FROM PAGE 20

India yet FROM PAGE 1

"No date has been set for next talks," he said.

India has given Bangladesh data on water flow at the Gazoldoba barrage point while Bangladesh has provided India with data on water available at the Dhalia point during the lean period, said a government high-up wishing anonymity.

Earlier, Bangladesh sent letters to the Indian authorities in December for holding further talks and exchanging data on the Teesta.

"We do not have any idea when the deal could get through," Altaf Ali, secretary at Bangladesh's water resources ministry, told The Daily Star ast month.

During Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Bangladesh visit last September, the scheduled Teesta waters deal was put a brake to hours before signing because of opposition to it by Mamata Banerjee.

According to Indian media reports, she objected spiritedly to the quantity of Teesta water that the Indian central government had decided to give Bangladesh.

However, since the postponement, the Indian prime minister, foreign minister, security advisers and other government figures have assured Bangladesh several times of an inking of the Teesta deal "shortly."

On October 22, Mamata Banerjee was quoted in the Indian media as saying, "Some people created confusion on (Teesta water issue)... we maintain the best relations with Bangladesh and I hope India and Bangladesh will work together.'

The Paschimbanga government on November 15 formed a committee headed by river expert Kalyan Rudra to find an acceptable solution to the Teesta waters issue. The committee was scheduled to submit its report by December 2011. But it reportedly fell behind and sought more time.

"They [India] postponed it after finalising everything. Now they are conducting their own study. India may come up with a fresh offer at the next talks. Then we have to review it before making any decision," said a water resources ministry official, seeking anonymity.

In December, Bangladesh asked India for statistics on Teesta water available at the upper point of the Gazoldoba barrage to determine the quantity of water before it is diverted to Bihar through the Mahananda river.

India sought a similar form of statistics on the Teesta river at the Dhalia point in Bangladesh.

Now India is withdrawing 75 percent water of the Teesta river, which originates in Tibet and enters Bangladesh through Bhutan, Sikkim and Jalpaiguri. The river's flow on the

Bangladesh side falls drastically during the dry season because of the dams built in

Millions of people in northern Bangladesh depend on the Teesta for irrigation of about 632, 000 hectares o

cropland in the dry season. The much-talked-about Teesta deal has remained pending for more than two

"The agenda for the meet-

ing was a monitoring of the

Ganges. The Teesta issue was

not on the list," said JRC mem-

Bangladesh and India now

have a water-sharing treaty

only on the Ganges, out of 54

international rivers flowing to

have allegedly blocked and

diverted the waters of 43 of 54

international rivers, depriving

millions of Bangladeshis of

their rightful share of the

waters of some other rivers.

The Indian authorities

Bangladesh through India.

Ganges river.

ber Mir Sazzad.

waters.

demands.

decades. The two countries finally agreed to strike an interim deal on Teesta water sharing last year after many unsuc-

cessful attempts to reach a consensus on the issue. Two Indian officials visited Dhaka in January to discuss thernotice. and monitor the flow of the

In an interview with Alend, he said if convicted, he would lose his seat in parliament and would automati-

"Certainly then there is no need to step down if I am convicted, I am not supposed to be even the member of the

parliament," he said. Security was tight for yesterday's hearing, with hun-

Bangladesh is also holding talks with India on sharing the Among the rivers are the Islamabad.

Dudhkumar, Manu, Khowai, Gumti and Muhuri rivers to meet its future water

Bomb attacks

diplomatic plates and Israel's parliamentary television channel said the wife of Israel's Defence attache and her driver were among four people hurt. The Tbilisi bomb was defused safely by Georgian police. Israel had put its foreign

missions on especially high alert ahead of the February 12 anniversary of the assassination, in 2008, of the military mastermind of Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas, Imad Moughniveh.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah had vowed to avenge Moughniyeh's death in a Damascus carbombing, blaming it on the Jewish state.

Israel is also believed to be locked in a wider covert war with Iran, whose nuclear program has been beset by sabotage, including the unclaimed killings of several scientists.

