. There are eleven such areas in Meghalaya, he said adding "we hope to resolve the dispute in Meghalaya as soon as possible".

Once the problem on the ground is resolved, Home Minister P Chidambaram may visit Dhaka to carry forward the process into a logical conclusion. Either Chidambaram o

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is also expected to visit Bangladesh by the year-end, will sign the agreement with his Bangladeshi counterpart.

The pact will cover all outstanding border issues in line with the Mujib-Indira Land Boundary Agreement,

The fresh initiative has been taken following an agreement at the home secretary-level talks between India and Bangladesh in Dhaka early

this year. Home Secretary Gopal K Pillai and his Bangladeshi counterpart Abdus Sobhan Sikdar had agreed to initiate steps to resolve the border dispute.

Lightning

FROM PAGE 1 village of Haluaghat.

Boatman Nikli Mia, who survived the lightning and is now undergoing treat-

ment at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital, said the labourers were working in a paddy field of Kajla Beel. As the dark cloud began

to cover the sky, they hired Nikli's boat to cross the river.

"We were struck by the lightning while crossing the river," the boatman said adding that the labourers fell and drowned in the river.

The bodies were handed over to their relatives, said Gazi Sakawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Sadar police station.

Murder for money

FROM PAGE 1

Konabari in Gazipur, started for Dhaka on Padma Express from Rajshahi Railway Station in the afternoon of April 4. Sabbir and Joy were supposed to return Tk 4.5 lakh they borrowed from Russel once they reached Sabbir's home in Gazipur.

But the trio got off the train at Chatmohor Railway Station in Pabna and returned to Rajshahi by another train, Joy said. They took Russel behind Charu Mama's canteen around 1:00am on April 5 and smoked pot together. Sabbir and Joy then treated Russel to a bottle of Phensidyl which had six sleeping pills mixed in it, Joy told report-

Joy said when Russel fell asleep, Sabbir pushed him an injection and uttered in English, "He is confirmed dead now".

The injection was prepared with Bupi Vacain and Neosuxa which Sabbir and Joy had bought from a pharmacy in Rajshahi city on April 3.

After the killing, they spread bleaching powder and cement on Russel's body. Sabbir had kept the powder and cement at the scene beforehand. The powder and cement was spread so that the rotting body does not smell, Joy Then they wrapped the

body with cloth and polythene and buried it behind the bush. They even planted some arum plants on the spot for good measure, Joy said. Russel and Joy were

friends since their HSC times. They passed the HSC examination from Dayarampur Cantonment Supper College of Natore in 2005, said law enforcers and the victim's family mem-Joy got into RMC while

Russel enrolled in the Rajshahi college. Russel was introduced to Sabbir by Joy. Russel was the son of

retired BDR personnel Mokbul Hossain of Uttar Banshbaria of Abdulpur in Natore. He had been missing since April 4.

In 2008, Russel dropped out of college, got married and started a business with the money his father got on retirement.

Studying at RMC, Sabbir got involved in gambling in IPL cricket tournaments and Joy had a business of supplying human skeletons to medical students. The three got addicted to pot and Phensidyl, said law enforc-

BNP executive

FROM PAGE 20 to raise the demand for a

permanent secretary general while a few others are trying to get the grassroots to support Alamgir. The secretary general post

fell vacant following the death of Khandker Delwar Hossain.

The executive committee sits today for the second time since its formation in the party council in December 2009.

BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, who is also in charge of office secretariat, told The Daily Star that they have completed all preparations to make the meeting successful.

Chairperson Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting at Mahanagar Nattya Mancha in the city while acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir will place the report of the secretary general.

Agitation programmes, current political situation, activities of front and associate bodies, internal conflicts, and how to make the fieldlevel committees more effective may get priority for discussion.

3 stalkers

FROM PAGE 20

Earlier, Surotunnesa, mother of the college girl Shamima Akter, lodged a complaint with the UNO, accusing the trio.

In the complaint, Surotunnesa said Mujaffar, Alal and Rafique used to stalk her daughter on her way to school.

UNO asked the accused and the petitioner to appear in his office yesterday. After a hearing, Abul Hashem, also a magistrate, delivered the verdict against the three.

ers quoting Joy.

