Woman kills

FROM PAGE 1 marriage, locals and rela-

tives of Asad, Yesmin's first husband, held Yasmin and Abul Kalam. On Thursday evening,

Yasmin and Abul Kalam were produced before an arbitration meeting of the elders of the village chaired by Union Parishad Chairman Abul Kalam Azad.

In the arbitration, Abul Kalam, former UP member Suruj Mia and other elders of the village physically harassed her and hurled insults, villagers said.

After returning home, embarrassed and tormented Yasmin committed suicide by hanging herself.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to a hospital morgue for autopsy.

Labaid

FROM PAGE 20 yesterday. Karim is the

investigation officer of the case relating to illegal organ trade in Joypurhat. A few days ago, police

showed the hospital authorities a video clip of an interview of Mehdi Hasan who allegedly underwent liver transplant at Labaid. Mehdi, a resident of

Bamongram in Joypurhat, confirmed that he sold part of his liver for Tk 1.35 lakh against the promised Tk 3 lakh by the broker. On May 8, a ten-hour operation was done on him at the city hos-Saifuddin Ahmed, a medi-

cal officer at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) hospital, said to have assisted the medical team with the liver transplant at LabAid.

According to him, the hospital was provided with necessary documents that showed the recipient Mir Giasuddin Ahmed is maternal uncle of donor Mehdi.

So far, LabAid conducted two unsuccessful liver transplants at the cost of Tk 30 lakh each. Labaid authorities say in the first operation the donor had died while the second one [the May 8 operation] saw the death of the recipient.

LabAid hospital has recently set up liver transplantation facilities investing more than Tk 10 crore.

"I wonder whether any government permission is required before introducing such a complex operation at a hospital," said F Karim. "You cannot just do everything at your will."

Contacted, Maj (retd) Mahbub, director of LabAid hospital, said "I don't want to comment on the issue as the matter is under investigation. But we have all the documents."

Meanwhile, condition of the twenty-three-year-old Mehdi is not very well. Unable to carry out heavy work, he left his job of pulling three-wheeler van after the operation.

JS complex

FROM PAGE 1 Tejgaon airfield, Dhaka Cantonment, and the headquarters of Border Guard Bangladesh and navy are

relocated from the city's core area," he said. Mubasshar Hussein, president of IAB, said according to a High Court order, Louis Kahn's Sangsad Bhaban layout

cannot be altered. Tejgaon airstrip is an abandoned airfield that should be turned into a civic centre with various recreational facilities and

open space for the city dwellers, he said. Prof Muntasir Mamun, a widely quoted author on Dhaka's history, said all military installations

within the capital must be relocated in public interest and safety. "A government elected by the people should not be subservient to the armed

forces in fear of any kind," he said. Architect Iqbal Habib,

member secretary of Bapa,

moderated the briefing.

Nasa satellite hurtling to Earth

'Could land anywhere' on Sept 24

BBC ONLINE

A five tonne, 20-year-old satellite has fallen out of orbit and is expected to crash somewhere on Earth on or around 24 September, according to Nasa.

Nasa says the risk to life from the UARS -Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite - is just 1 in 3,200.

Hurtling at 5m per second, it could land anywhere between 57 degrees north and 57 degrees south of the equator - most of the populated world.

However, most of the satellite will break or burn up before reaching Earth. Scientists have identi-

fied 26 separate pieces that could survive the fall through the earth's atmosphere, and debris could rain across an area 400-500km (250-310 miles) wide. Nasa said scientists

would only be able to make more accurate predictions about where the satellite might land two hours before it enters the Earth's atmosphere.

The 1 in 3,200 risk to public safety is higher

than the 1 in 10,000 limit that Nasa aims for.

However, Nasa told reporters that nobody had ever been hurt by objects re-entering from space. Members of the public are not allowed to keep

them on eBay, as they remain the property of the US government. The UARS was launched in 1991 by the Discovery space shuttle, and was decommis-

pieces of the satellite that

may fall to Earth, or sell

sioned in 2005. The latest satellite reentry is much smaller than Skylab, a satellite that re-entered the earth's atmosphere in

It was some 15 times heavier than the UARS, and when it crashed in Western Australia the US government was fined a \$400 clean-up fee by the Australian government.