"Iran, which stands behind these attacks, is the largest exporter of terror in the world," Netanyahu told lawmakers from his Likud party in Jerusalem.

He linked the incidents to allegations of similar but foiled attacks in Thailand and Azerbaijan last month for which, he said, Iran and its 'proxy" Hezbollah were responsible.

There was no immediate comment from Tehran or Beirut.

The New Delhi blast took place some 500 metres from the official residence of Indian

Staff killed

FROM PAGE 20 suspects that Ujjal might

have been strangled. The body has been sent to

Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. Quoting Abul Kalam Azad, owner of the jewellery shop, the OC said Azad left for home around midnight

leaving Ujjal in the shop. Ujjal used to stay in the shop at night locking the shutters from inside, added the OC. "The shutters of the shop were down but not locked when I got there around 10:30am. I found Ujjal's

body inside," Azad said. According to the owner, 37 tolas of gold ornaments were looted from the shop.

Ujjal, of Debidwar in Comilla, had been working at the shop for the last four years and got married last month.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, reports Reuters.

"I heard a bomb blast near the petrol pump. I went to see what happened and the next thing I saw was the car ablaze. There was a lady and a driver inside the car. The people pulled them out of the car,' said Ravi Singh, a witness. Georgian police pre-

defusing a bomb found in a car of an Israeli embassy staff member. Thailand said last month it had arrested a Lebanese man who had links with Hezbollah and a confiscated cache of

explosives. Israel responded

vented a similar incident,

by urging its citizens to exercise caution while visiting Thailand. Separately last month, authorities in Azerbaijan arrested two people suspected of plotting to attack Israel's ambassador and a

local rabbi. In a January 24 speech Israel's military chief Lieutenant-General Benny Gantz, accused Hezbollah of trying to carry out proxy attacks while avoiding direct confrontation. Israel and Hezbollah fought an inconclusive and costly war in 2006.

"During this period of time, when our enemies in the north avoid carrying out attacks, fearing a harsh response, we are witnesses to the ongoing attempts by Hezbollah and other hostile entities to execute vicious terror attacks at locations far away from the state of Israel,' Gantzsaid.

"I suggest that no one test our resolve."

INDIAN POLICE LAUNCHHUNT

Indian police said yesterday they were hunting for a man on a motorbike suspected of attaching a device to an Israeli diplomat's car shortly before it exploded in New Delhi, AFP

"According to an eyewitness who was present... he saw a man on a motorbike sticking some kind of a device on the rear side of the car, police commissioner BK Gupta told reporters.

FROM PAGE 20

He complained that some local goons extort him and have been demanding more money recently.

Contacted, Gulshan police said they have detained two persons for interrogation in this connection.

T) I Pakistan PM

FROM PAGE 1

the prime minister had "wilfully flouted, disregarded and disobeyed" orders from the Supreme Court over reopening alleged laundered money cases.

"Do you plead guilty?" asked Mulk.

"No," Gilani replied, adding that he would respond further in writing.

The court ordered the attorney general to prosecute the case, giving him until Thursday to file documents, which the court will examine on February 22, and the defence until February 27 to file documents and a list of witnesses.

Evidence from Gilani's lawyer will be recorded on February 28, three days before March 2 Senate elections, at which the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is expected to win a nearmajority of seats.

Gilani was exempted from appearing in court until fur-

The prime minister has always insisted that Zardari is immune from prosecution as president and says the cases are politically motivated.

Jazeera television at the weekcally be removed as prime

dreds of riot police guarding the Supreme Court, long queues trailing back from checkpoints and helicopters hovering over the government sector in the capital

Pakistani court overturned a two-year political amnesty that had frozen investigations into Zardari and other politi-

The Swiss separately shelved the cases in 2008 when Zardari became head of state, and a prosecutor in Switzerland has said it will be impossible to re-open them as long as he remains president and is immune from prosecution.