Sabbir borrowed Tk 3 lakh from Russel one and a half years ago while Joy borrowed Tk 1.50 lakh in February for his business. But Sabbir lost the money losing bets while Joy's business was not doing well, law enforcers said.

Maj Anwar Ali, commander of Railway Colony camp of Rab-5 who led the Russel's body recovery operation said Sabbir is still on the run but they are on to

Russel's father Mokbul said he called Joy on April 9 broke down in tears and asked for Russel's whereabouts. He said, "I told him I will never ask for the money, just give me my child back." On April 10, Mokbul

informed Rab about the abduction and lodged a case with Lalpur Police Station on April 15, said Motiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Syrian security

FROM PAGE 20 rounds to disperse protest-

ers who took to the streets in several cities in response to calls for "Good Friday" rallies, they said.

At least 14 people were killed in the town of Ezreh, in the southern province of Daraa, epicentre of proreform and anti-regime protests that broke out in mid-March, the sources One person was killed in

Hirak, also in the Daraa region. Nine people died in the

northern Damascus suburb of Douma, the sources And six people were also

killed in the Damascus neighbourhoods of Barzeh Harasta and Al Maadamiyah. Two people were also

killed in the northern city of Hama, site of a governmentsponsored massacre of Islamists in 1982, and two others perished in the main Syrian port city of Latakia, while four died in central Earlier other human

rights activists spoke of several people killed and wounded in Homs, as well as in the Damascus neighbourhoods of Al-Maadamiyah Zamalkah and Kabun.

The state news agency SANA reported that security forces "intervened" and fired tear gas and water cannon "to prevent clashes between protesters and citizens and protect public property."

e-textbook

FROM PAGE 20

In January last year, soft copies of 139 textbooks were put in PDF version on the NCTB website that drew much attention of both students and guardians at home and abroad. But, the new website with

e-books would be much easier to use, said the officials.

"We used more advanced technology in the e-books to make them more attractive, said Afzal Hossain Sarwar consultant (content) of A2I Programme.

He said the e-book has been created in a way that makes it easier for students to find the desired textbook.

Thirty-three books of primary level and 73 books of secondary level have been converted to e-books and uploaded on the website, he

Technology has brought about a drastic change in the ways people now obtain knowledge, he said. "We have a plan to make

an archive of textbooks. It will be easier to make such an archive in the e-book format," the official said.

Old textbooks could also be made available in the archive, he said.

Sarwar said contents in multimedia formats such as video and animation would be uploaded on the website to help students understand complicated topics.

In 2010, the government for the first time distributed some 19 crore copies of textbooks for free among primary and secondary students in the first week of the academic session.

About 23.22 crore free textbooks were distributed among 3.22 crore primary and secondary students in the first week of January this year.

3 commit

FROM PAGE 20

Police recovered her body from there and sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for an autopsy.

In another incident, Afroza Akhter, 18, killed herself on Thursday night by hanging herself from the shower of a flat's bathroom in the city's Kakrail area. She had been a domestic

help to Rafiqul Islam's family for a month.

Afroza entered the bathroom for taking a bath around 5:00pm but did not come out till 9:00pm, said Shibli Noman, officer-incharge of Ramna Police Station, quoting members of Rafiqul's family.

Breaking the door open, flatmates discovered her hanging there. Law enforcers recovered

her body around 10:00pm and sent it to DMCH mortuary for a post-mortem, added the OC. Swapon, 30, committed suicide by drinking poison

tal's Kadamtali area yester-He took poison at his Boubazar residence and was rushed to DMCH, where he expired later, Kadamtali

around 11:00am in the capi-

Law enforcers sent his body to DMCH morgue for an autopsy.

Expats get

particulars and biometric

police said.

data of MRP applicants. The Agargaon passport office will print passport books for mission offices, after the Special Branch of police in Bangladesh verifies

the identity of MRP seekers. At least 200 SB personnel have received training so far to do verification and put the information in the online database of the immigration department. Besides, 70 SB and DSB district offices will be provided with necessary equipment for the task, the official said.

Eight more Bangladesh missions and 14 regional passport offices in Bangladesh will soon get enough manpower and necessary equipment to issue MRPs, said the government high-up.