Sputnik 2 crashed on Earth in 1958, travelling from over New York to the Amazon in 10 minutes. It was viewed by many people and left a trail of brightly coloured sparks behind it.

Suspect denies

"I have not faked identity of any kidney donor or recipient. All the donors and

recipients sent abroad by me were first blood relations," said Nafiz responding to journalists' queries calmly. He said he is very aware

that kidney transplants are illegal in Bangladesh unless the donor is a close kin, spouse, or he or she has donated it before death.

Police could not support or disprove his claims as they could not go through the documents they seized from Columbia Asia Healthcare office.

Joypurhat SP Mozammel Haque, however, claimed, "Columbia Asia Healthcare established last year keeps in touch with doctors of hospitals abroad and arranges illegal organ transplants outside the country."

Police arrested Nafiz and Mahmud Sujan Thursday afternoon in the capital, identifying them as members of the illegal organ trade syndicate. They also seized some documents.

Police claimed that 30 to 40 organ transplants were done abroad through this syndicate.

The press briefing was arranged seven hours after police reached Joypurhat along with the arrestees early Friday morning.

"Until we check the seized documents we cannot say whether some of those patients were from Joypurhat," said Kalai Police Station Officer-in-Charge F Karim.

Karim, also investigation officer of the case filed in connection with illegal organ trade in Joypurhat, said they came to know about the organisation's involvement in the trade from the people arrested earlier. The arrestees include Tariq Azam whom police claimed to be a ring-

leader. Some 20 to 22 people including doctor and lab technician are on the list to be quizzed, said the OC. A laboratory in Dhaka is also involved in tissue matching before illegal trans-

plantation. Nafiz however acknowledged that he did not obtain any permission Nepal. either from the health or home ministry to set up the organisation. He said he only possesses a trade

licence. He claimed Columbia Healthcare has 34 hospitals worldwide including in

India, Malaysia and Indonesia and he has been working for the organisation since 2010.

"My business does not involve any medical treatment. It is like tourism," said Nafiz, who, according to him, completed masters in pharmacy in a private university.

A document seized by police shows that the institution provides healthcare by specialised international doctors through video conference.

About his connection with the syndicate that lured about 100 people in Joypurhat into selling organs, Nafiz said he met Tariq only once. He, however, claimed that he refused to arrange transplantation for Tariq as the donor and recipient were

Nafiz said he met Sujan, another arrestee, for the first time in his life after the

Sujan admitted that he helped Tariq, medical representative of Healthcar Pharmaceuticals, in arranging medical test of kidney sellers and processing their passports.

Replying to journalists' questions, Sujan said he came to know Tariq when he went to sell a kidney. After selling the kidney he became involved in the process.

FROM PAGE 20

several hours on her way to

New York. On September 19, the PM will address a symposium on counterterrorism to be organised by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Among others, US Foreign Minister Hillary Clinton

would attend it. On September 22, the prime minister would present a keynote speech at a UN programme on Economic Empowerment and Rura Women and Food and Nutritional Security.

The PM is also due to attend a reception to be hosted by US First Lady Michele Obama the same

The next day she is supposed to hold meetings with Ban Ki-moon and the presidents of South Sudan and Slovenia and the prime ministers of Turkey and Hasina will speak at the

UN General Assembly on September 24, among other events. The UNGA is scheduled to begin on September

She will fly home on September 28.

Ministers

FROM PAGE 1 and generate over 2,200 megawatts of power."

At the meeting, some of the leaders criticised Finance Minister AMA Muhith for stockmarket collapse a n d Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain for dilapidated roads and highways. A few of them also questioned AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam's inactiveness in the party, meeting sources said.

AL lawmaker Abdur Rahman told the meeting that the image of the government has been badly tarnished due to sharemarket scam. He suggested steps should be taken immediately to bring the market back on track. In response, Muhith said

a vested quarter has been working to destabilise the stockmarket. He also assured his party colleagues that the market will return to normality within a month or two, said party insiders.

Abul Hossian said they could not repair roads in time because of a lack of fund.

Mentioning the miserable state of the roads and highways, Hasina at the beginning of the meeting said her government has taken a number of steps to improve the situation and people would soon start reaping the benefits.

She said the last BNP-Jamaat coalition and military-backed caretaker government did no repair work on the roads and highways. They also did not carry out maintenance of the major bridges including Bangabandhu Bridge and Meghna Bridge.