Members of the government accuse judges of overstepping their reach and of trying to bring down the prime minister and president, a year before the administration would become the first in Pakistan to complete an elected term.

Political analyst Imtiaz Gul told AFP that even if Gilani did lose his job, "it does not mean the end of the game for the ruling party".

"The government can certainly offer another [scapegoat] to protect the president from prosecution if Gilani goes," he said.

But aides dismissed speculation in the Pakistani press on Monday that Gilani would soon need to be replaced.

"Comments about a new prime minister are premature. The president has immunity," Information Minister Firdous Ashiq Awan told reporters.

Other allies criticised the indictment. "For the first time the

prime minister has been charged. It's a sad day in the history of Pakistan," said Qamar Zaman Kaira, a senior member of the PPP. The president, who is

nicknamed "Mr 10 Percent" for his alleged corruption, has already spent 11 years in jail in Pakistan on charges ranging from corruption to murder although he has never been In December 2009 the convicted.

Probe needs

FROM PAGE 1

Khandker yesterday at a press briefing in police headquarters claimed about the "substantial progress" in the death. investigation but kept from disclosing anything for the sake of the probe.

the slain couple and assured them of bringing the killers to book as soon as possible. Mehrun Runi, senior reporter of private television channel ATN Bangla, and her husband Sagar Sarowar, news editor of another private TV

channel Maasranga, were

killed in their flat early

Meanwhile, Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina yes-

terday visited the mothers of

Saturday. That afternoon, while visiting the crime scene, Home Minister Shahara Khatun said she had directed law enforcement agencies to arrest the killers within 48 hours, which expired yesterday.

On this the IGP yesterday told journalists, "It is not always possible to come out successful within a stipulated time.' Asked whether police have

arrested anyone, he refused to

share that too. "I cannot say

anything at this moment for the sake of a successful investigation," said the IGP. Assuring that police have given the utmost priority to the case, he said they would soon be able to give positive news since all units of police

are working sincerely. Earlier, police detained two security guards, Palash Rudra Paul and Humayun Kabir, and caretaker Abu Taher of the slain journalists' building.

and Rapid Action Battalion

Talking to The Daily Star on Sunday, Monirul Islam, deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch of police, said they had talked with relatives and many friends and colleagues of the killed couple. "We cannot disclose any-

thing until we produce the killers before you [the media]," he said. Meanwhile, families of

Runi and Sagar will hold two doa-mehfils (prayer sessions) in the capital. The first doa-mehfil will be

held today at 44-f/6, West Rajabazar after Asr prayers while another tomorrow at 282, Raisaheb Bazar Boro Masjid on Nawabpur Road, also after Asr prayers, said a press release.

Friends, relatives, colleagues and well-wishers are requested to join the prayers for the salvation of the departed souls.

4 killed

FROM PAGE 20

Meanwhile in Mohakhali Syed Iqbal Zafar, 38, and Ruma Begum, 25, died on the spot and 10 others were injured when a human haulier going toward Mirpur from Gulshan overturned near Setu Bhaban around 8:45am. According to witnesses, the driver lost control over the steering.

The driver and his helper fled the scene after the accident.

An appeal

FROM PAGE 1

we are perhaps unthinkingly subjecting Mahir Sarowar Megh, the 5-year-old son of the murdered couple, to additional trauma and stress by constant exposure to the media questioning.

The boy has already suffered the greatest trauma that a child can possibly experience by being an eyewitness to the murder of both his parents.

We cannot know, or perhaps even imagine, what psychological and emotional impact the sight of his murdered parents might have had on him.

By questioning him to recall details of the incident, we are forcing him to suffer more, and hence running the risk of damaging his condition further. We appeal to our media

colleagues to leave the child alone and help him recover with the love, care and company of his relatives. We will of course try to cover the story as intensely as we can. However, in doing so

we must adhere to one fun-

damental ethical norm of our

pens to be a child.