A project to issue MRPs and MRVs was launched at Agargaon office of the Department of Immigration and Passport on April 1 last year and now the service is available in the department's 19 regional offices in the country.

The government last year signed an agreement with Malaysia-based IRIS Corporation Berhad for implementation of the Tk 526 crore MRP and MRV (machine-readable visa) project, which was originally taken in 1989. A total of 190 member

countries of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) at Chicago Convention in 2002 agreed to switch to MRP from manual one by 2015.

Bangladesh will be able to meet the deadline, if the current pace in issuing MRP is maintained, said project officials.

Amini finds

FROM PAGE 1

abduction to foil his party's protest against the women policy, claimed the chief of the IOJ faction, a component of the BNP-led four-party alliance.

Their ongoing movement will pick up momentum no matter how hard the government tries to thwart it, added Amini, also ameer of Islamic Law Implementation Committee.

He also said Hasina should know that worse days are in store for her.

Hasanat at the press conference said kidnappers blindfolded and forced him onto a Pajero on April 10. He could not identify them or give any description about the four-wheel drive. Amini on April 10 claimed

that some plainclothes law enforcers picked up his son around 11:00am from the city's Dholaikhal area where he went to get his car repaired. The law enforcers have all

along been denying the allegations. Talking to The Daily Star on Wednesday, Inspector General

of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker termed Amini's claim"totally baseless".

US cable leaked

FROM PAGE 20 Yunus told Henry Jardine,

the US consul general in Kolkata, that he was aware of the "potentially bruising response" his entry in politics would provoke from the "two ladies" -- Sheikh Hasina, the current prime minister, and Khaleda Zia, former prime minister -- and other established political figures, according to the cables accessed and published by The Hindu, an Indian newspaper, yesterday. An unclassified cable sent

the US consulate in Kolkata documented in detail the conversation between Jardine and Yunus when the latter visited Kolkata to participate in certain programmes. During a conversation over lunch, which was hosted by the Calcutta Chamber of

on February 13, 2007, from

Hearing of Yunus's strong interest to join the political fray, Manoj Mohanka, presi- the introduction of laws Chittagong to meet the dent of CCC, raised some contrary to sharia law."

Commerce (CCC), Jardine

enquired about Yunus's

political plans.

FROM PAGE 20

questions about the "messy world" of Bangladesh politics and the "likelihood of Yunus's reputation being tarnished".

Yunus responded by saying "he understood the dangers" but "felt that responsible people had to step into the political field to make a real change in Bangladesh, which was wracked by corruption and poor governance". When Jardine raised ques-

fundamentalists are a fringe not accepted by the Bangladeshi mainstream". The consul general, however, pointed out that "even the Awami League (the political party led by Sheikh Hasina), which had been the primary advocate of a socialist, secular nation, had signed an agreement with

Yunus criticised the agreement and said it was based on pure political calculus to garner a few additional votes and another example of the

need for a new political party. Yunus was receptive to the idea of Bangladesh expanding economic relations with India. However, he was concerned "that often it became a divisive political issue, with Bangladeshi politicians stoking resentment against India for political gain".

He was also quick to point out that all was not well with the Government of India too, "particularly the significant non-tariff barriers that restricted Bangladeshi goods from reaching Indian markets".

His plans, as he narrated them to the US diplomat included the opening of the Chittagong port to regional trade with India, Burma, Bhutan and China, and "the possibility of financing a new 'mega-port' project in regional demand".

Summit to sign coupon bonds for the Meghnaghat dual fuel 335

But it took around six months before the company and the government could sign the final agreements. The government needed some time to acquire land for the Bibiyana power projects, but it had asked Summit to initial the agreements. But Summit insisted on getting the land ready first. Now the government has

completed acquiring 32 acres of land for three Bibiyana power plants, including one for the future. However, the government is yet to complete acquiring 26 acres of land for a massive 400 kilovolt sub-station to evacuate the power from these power plants. In addition, Jalalabad Gas

set up an eight-km-long and 20-inch- diameter gas pipeline that will supply gas to the power plants from the nearby Bibiyana gas field. As per contract, Summit has to build both the power substation and the pipeline,

and then hand over the own-

Company Ltd is yet to ensure

a right of way (ownership) to

ership to the government. As acquiring land for these remains incomplete, Summit has agreed to sign the contracts on two conditions -that the government will hand over the land for the substation and the pipeline within 60 days of signing the contract, and also that if the government delays the handing over, Summit will be allowed to proportionately delay commercial launching of the power plants.

