Fund dearth hits

FROM PAGE 1 Chandra Sarker, deputy secretary at the ministry on

May 15. Sarker told The Daily Star yesterday that the committee is probing the allega-

tions. It might take three more weeks to submit the report, he said. Abul Hussain, who retired

as NICVD director in February this year, denied the allegations saying the current authorities are trying to cover their failures in running the hospital. According to the docu-

ments collected by the hospital authorities, the previous director procured at least 160 items for 2010-11 fiscal year. Most of these items were

bought for much higher than the prevailing prices, NICVD complained. A part of the documents

showed that the hospital incurred a loss of more than Tk 97 lakh in procuring only 68 of the 160 items.

plaints, the immediate past director procured a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system at Tk 49 lakh, though its market price is only Tk 8 Even the injection

Verapamil used in rhythm disturbance, which had been procured at TK 40 per ampul in 2009-10 financial year, was procured at Tk 3,400 per ampul this fiscal

year, at a price 85 times higher. The incurred loss for this item alone is Tk 1.68 lakh.

A cannula that costs Tk 10 only, was procured at Tk 190 incurring a loss of Tk 9,00,000 for this simple item.

A total of Tk 3.77 lakh were misused only for procuring 13 pieces of cable of 3 Channel ECG machine. The market price of the machine is now Tk 10,000 only, which was procured at Tk 39,000. When contacted, Abul

Hussain said, "They are blaming me just to conceal their failure," adding that they are doing this just out of professional jealousy. "I didn't do anything that

went against the rules. The CCTV set or cannula cost so much as we wanted to procure quality items. Still the technical committee, and market price committee allowed the lowest bidders," he said.

The allegations of price According to the com- the hospital authorities allegedly colluded in the found that the procurement funds dried up long before the fiscal year is over.

> "The crisis of essential items actually made me dig out the status of procurement in the current fiscal year, from which we came to know about the corruption in procurement," said incumbent Director Abdullah Al Shafi Majumder.

He said, "Different medi-

Manmohan Singh will make

"substantial announce-

ments" on certain long-

standing issues with

Bangladesh including shar-

ing of the Teesta waters

during his planned visit to

tions with Bangladesh and

we're fully aware of

Bangladesh's con-

Pranab said.

"We have special rela-

Dhaka some time this year.

cal items were procured at more than double the prices than that of the previous year. We even checked the current market price and

city

found anomalies.' He said the previous director even procured malarial antigens for the

cardiac hospital spending Tk

4 lakh, instead of procuring

respect and solemnity.

hoisted at half-mast at the central party office at Naya Paltan and all party offices across the country.

Leaders and activists of BNP will place wreaths at Zia's grave at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital early in the morning and offer

in different places of the city, after placing a wreath at Zia's grave at 10:00am.

She is also scheduled to distribute cooked food and essential commodities among the destitute people at around 160 spots across the city as part of a three-day programme which begins today.

Milad Mahfil will also be arranged at chairperson's residence and office in Gulshan after the Maghrib prayer.

Fish poisoned

their bodies absorb the metals which are harmful for human health.

party leaders, allegedly with the help of some employees of the Pagla Wasa treatment plant and Ansar members who are to guard the lagoons, have been cultivating fishes in the 16 lagoons for last six months, said Wasa

They catch huge amount of fishes including Ruhi, Katla, Telapia and Chitol every night and sale those to different city markets, locals

Some locals tried to catch the dead fishes vesterday though the authorities had beefed up security in the

sonnel took part. Atikur said "We have a

fishes of the lagoons." He said they many times

failed to check the catching of fishes as there is no boundary walls around the area. Wasa is planning to build boundary walls around the lagoons.

the drive but fishing in the lagoons continues unabated.

Youth shot dead

FROM PAGE 20 The deceased Sohel

Chakma, 30, son of Dulal Kanti Chakma of village

Samity union committee. Talukderpara riding on two

motorcycles at about 3:30pm and shot Sohel in the head at a point blank range, killing him on the spot.

Sohel was sitting in a bench at a tea stall after visiting his relative's house

in the area at that time. The criminals left the scene after confirming his

death, said Nayeem Uddin, decisions will be taken in officer-in-charge of Baghaichhari Police Station, quoting witnesses.