-- Mahfuz Anam

acted," Pinu said. cause pain to the innocent, especially if the person haphad a gramophone and a vinyl record of the play 'Sirajuddaula', Faridee at the

profession -- do not hurt or

Faridee no more

FROM PAGE 1

host of relatives, well wishers and admirers to mourn his

The caretaker of Faridee's residence, Rubel, found Faridee lying on the floor of his bathroom in the morning, said relatives of Faridee. His personal assistant Shahin then called a doctor who confirmed the death. A freedom fighter, Faridee had been suffering from

some complications, including lung disease. He was admitted to a city hospital about eight or nine days ago and returned to his residence on Sunday, they added. As soon as news of his demise went out, griefstricken relatives, friends,

Faridee's first namaz-ejanaza was held in front of his residence around

rushed to his house.

cultural personalities, jour-

nalists, and acquaintances

Ataur Rahman

FROM PAGE 1 diminished with each and every death on this planet, country and the society I live in. Then came the news of the death of a gifted thespian of our country, Humayun Faridee. In a split of a moment 'is' became 'was'. He was ten years younger than me. I immediately felt that a part of my being had departed with him, that I am further diminished.

I have started mumbling Shakespeare's Macbeth line, changing 'He' from 'She' ---'He should have died hereafter; There would have been a time for such a word'. Alas, death 'a necessary end, will come when it will come (Shakespeare's Julius Caesar).

Humayun Faridee was out and out an actor with every particle of his soul and body. I saw him on stage acting in the role of Keramat in 'Keramat Mongol', written by the famed playwright Selim-Al-Din and produced by Dhaka Theatre. Out of three Keramats, Faridee Nasiruddin Yousuf

used to take between dialogues it was perfect. That was the first time I saw someone from this country use pause so beautifully

What struck me about his

acting were the pauses he

FROM PAGE 1

and effectively in acting. I was mesmerised by how he used the pause to hit the right chords of emotions, build up tension and pull his audience. I was mesmerised to see such execution of a complex instrument of acting from a 25-year-old youth in the open amphitheatre of Jahangirnagar University in

1977. We decided to award him

for the best play. I still remember it as if it was yesterday: after the award ceremony, he came to me, gave salam and told me that he would like to work in theatres in Dhaka.

He was a very slender boy with long hair. He was not very tall. But that did not stop him from surpassing so many highs throughout his

It was in 1978 when he

Pinu Faridee

FROM PAGE 1 cousin.

They shared their memories of how Faridee, an agile child, grew up to be a powerful and popular actor of theatre, cinema, and television.

"It took fifty paisa to get a ticket for the third class in those cinema halls back then. We saved money for watching movies, but Faridee would take that money and rush to the cinemas without sparing a moment," recalled Bakul.

He was the second among five siblings.

Bakul and Pinu believe that Faridee's passion for acting came from his father ATM Nurul Islam who was very fond of art and culture, and used to recite poetry very well and act in local jatras, a form of Bangla folk theatre. "If there was any function

in the house, my father

would recite poetry, I used to "He once told me, 'I only dance, and he [Faridee] know how to act, and nothing else'," she recalled. Bakul said, "His father

Pinu and Bakul, however, think that Faridee did not get the proper recognition he deserved.

12:45pm while the second took place at Bangladesh Television complex in Rampura around 2:00pm. His third namaz-e-janeza was held at Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (FDC) after Asr prayers.

His body, kept at Birdem mortuary, will be taken to the Central Shaheed Minar today to enable his wellwishers and fans from of all walks of life to pay their last tribute to the thespian. Faridee will be laid to

Intellectuals' Graveyard. Born in Narinda in the old

1952, Faridee was a student of economics at Jahangirnagar University. His passion for acting began in his childhood. In the early 1980s, he joined Dhaka Theatre. He was well-known for

which included Songsaptak, Pathar Shomoy, Dui Bhai, Sheeter Pakhi, Kothao Keu Nei, Shomudre Gangchil and Kachher Manush. Midway in his stage career, Faridee joined films

and won the hearts of millions through his work. Some of his prominent movies are Dohon, Hulia, Shontrash, Bachelor, JoyJatra Shamolchaya, Bohubrihi, Ekattorer Jishu, Mayer Morjada and Aha. He also directed a few TV plays.