These three projects alone would demand close to \$800 million, while Summit needed another \$300 million for three other rental heavy fuel oil (HFO)-fired power projects, contracts for which were awarded to it earlier.

Of these three, Summit launched its 102 MW rental plant in Narayangani on March 20 ahead of schedule. It has also completed its Khulna Power Company Ltd Phase-two 115 MW plant in Khulna and Khan Jahan Ali 40 MW plant in Noapara, and these are now on test operation and supplying power to the national grid. These will go into commercial operation this month. Summit has recently been

awarded deals for two more power projects as the lowest bidders for Syedpur 102 MW and Shantahar 50 MW power projects. It has also turned out to be the lowest bidder in Aminbazar 100 MW power project. Summit will need another \$200 million for these projects. Power ministry sources said, as Summit won bids for

too many power projects by quoting lowest prices, the government is now discouraging the company from participating in power bids in the near future. It wants to see the company implement the large power contracts as many are expressing doubts whether the local company would be able to arrange so much of finance.

jects and concentrate on the bigger ones. Regarding the financing for large projects, he said, "We have been promised by financiers more than what

The Daily Star that the com-

pany will presently refrain

from pursuing smaller pro-

we want." He added that the Janata Bank and Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IIDFC) will raise Tk 1,500 crore through issuance of zero

hours on the bank of the river,

said they were yet to find their

missing family members

Lankapatharia village of

Sunamganj, said he found

the body of his son but his

wife and other son could

Hossainpur of Mithamon

upazila of Kishoreganj, said

two of his family members--

Sabirun, 8, and Sathi, 3,--

Mithamon said he is yet to

find his wife and son who

might have gone missing in

the river while they were

some of the passengers may

be missing due to heavy

Hasan Mahmud Tareque,

UNO Helal Uddin said

trying to swim ashore.

current in the river.

A college teacher of

Alal Uddin, of

Din Islam, of

numbering 10 to 12.

not be traced.

are still missing.

MW power project. Various financiers including the IDLC, IFC, Asian

400 million for the Bibiyana projects. 2 Tangail FROM PAGE 1

Earlier, the victim's elder brother Iqbal Hossain filed a murder case with the police station accusing the two police officers. Jasim Uddin Sarkar, offi-

that the police yesterday produced the accused before a court which ordered to send them to jail. On Wednesday morning, a police team led by SI Mosharraf picked up Rubel from his medicine shop in

station, told The Daily Star

belonged to the SI, said Iqbal. utes, Rubel died there.

stolen motorcycle that

Family members of the victim said SI Mosharraf and ASI Shajahan tortured Rubel brutally in custody, which led to his death.

After the incident, SI Mosharraf was closed to Tangail Police Line and a three-member committee led by Tangail Additional Superintendent of Police Masud Ahmed was formed to probe the matter.

Shahjahan Khan along with

Brahmanbaria Deputy

Commissioner (DC) Md

Abdul Manna visited the

spot at 11:30 am and

pledged to provide financial

assistances to the family

members of the dead.

of the launch mishap.

FROM PAGE 20

office yesterday.

Sultana Kamal

Development Bank and Idcol have promised more than \$

opment of the LDCs. All 192 UN member states are Mohammad Shajahan of Tangail Sadar Model Police Station.

cer-in-charge of the police

the town saying they would interrogate him about a

Police took Rubel to Tangail General Hospital the next morning when he was Summit chief unconscious, said Dr Muhammad Aziz Khan told Mujahidul Islam of the emergency department of the hospital. Within a few min-

Meghna death

FROM PAGE 1

night and continued rescue operation till 8:00 am yesterday, Md Helal Uddin, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), said.