> president of Parbatya Juba Samity Baghaichhari unit, blamed PCJSS for the killing and demanded arrest and exemplary punishment of

Sajib Chakma, assistant information secretary of PCJSS, denied the allegation saying that the killing might have happened due to inter-

nal feud. No case was filed till filing of this report yesterday

It's political instability

FROM PAGE 1 "The biggest threat is not climate change...biggest threat is violence and instability. Political mistrust and the threat of confrontation run deep. The country can not afford to return to the

politics of deep-seated division and violence of the past," he said in a statement during talks with Diplomatic Correspondents' Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) at the Jatiya Press Club.

Stephen Evans said he has repeatedly conveyed to all political parties over the past three years strongly encouraging the government and the opposition to engage in constructive politics and resolve issues through dialogue.

The outgoing British high commissioner said security, sustainable democracy and prosperity are essential for Bangladesh to achieve middle income status by the next decade.

However, he said, "Corruption and misuse of funds remain a major threat and strongly impede the country's social and economic development." In this context, he said corruption is a significant problem here and it needs to be addressed.

When asked about the controversy over the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) reforms, Evans said corruption cases should be dealt in even-handed way on evidence-based approach. Replying to a series of

questions on debate over

first envisaged setting up a

primary school in the village.

The youth, who earned a

maximum of Tk 200 a day

then, shared the idea with his

They agreed to the initia-

tive and went door to door to

collect students for the

school. The parents

responded positively and

threw their weight behind the

They initially got 150

students. Labourer Amzad

Hossain, one of the organis-

ers, made space for a class-

fellow labourers.

initiators.

Rab, Stephen Evans for the first time admitted that the Rapid Action Battalion is not always respectful to human rights.

When asked whether the British government will continue funding for training of this force, he said the British government conducted training course for Rab to improve its understating and respect for human rights and the outcome of the training is being evaluated.

But he did not say precisely whether they would reopen such training.

Asked about human rights conditions in Bangladesh, he said more work has to be done to improve the situation.

When asked about Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia's recent visit to the UK, Stephen Evans said "It was a good visit as she has witnessed how the British parliament functions working with the opposition."

her return, would join the parliament session and play effective role by engaging herself in parliamentary debates, scrutinise government policies and make constructive criticisms.

On foreign governments' intervention in internal politics of Bangladesh, he claimed there was no interference from the heads of the foreign missions here during 2006-07 and history was badly distorted. "We only support development here through our develop-

Labourers the founders

form from the school.

daughters.

school, said they receive free

scripts, pens as well as uni-

Their father Somiruddin,

a day labourer, said he is

happy that the school doesn't

charge anything for his two

renamed the school Jubo

Digital Primary School in

2010 and have so far met all

costs from their small earn-

crossed 200, they appointed

four teachers including a

headmaster last year in line

Headmaster Abul Kalam,

a kamil (masters) student of

Gopalpur Darul Ulum

Madrasa, said with the estab-

lishment of the school, many

children, who would have

been deprived of primary

education in the village, now

can avail themselves of it for

teacher comes to the school

every day from Madhupur

school," said Kalam.

He along with another

Assistant headmaster

Rebeka Sultana, a BA student

of Golabari Degree College,

said five students from the

school sat for the primary

sale mango depots in the city.

against trade of adulterated

and poor-quality Iftar items in

the capital and adjoining

districts during the month of

following the incident, cre-

ating traffic gridlock in the

adjacent areas, Shamim

Hossain, officer-in-charge

(OC) of Khilkhet Police

up for buses in Khilkhet Bus

Stand area since early morn-

ing but not a single bus halted

at the bus stop as they were

At one stage, enraged

office-goers broke off

branches from the nearby

trees and attacked the vehi-

cles around 8:15am, damag-

ing at least 10 buses arriving

Police went to the spot to

from Uttara, he added.

already full, the OC said.

Passengers were queued

Ramadan.

10 buses

BSTI will launch drives also

As the number of students

Faruque said they

ment programmes to improve the government capacity for welfare of the people. About the caretaker sys-

tem controversy, he said the

Germany

of deadly

outbreak

E coli

AFP, Berlin

in Spain.

paper.