eternal rest at Mirpur

part of Dhaka on May 29,

his extraordinary portrayal the bereaved family memof roles in different plays,

was a memorable perfor-

mance. It was the hevday of

Faridee on stage. I saw him

in Selim-Al-Din's

'Shakuntola' in an anti-role

that role too. In the role of a

gangster in an adapted

Faridee gave a stunning

performance in the role of

the gangster, who was none

other than Hitler in dis-

the play was 'Dhurto Ui'.

His portrayal of a major

village character in Selim-

Al-Din's 'Kitton Khola' still

dwells in my mind. He was

simply extraordinary. I

always considered

Humayun Faridee a born

actor whose presence on

stage was always storm-

raising. To him acting was

his dearest game of soul. I

will term him the most

passionate actor of our

time. He was an active mem-

ber of the front ranking

took to the stage as a profes-

sional actor for the first time

That was his first-ever real

stage performance and it

created ripples across the

After that, one after one,

the role of Chaya Ranjan in when putting on the shoes of

he performed in "Phoni

"Kirtankhola" in 1981 and the

role of Keramat in 1985's

Later he began acting in

His acting in the teleplay

Many of his dialogues in

"Bhangoner Shobdo Shuni"

that teleplay became very

popular. His line "Ami toh

jomi kini na, fani kini" (I don't

buy land, I buy water)

became a favourite with the

"Shongshoptok". His charac-

terisation of Ramzan in that

teleplay took him to legend-

dreds of television dramas.

age of twelve memorised all

the dialogues of that play

and would recite those quite

used to go to the cinemas,

plays, and jatras together,

but Faridee was always

was so strong that he would

not hold back even during

Dilip Kumar was his favour

ite, and Faridee later met

naughty as a boy, and had a

passion and devotion for

acting from the early age. He

school and college years.

and fly kites, Pinu added.

acted in dramas during his

never burdened others with

his sorrows and needs, not

Not at all a materialist, he

him in India, Bakul said.

Renowned Indian actor

Faridee was extremely

"His obsession for movies

ahead of us," said Bakul.

his exams," he added.

"We siblings and cousins

Humayun was in hun-

He was also in

was immensely powerful.

theatre industry.

'Keramat Mangal".

television.

audience.

ary status.

played the role of Tokkhok.

portrayed the role of an drama group of the country, elderly and wiser Keramat. It Dhaka Theatre. Unfortunately his ties with Dhaka Theatre slackened after he joined the film industry.

Suborna Mustafa in 2008.

President Zillur Rahman

and Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina have expressed deep

shock at the death of the

veteran actor. They prayed

for the eternal peace of the

departed soul and conveyed

their sincere sympathies to

In an anti-role or in the and I found him superb in role of a villain he was the first choice of the mainstream film makers. He version of Bertolt Brecht's reigned as a box office 'The Resistible Rise of favourite for a long time. Arturo Ui', Humayun He was incomparable in television plays as well as in television films. In fact, his presence was a happening on stage and equally in guise. The Bengali title of movies and TV plays and telefilms. He was a powerful actor by any standard. His acting talent can be compared with that of any great actor of our time, nationally as well as internationally. With his death the country has lost a great actor of all time, for he had the power to assimilate the essence of all kinds of diverse characters in his performance with ease. He will be remembered by all media of acting for a long time to come.

He was a regular on the television scene even in his last in the play "Shakuntala". He days.

But he was not in that

many theatre plays. His last theatre acting was in the mid 1990s somewhere in 1996 or 1997 in a play called "Bhut". As a person, Humayun was very emotional. But he Monsha" in 1980; he played left his emotions behind

> and logical as an actor. In his 35 years as an actor, Humayun performed with a logic and intelligence that set him apart from other actors. He did not act with emotion.