Two other bodies were recovered from inside the sunken vessel after dragging it to the shore. The authorities abandoned the salvage operation at 1:00 pm as there was

nobody inside the vessel,

Rescuers found three

bodies floating in the river.

the UNO said. Of the five bodies, two were identified as Md Hatem Ali, 8, son of Md Monir Hossain of Narsingdi, and Abul Hossain, 35, of Kishoreganj, said Md Shahid, sub-inspector of Sarail Police Station.

vaged answer scripts of HSC Some passengers, who exam, cash money and have survived the near death other valuables from the situation, alleged that insufficient light and overloading launch, Sarail thana OC Md of passengers were the main Jahirul Islam said. Out of 33 bodies, 30 were causes of the accident. A three-member probe handed over to their relacommittee headed by tives while three unclaimed

The rescuers also sal-

bodies--a man aged around

graveyard.

50, a 35-year-old woman, chief engineer of the marine and a 12-year-old boy-department of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport were buried at Rajpur Authority, has started investigating the incident. Meanwhile, some people, who were passing tense Shipping Minister

tions about rising levels of fundamentalism, Yunus explained that "Muslim

fundamentalist group Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish (BKM)" to "recognise fatwas issued by Imams and block

expected to urge the rich nations to continue their focus on the LDCs' special needs and boost their support, added the sources. meetings with a number of heads of state and government on the sidelines of the

> May 12. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and a host of officials will accompany the prime minister in Turkey. Foreign ministry officials

> and Bangladesh missions in Istanbul and Geneva are working out prime minister's probable meetings with her counterparts, who will converge on the events.

Health Assembly in Geneva as one of the keynote speak-The World Health Assembly, the decisionmaking body of World Health Organisation (WHO), will

ment, however, will address the meet and join in policymaking process on May 16-The conference, held annually in Geneva, will discuss a specific health agenda, including the programme budget, administration and management

member states are expected to join the meeting. The LDC-IV conference aims to ensure sustainable economic and social devel-

According to ministry officials, there are 48 LDCs in the world with a population of 950 million. Among those, 33 are in Africa, 14 in the Pacific and one in Latin

In 1971, the international community recognised the least developed countries as a category of countries distinguished by widespread poverty, weak economy and unskilled human resource.

went on the rampage and vandalised the Gaibandha Water Development Board office there for allegedly not doing enough to protect

Following the violent protest, the district administration and the WDB highups stepped up their efforts and decided to start the work under special arrange-

commissioner of Gaibandha, said at least 5,000 geo-textile bags were expected to reach Gaibandha last night for the bank protection work. He admitted a portion of the flood control embankment

has been breached. The tender for the bags and poor fund allocation were reportedly responsible

Two separate tenders are being processed for supplying the bags worth Tk 14 crore and another for implementing work including dumping bags and laying concrete blocks worth Tk 24 crore, said Abul Kalam Azad, sub-divisional engineer of

Tk 30,000 will be provided for a victim's family and Tk 45,000 for the family with more than one victim. Besides, more than Tk 30,000 was handed over to the victims' families from the local fund of DC, district rehabilitation office sources colleges in the area.

Another seven-member probe committee headed by Brahmanbaria DC was formed to find out the cause

executive engineer of Gaibandha WDB of misconbeen elected secretary genduct, Mohammed Ali, presieral while Mahfuz Anam,

dent of WDB Sramik editor and publisher of The Daily Star, has been elected treasurer, said a TIB release. The elections were held at the general meeting of the

The outgoing chairman M

currently getting worse in Shaghata union and the Jamuna is now threatening to devour Shaghata High School and police station.

On May 17, the Bangladesh leader will address the World

meet on May 16 and conclude on 24th. Most of the heads of state and govern-

matters of WHO, said offi-Delegates from all WHO

invited to the meet.

America.

Steps taken

FROM PAGE 1

their land and property from river erosion.

Shahidul Islam, deputy

for holding up the work. GaibandhaWDB.

Agitating people of Shaghata union on Thursday besieged Gaibandha WDB office demanding immediate start of the bank protection work of the Jamuna to save important structures including police station, health complex, market, schools and

They went on the rampage later on. A general diary was filed Thursday night against 400 unknown people with Gaibandha Police Station. Meanwhile, blaming the

Karmachari union, demanded that he be withdrawn from Gaibandha WDB office. The engineer could not Board of Trustees of TIB at its be contacted for comments

despite repeated attempts. The erosion situation is Hafizuddin Khan, secretary

general Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and treasurer Sultana Kamal, will continue as trustees of TIB, the release added.