She said the work of a Tk 2,400 crore project for repair and maintenance of the road network would start soon after the rainy season.

Many areas through which major highways run have no drainage systems, and so the roads there get easily waterlogged and damaged, the AL chief observed.

Dhaka-Chittagong highway is being upgraded to four lanes, and gradually it would be widened to six lanes, she said. "The government has not been sitting idle. It has been working for developing the infrastruc-

Turning to the media criticism of her administration, Hasina said a section of the press sometimes slates the government with false and fabricated information. "But when we criticise them, they react sharply," she said adding that the media too should be able to take the flak.

She said she hopes the media would do constructive criticism to help the government move forward. "The government often corrects its mistakes from

criticism." Saying that her administration remains committed to implementing the election manifesto of her party, she directed the AL leaders and workers to stand beside the common people and work for their welfare.

ASHRAF BRIEFING Briefing newsmen after the four-and-a-half-hour meet starting at 5:00pm, the LGRD and Cooperatives Minister said Awami League has never played any role to split

any party. "Why will we split other parties?" Syed Ashraful Islam said adding AL itself is a victim of such conspiracy in the past. His comment came after the main opposition BNP recently alleged the ruling party was trying to divide it.

Only the military regimes move to split political parties as seen during the formation of BNP by Ziaur Rahman, he About WiKiLeaks release

on Bangladesh politics, the AL general secretary said April 26, 2007, she wrote they are not thinking about retired military officers held the cables posted by the positions among the adviswhistleblower website. He ers, the Anti-corruption denied making any com-Commission (ACC) and the ment on the matter, saying Election Commission (EC). they are yet to know if there is any truth in these docurecruited both Chief Advisor ments. Fakhruddin and most, if not

At the meeting, the leaders have been asked to speak on sensitive issues in the party forum, not in public.

Char Janajat picked

FROM PAGE 20 the ministry immediately, said Caab officials.

The report will be presented to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her return from the USA, where she will attend the UN General Assembly.

The prime minister will pick a site for the proposed airport and the ministry will appoint a consulting firm to conduct feasibility study on it. Tenders will be floated for the project on completion of the study. Quader recently told The

public-private partnership. Sources said the cell has given top priority to Char Janajat for the project considering the availability of land, the site's short dis-

tance from the capital, and

ination centres during a

recruitment test of class-III

government employees, as

the deputy commissioner

reportedly refused to enter-

tain various demands of

Awami League lawmaker

Golam Faruk Prince. Faruk

The ruling party men

assaulted a number of

administration officials

including two additional

deputy commissioners and

a female magistrate, vanda-

lised a number of vehicles

and burnt question papers,

Sarwar Alam and Moinul

Hasan filed two cases -- one

for vandalism and arson and

the other for assaulting

officials -- with Pabna Police

Station accusing more than

a hundred people, including

dallied over arresting the

accused but eventually

captured six people in the

face of widespread criticism

from different quarters. But

the main culprits were still

on the run. On September

26, 21 ruling party men

surrendered before a Pabna

National Coordination

Committee (NCC) structure,

flowing down to the district

level, resembled, to an

extent, the military adminis-

trative set-up of the martial

law governments that ruled

the country in the late 1970s

The Cabinet Division on

March 8, 2007 formed the

NCC with the army's then

ninth division general offi-

cer commanding (GOC)

Major General Masud Uddin

Chowdhury as its chief coor-

dinator to assist in its ongo-

ing sweep against corrup-

formed metropolitan/zonal

committees for seven "ar-

eas" conforming to the

existing division of the coun-

try into the army's com-

mand areas and "Task

Forces" for each of the 64

districts with powers to

conduct searches and detain

suspects without warrants,

said the cable wrote by Pasi.

militarization of the admin-

istration may be indicative

of the military's resolve to

play a vital role in running

the country without declar-

ing martial law," Pasi com-

after the army backed care-

taker government's tenure,

the then US ambassador

Butenis in a cable wrote

while constitutionally acting

in support of the civilian

government," the military

retained significant influ-

ence on key political deci-

In the cable created on

"The military actively

all, of the Council of

Advisors. Active and retired

military officers were

Around three months

mented.

"This tactfu

The government had also

tion and serious crimes.

and most of the 1980s.