HC asks

FROM PAGE 20

morgue.

hunts source

Germany said yesterday it

was pulling out all the stops

to locate the exact source of

an outbreak of E. coli bacte-

ria poisoning blamed for 10

deaths, which authorities

suspect may have originated

Germany and Spain are

able to positively identify

the source of the patho-

gen, general warnings

about vegetables remain

valid," Consumer Affairs

Minister Ilse Aigner told

the Bild am Sonntag news-

Medical College Hospital

ing a writ petition filed on

the basis of a newspaper

report that Chunnu Miah,

58, a prisoner of Dhaka

Central Jail, was kept

handcuffed for hours at

DMCH morgue on May 20

Daily Manab Zamin pub-

lished the report on May 21

about the incident under the

headline "Handcuffed even

after death" with a photo of

Chunnu Miah in handcuffs.

A Bangla tabloid The

after he died at the hospital.

It issued the rule follow-

"Until experts in

government, people and civil society would decide about the fate of the provision. However, he hoped the next elections would be fair and peaceful like that of Evans said Bangladesh so far has been on the positive track as economic growth exceeds population growth,

but significant energy short-

ages and poor infrastruc-

ture, as well as bureaucratic

barriers to the investment climate and private sector, continue to hamper economic growth. "To achieve security and prosperity, Bangladesh needs to have strong independent institutions and a functioning parliament at

the centre of political

debate," he added. On aid for fighting pov-He hoped Khaleda Zia, on erty in the country, he said the UK government is deciding to almost double its aid in the next four years. "Our spending here will help more than 15 million Bangladeshis out of poverty, but will be extremely carefully managed and wholly contingent upon value for money, guaranteeing transparency and achieving results," he added.

DCAB President Raheed Ejaz presided over the interactions while its General Secretary Abdul Majid made welcome address.

year and they all passed.

Another teacher Shahnaz

Parvin, a BA student of

Madhupur Degree College

said she joined the school

hearing that Anwar Hossain,

one of the school founders,

has been raising funds for the

school performing acrobat-

was constructed for the

teachers last year with the

money borrowed from a local

non-governmental organisa-

Delwar Hossain, a rubber

garden worker and one of the

founders, said they received

45 sets of books from the

upazila education office last

year, and have got free books

for all their students this year.

assistant education officer in

Madhupur, said he visited

Mahmudur Rahman,

"According to the rules,

the school authorities need

to apply for temporary regis-

inception. They can apply

for permanent registration

after two more years," he

of the village said the found-

ers have been bearing all the

costs of the school. Its teach-

ers are also contributing

founders and teachers as

him without verifying his

identity. So we demand an

impartial investigation by a

judicial team and a citizen

said Prof Abdus Sattar

secretary general of

Among others, the team

talked to Chandra Shekhar

Haldar, vice chairman of

Rajapur upazila and

Siddikur Rahman, chair-

man of Saturia Union

The team included

Saiful Huq, secretary of

Biplobi Workers Party and

Junayed Saki, coordinator

Rab-8 shot Limon in the

On March 23, a team of

of Gano Sanghati.

amputated.

early as possible," he said.

greatly to the cause.

FROM PAGE 1

Workers Party.

Parishad.

Fish trader Abbas Ali Miah

"A tin-shed office room

ics in local markets.

tion," she said.

behind it.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore reached the decision after hearing the writ petition filed by a Supreme Court lawyer.

Advocate KM Zabir yesterday filed the petition as a public interest litigation seeking necessary directives from the HC to the authorities to explain the incident and to take measures to prevent such a thing from happening again in the future.

Secretary to the ministry of home affairs, inspector general of police, inspector general of prisons, jail super of Dhaka Central Jail, police officer who brought Chunnu to DMCH morgue, and director of DMCH have been made respondents to the

rule. Advocate Dr Belal Husain Joy appeared for the petitioner.

Gas crisis

FROM PAGE 1

the school and saw the achievement of the youths around 2000 mmcfd of gas daily. The gas pressure is low for the last few years as the demand has exceeded the supply by several hundred tration three years into its mmcfd.

Petrobangla Chairman Hussain Monsur told The Daily Star that the Bangura gas field is undergoing maintenance work following an approval from Petrobangla. "We expect the work to be completed within two or three days. After that the

situation would improve." "We urge the government Petrobangla sources said to take the responsibility of Petrobangla had not shared the school to give relief to its the information about Bangura's maintenance work with other authorities concerned. Due to this lack Limon shooting of information, power production at the Meghnaghat 450-MW power plant has innocent boy and Rab shot been affected.

Power sector

FROM PAGE 20 area, Hasina advised the

committee to identify and secretaries to "dismiss" them. punish those responsible," On hurriedly spending the ADP money at the end of year, AK Khandaker said government money cannot be Awami League activists wasted easily. Payments in tried to misguide the team many cases are made at the end of the year although the by giving false information, but left the place when projects are taken up much challenged, he told reportearlier, he added.