His acting was what I like to

an actor. He was intelligent

call intelligent acting. He brought these qualities into all spheres of his acting be that on stage, television or on the big screen. He was the very definition of a modern

actor. Humayan Faridee was with Dhaka Theatre from 1977 to 2012. He was not very regular on the Dhaka theatre scene recently, but he always kept in touch with what was happening in the theatres.

One river

FROM PAGE 20

region, 16 north-east region, seven south-east region, one in eastern hill basin and 19 were flowing over southwest region.

The water resources minister also told the House that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had approved in principle formation of a separate organisation styled "Bangladesh Dredging Authority" to look after dredging of rivers and canals across the country.

The premier on different occasions had lamented that the country's rivers were drying and losing navigability for lack of dredging and said around 30,000 km of waterways in the country were reduced to a mere 3,500 km.

She instructed the even his siblings, said Pinu authorities several times to and Bakul. He liked to eat beef, evict grabbers and take stern action against polluters of the rivers.

Despite the highest political commitment by the government, river grabbing and pollution continue unabated.

University today. Faridee had been living a lonely life since his divorce from eminent actress

> 1972. During his stay in Dhaka, the US envoy is set to meet some other senior government officials and representa-

Chittagong, where he will attend events at the Independent University Bangladesh and Asian University for Women, and participate in a Certificate of Completion Ceremony for madrasa students who have held English language scholarships.

by the American Chamber of Commerce as part of the US-Bangladesh Trade Show.

Sit-in

for its "failure to run the country and obstructing opposition programmes", cripple it.'

nothing short of a non- party neutral government will be acceptable to them (BNP), and it does not matter what-

'Elections cannot be free and fair under the Awami League government, and using EVM (electronic voting machine). They [govt] are frightened to see people's participation in our programmes. So, they want to hold elections staying in power. But I want to say that no election will be held in the

ward situation arises due to your counter programme."

democracy. She went on, "At least 12,000 people were killed in the last three years (of this govt's tenure). Killing of a journalist couple proved that people are not safe even in their homes. It's a killer gov-

criticised the government for its "foreign policy of subservience" and urged the people to ask the foreign minister why the government could not the country's border.

said. public rally.

rally included BNP's acting secretary general Mirza

Chaired by the party's

Minister Sheikh Hasina in the evening. He will meet Foreign Minister Dipu Moni tomorrow, sources at the US Embassy in Dhaka said.

Robert Blake

series of diplomatic, trade and

educational events intended

Blake will call on Prime

On the first day of his visit,

to expand bilateral relations.

Blake is scheduled to attend the Edward M Kennedy 40th Anniversary Commemoration at Dhaka This commemoration

programme would bring together eminent members of Bangladeshi society along with State Department alumni and youth leaders to celebrate American-Bangladeshi friendship and the anniversary of Senator Kennedy's visit to Dhaka in

tives of the civil society. Blake will also travel to

He will also visit a Grameen Bank Borrower's Group site and attend a luncheon hosted

Blake was appointed assistant secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs in May 2009. Alongside Bangladesh, he oversees US relations with India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.

FROM PAGE 1

Khaleda said, "We want to The former prime minister reiterated her demand for restoration of the caretaker government system, saying

ever the title of that govern-

country under this govern-Urging the people to make the March 12 rally a success, Khaleda asked the government to refrain from going for any counter programme and said, "You [govt] have to answer one day if any unto-

Khaleda accused the government of failing to implement its electoral pledges, and said it believes in terrorism, anarchy and politics of killings, not in

ernment". The former premier also

protest the recent killings at "Ask your minister why the killings at border did not stop yet. Our Border guards should take tough action if such killings are not stopped," she

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni was elected lawmaker from the constituency where Khaleda was addressing the Others who addressed the

Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, standing committee members Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, MK Anwar, Abdul Moyeen Khan and Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah and Vice-chairman Shamser Mobin Chowdhury.

district unit President Mominul Haque, the rally was conducted by the unit's General Secretary Sheikh Farid Uddin Manik.