Police initially dilly-

District magistrates

witnesses said.

33 AL men.

denied the allegation.

FROM PAGE 20

Daily Star that the airport

will be constructed under

easy access to the place by river for transporting aviation fuel. The site is on the south-

ern side of the Padma river -nearly 10 kilometres from Jazira point of the proposed Padma Bridge and 50 kilometres from zero point in the capital.

Char Janajat is a vast tract of land that emerged from the Padma river around 50 years ago, and now connected to the mainland. The proposed site covers nearly 72,000 acres of land in the north of Char Janajat. Keyain of Sirajdikhan is

only 18 km from zero point in the capital but the density of settlements is higher there than Char Janajat. Nearly 4400.51 acres of land including 390 acres of vested property and khas land is available in Sirajdikhan.

court on instructions of the

activists attacked two exam- party high-ups. Four others confirm the names, I've

surrendered on a later date.

They all were freed on bail on

Speedy Trial Tribunal

acquitted all the accused in

the case of arson and van-

dalism, citing lack of witness

acquitted, as the allegations

against them were not

proven. Of the 18 witnesses,

only eight appeared before

the court to testify," Ahsan

Habib Hassan, assistant

public prosecutor, told The

Daily Star after the verdict on

himself did not mention the

names during the hearing

although he named them in

mention the names of the

accused during investiga-

tion, Magistrate Mainul

Hasan, the complainant of

the case, said he did not

know their names, and that

he knew some of them only

in the case, he said the offi-

cers in the examination

involved in negotiations to

'persuade' Khaleda Zia to

On April 5, 2007, the US

ambassador wrote: "The

military is playing an

increasingly overt role as a

key decision-maker behind

the Caretaker Government."

new National Security

Council with senior military

representation are pending

final approval by the Council

tary also attempts to form a

"king's party" dovetailed

with continued speculation

that the military sought a

"government of national

unity" to transition between

the Caretaker Government

and eventual parliamentary

'new brand of democracy'

also suggests plans for fun-

damental constitutional

changes to the structure of

the government in

Bangladesh to create new

checks and balances.

Presumably, a military

backed national unity gov-

ernment is believed neces-

sary to bring about these

changes," Butenis wrote in

About the much talked

about move to form a national

security council during the

past caretaker government

rule, US ambassador James F

Moriarty in a cable on January

29, 2009 wrote the army and

its supporters saw the cre-

ation of the security council as

the key to addressing their

political parties, the civil

society resisted the idea

because they perceived it to

be an attempt to create a

'super cabinet' with veto

power over government

decisions," Moriarty wrote,

adding, "They also remem-

bered former military dicta-

tor Hussain Muhammad

Ershad's attempt to establish

an NSC during his tenure."

"Understandably, the

the April 5 cable.

concerns.

"Moeen's reference to a

elections.

The cable said the mili-

of Advisors," wrote Butenis.

"The military plans for a

leave Bangladesh," Butenis Pakistan's or Turkey's

centres gave him the names.

As to how he named them

by their faces.

Asked why he did not

his case, Habib added.

Even the complainant

January 5.

"The accused were

and evidence to try them.

In January this year, a

different dates.

All accused cleared

The two other sites selected primarily are Bhanga in Faridpur, nearly 62 km from zero point and Baghiar Beel in Madaripur

and Gopalganj, about 110 km from the zero point. The government had earlier selected Arial Beel in Munshiganj for the project, but later changed its decision in the wake of violent

protests by locals. Many experts at that time argued that the country does not need another international airport now; rather the existing ones should be expanded and renovated.

In response, the prime minister said the number of flights at Shahjala International Airport will exceed one lakh a year in a decade and the airport will not be able to handle such a huge number of flights even after massive renovation.

nothing to do," said Mainul

now posted at the BCS

Admin Academy at

The other officials of the

district administration, who

are also residents of the area,

might not have named them

Ten days after the attack,

the government withdrew

the deputy commissioner

the superintendent of police

and the upazila nirbahi

officer in an apparent bid to

ease tension between the

local administration and the

DC Manjur Kadir was

made Officer on Special

Duty (OSD), while SP Jamil

Ahmed was attached to the

tion over the police report,

Manjur, now a deputy secre-

tary at housing and public

works ministry, said, "It

would have been a good

"We want punishment of

those involved in the attack

future," he said last week.