About the use of foreign aid, he said development partners tag many conditions for which the projects cannot be completed in time. Among other priority

sectors, education sector will get Tk 6,124 crore (13.31 percent), physical infrastructure, water supply and housing Tk 5,651 crore (12.28 percent), rural development and rural organisation sectors Tk 4,402 crore (9.57 percent), agriculture and water resources Tk 4,109 crore (8.93 percent), and left leg. The leg had to be health sector Tk 3,942 crore (8.57 percent).

The party already finalised contestants in 13 unions out of the 16 till yesterday amid some problems. Discussion is going on regarding those for the three other unions --

The 13 contestants include Akhtar Hossain (Uttarkhan), Khalil Mollah (Dakkhinkhan), Akhtar Hossain (Dumni), Ali Hossain (Badda), Ataur

Mahfuzur Rahman (Beraid), Tajul Islam (Satarkul), Almas Hossain (Manda), Suhrawardi (Dakkhingaon), AKM Abul Hossain (Nasirabad), Matiur Rahman Bhuiyan (Sarulia), Shahin Lal (Shyampur) and Sanaullah

Mia (Matuail). City BNP joint conveners Salauddin Ahmed and MA Qaium have been assigned

directives.

have already finalised the names of our candidates." But Salauddin said he is

emergency reagent. "As Troponin-I reagent was not procured, we can't go for the Troponin-I test, a test conducted for acute heart attack that cost 500 taka here. So our patients are forced to go outside for the test spending three times

more money," said Prof

Abdullah Al Shafi. The NICVD authorities also blamed the market price committee and survey committee that allegedly had avoided their responsibilities, and had allowed the corruption to take place. They complained that

two leaders of Bangladesh manipulation surfaced after Medical Association, who corruption, were incorporated in the market price committee and survey committee violating the government's Purchase and Procurement Rule.

The market price committee was responsible for giving work order to the company that was supposedly the lowest bidder, and to cross check with the market prices.

Promises not kept by India

FROM PAGE 1

It hardly pleased the veteran politician when a group of visiting Bangladeshi journalists reminded Pranab of these commitments during a recent meeting in New Delhi.

"Commitments will remain as mere words if they are not reflected in our actions," Pranab said shaking his head. In many cases India's

promises to Bangladesh have remained as just words, and this should not have happened, according to Indian government leaders, civil society members and columnists who talked to the Bangladeshi journalists during the 9-day tour.

Pranab was candid when he admitted that the delay on the Indian side could create mistrust among the people about such commitments. "I was shown the model of the planned houses. I'll have to check it now why it has not been implemented."

About the botched rice export, he said the food grains could not be exported as an Indian court issued injunction on exporting agency STC.

He assured that if the government could not vacate the court injunction it will look for other agencies to export the grains. Pranab, however, said

relations between Bangladesh and India will improve and move on.

that Indian Prime Minister

He assured the Bangladeshi journalists

of the deal.

It also appeared that liament has not.

Indian civil society and media are interested in improving ties with Bangladesh and want to see both the countries fulfill commitments given to each other in the 51-point Joint Communiqué issued during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in

cerns...We have to take steps expeditiously to resolve those concerns," The cross-section of Indian people who met Bangladesh journalists trade imbalance. blamed the Indian bureau-

cracy more than the politicians in slow implementation of political decisions. The Indian bureaucrats are not on the same wavelength as with the politicians and civil society mem- groups, but issues relating While civil society mem-

bers and journalists wanted New Delhi to fulfill its commitments to Bangladesh, the bureaucrats replied that things are on track and referred to various committees and sub-committees set up to deal with the But top ranking politi-

cian like Pranab Mukherjee and Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao admitted delay from the Indian side regarding non-realisation of Indian commitments.

Indian journalists sounded pleased with whatever Bangladesh has done or doing in fulfilling its part

January 2010. However, even some

Indians admitted the Indian bureaucracy is still following old strategy to delay in resolving the longstanding bilateral issues, mostly border related irritants and It emerged during the

talks that the issues concerning Bangladesh have been shelved within the cover of many technical committees, sub committees, joint working to Indian interests are realised on priority basis.