National Security Councils,

which they saw as simple

instrument for perpetuating

Army rule," Moriarty wrote

The cable said leaders of

both major parties resisted

the formation of an NSC and

this initiative sputtered.

"Recognizing the need for

some type of institutional

change the AL [led govern-

bership, and charter remain

undefined," Moriarty wrote.

in the cable.

police headquarters.

were punished."

Shahbagh in the capital.

for fear, he added.

ruling AL men.

in Cambodia

Rising waters have inundated large areas of the country, washing through towns and satu-

Five children under the age of 12 were among 11 killed in the central province of Kampong Thom over the past week, while a 13-year-old girl died after falling into floodwaters in northwestern tourist hub Siem Reap province.

drowned in the flooding, he said. "If the witnesses do not

Cambodia's ministry of water resources and meteorology on Thursday issued a warning that a low-pressure system was developing over Laos and Thailand that would bring more heavy rains and rising river levels. At least 12 people died

when the Mekong river flooded last month, Keo Vy said.

during the caretaker govern-

ment rule, fuel oil fired ity generated when the Awami League came to This year, the share of fuel

oil generated electricity will rise to 18 percent.

Contacted for his reac-But this situation will not prevail forever as the power board is setting up several large scale coal fired and gas fired power plants. The fuel oil fired costly rental power example if the real culprits plants that are significantly contributing electricity now will be phased out by 2015, and cheaper plants would

so that nobody dares to then fill up the gap. commit such crimes in "We believe by the end of 2014, our power generation cost will start reducing. We project that our generation cost will be Tk 4.5 in 2016

> Whereas the fuel oil plants sell a unit of power between Tk 7.5 and Tk 14, gas fired plants sell between Tk 2.1 and Tk 2.5. The latest imported coal fired power tariff offer seeks unit price of Tk 4.2. The proposed power import from India also demands a price range of Tk

Petrobangla sources said that the government has decided to periodically increase gas prices also.

National Security Council whose composition, mem-FROM PAGE 20

agencies even when he was Teesta water

FROM PAGE 1 Singh's recent visit to Dhaka. She said all previous governments except for that by Awami League did not take any initiative to establish Bangladesh's right to equal share of common

rivers including the Teesta. Hasina said, "What Allah does, He does for good. If the government had signed with India all treaties [on the list], the main opposition would have said the country has been sold, and would go for hartal and demonstrations. But BNP has no issue now."

She said BNP's main agenda is to save Khaleda Zia's corrupt family members, who siphoned off huge amounts of money abroad and the war criminals. BNP leaders are in politics only to serve the interests of a family, not the people. She said trial will be held

against those who siphoned off money abroad and committed crimes against humanity. They must be tried for the sake of democracy and people's welfare.

The premier said law and order in the country is now better than any other period in the last seven years.

She said there has been no bomb blasts or militant activities in the country in the last two and a half years.

AFP, Phnom Penh Fourteen Cambodians,

half of them children, have been killed in floods in recent days as heavy rains battered the kingdom, an official said yesterday.

Floods kill 14

rating thousands of hectares (acres) of rice paddies, Keo Vy of the National Committee for Disaster Management told AFP.

In northern Preah Vihear province one child and a woman also

PDB faces

FROM PAGE 1

power generation rose to six percent of the total electricpower.

Advisers acted differently and Tk 4 in 2017," the chairman pointed out. "Additionally, many skeptics drew parallels to

4-5.5.

ment] has mooted a possible Road safety

He added that he was under

in a city hospital last week for treatment. Another organiser actress Rokeya Prachy said members of intelligence agencies visited her house and col-

lected information about

the watch of intelligence

her car, driver, workplace, and other personal matters. Dhaka University teacher Robaet Ferdous said intelligence members called him several times and asked him

about the movement.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a cabinet meeting on September 5 ordered intelligence agencies to collect information about the houses and cars owned by the organisers of the civic movement.

The movement organis-

ers, however, have termed intelligence's intrusion unfortunate. Sagor Lohani, another

being tapped since September 9. Other key organisers contacted by The Daily Star said they did not face such

The demands of the movement also include stopping issuance of illegal driving licences, enacting tougher law to curb road accidents

interference yet.

drivers.

organiser, said he fears that his cellular phone has been

and proper training for the