The discussions centered around sharing of the common river water, demarcation of 6.5kms border and transfer of enclaves and adversely possessed lands, trade imbalance, non-tariff barri ers to Bangladesh export products and unabated killing of Bangladesh nationals by Indian border guards.

The much-talked "Tin Bigha" corridor, nonratification of Mujib-Indira Land Boundary Agreement also came up in the conversations. Bangladesh parliament ratified the agreement in 1974 but the Indian par-

still working on this issue,

and hoped to finalise the list

No room for rebels

FROM PAGE 20

The party leadership has asked the newly formed city unit leaders to finalise the list of candidates in consultation with local leaders so that they can win the polls.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has already said she will announce anti-government agitation programme soon. Party leaders believe the agitation will be effective if party-backed candidates win the polls in these unions.

Harirampur, Demra and Donia, sources said.

Rahman (Bhatara),

of candidates in the unions in his constituency within a day or two.

to finalise list of candidates who will get party support for the post of chairman in the election. Both Salauddin and Qaium, who contested the

last parliament election but were defeated, told The Daily Star yesterday they are doing their job as per party Qaium said, "Though party has no scope to back directly the candidates in

local government elections, our leaders and workers will work together for them. We

Party insiders said conflicts between Salauddin and Nabiullah Nabi, a BNP leader from Demra area have created problems in selecting candidates in Demra and Donina unions. Salauddin however said

> consultation with local According to the schedule announced by the

Election Commission, polls will be held in Uttarkhan, Dakkhinkhan, Harirampur and Dumni unions of Uttara thana on June 12, in Beraid, Badda, Bhatara and Satarkul under Badda thana on June 18, in Manda, Dakkhingaon, Nasirabad and Demra under Demra thana on June 22 and in Sarulia, Shyampur, Donia and Matuail under Shyampur thana on June

Zia's death **FROM PAGE 1**

programme to observe the

Party (BNP) in 1978, was assassinated in 1981 by a group of disgruntled army officers at Chittagong Circuit House. BNP acting Secretary

Zia, who founded

Bangladesh Nationalist

General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday in a statement asked all of its unit committees of the country to observe the day with due

The party flag will be

Fateha. Khaleda Zia will distribute food among the destitute

excrete the metals, experts If people eat those fishes,

A group of local ruling

The illegal business continued even in the last two days after the drive was launched, they said.

Magistrate of Wasa Kazi Wasiuddin led the drive in which 20 day-labourers, Ansar, police and Rab per-

budget of Tk 10 lakh to kill all

Wasa every year conducts

Tulaban in Marishya union under Baghaichhari, was a member of Parbatya Juba Sources said a group of armed men came to

Meanwhile, Josi Chakma,

the culprits.

afternoon.

to the school a year later, they upazila on their own. borrowed Tk 70,000 from "Two other teachers come some villagers for land regisfrom nearby villages. We are tration and construction of a inspired by these day labourers to volunteer for the

Sisters Sabina and Shilpi, students of class-IV at the terminal examination last

Daily Star. Abu Syeed said it was the fourth drive against such

current season. Institute of Nutrition and Food Science said calcium carbide expedites the ripening of green mangoes but the fruit loses their natural taste, flavour and colour. The chemical also destroys the nutrition, vitamins and food value.

"When these fruits are consumed, the residue of the human nerve system and vital organs like kidney and liver. It general of BSTI. ABSTI press release said the

court, led by executive magistrate Md Jasim Uddin, conducted the drive at ten whole-

room in the living room of his with the government rules, house by shifting his belonghe said. ings to the kitchen. "All four teachers have Faruque, who studied up been giving voluntary service to the school since then," he

to Class-IX, took the responsibility of headmaster of the school. His fellow workers Abdul Barek, Md Russel and Amzad were chosen as teach-

Others in the group were assigned to raise funds to buy

reading and writing materials for the school. They named it "Jubo Ideal School" that remained open from 4:00pm to sunset.

When seven villagers

donated 35 decimals of land

school. Yakub Ali, chairman of Sholakuri union, lent sup-

port to the founders, who made him president of the school committee.

Mango trader

Action Battalion members, seized 3,264 kilograms of artificially ripened mangoes and destroyed those at DCC's Amin Bazar waste dumping ground, SM Abu Syeed, assistant director of BSTI, told The

fruit contamination in the

Prof Golam Mowla of the

chemical can damage the also causes ulcer," said Prof Mowla, a former director

control the situation but the attackers had left the scene by then.