Full charge

FROM PAGE 16 aluminium and graphite, and has been

developed by scientists at Stanford. The battery is bendable, too -- which the scientists say could eventually make

way for phones that are also bendable.

Scientists across the world are working hard to overhaul the current battery technology, which uses lithium-ion chemicals but are only improving slowly and can be unsafe to make and use.

At the Consumer Electronics Show earlier this year, one of the most celebrated technology reveals a smartphone battery that could charge in two minutes. Dyson also invested in a battery technology that could eventually double the life of batteries, last month.

Aliminium batteries have long been hoped to overtake other technologies, since it is cheap and can store a lot of power, but scientists have struggled to get enough voltage out of such a battery. The Stanford scientist's battery is not

flammable, like existing lithium-ion technology. It can even be drilled through and still used for some time, meaning that it could withstand shock. Existing batteries, which use chemi-

capacity over time as their power storage decays. But the Stanford battery can last for thousands of cycles of charging and then use. As well as meaning that phone batteries and other uses won't see the

cals to store power, also steadily lose

gradual decline that competing technologies do, the lack of decay also means that the battery could be useful in high-use environments, like power grids that store electricity for cities and other large areas. The new technology was demon-

strated in a video posted on Monday by graduate student Ming Gong and postdoctoral scholar Yingpeng Wu.

Trace him

FROM PAGE 16

separate reports to the court, claiming they neither arrested nor detained the BNP leader.

The court is scheduled to resume hearing on the petition today. On March 10, some 20 to 30 people

detained Salahuddin from a house at Uttara in the capital, introducing them selves as law enforcers, especially as Detective Branch of police personnel reads the memorandum.

"As a wife and mother, I have once again appealed to the prime minister who is also a mother and a wife like me, seeking her intervention to get my husband back.

"I humbly request her [the PM] to give instructions to law enforcement agencies for finding out my husband, Hasina Ahmed told The Daily Star after submitting the document yester-

A grieving Hasina Ahmed also said they were "200 percent sure" that members of law enforcement agencies had picked up her husband from an Uttara House on March 10 night.

"I hope the anxiety and cry of a family will touch your [the PM] soft heart as you are the chief of the government and a people of conscience, Hasina Ahmed wrote in the memorandum.

"Twenty-eight days have been passed since my husband went missing. But neither the government nor the law enforcement agencies told us anything about the fate of my husband,' she said.

Hasina Ahmed added, "In my first letter to the PM, I sought an appointment to meet her. But she is yet to make time for me."

"It is my fervent desire that I along with my children will meet you [the PM]. I hope you will be able to spend a little time for me in spite of being busy with hundreds of activities and considering my appeal."

On March 19, Salahuddin's wife submitted a memorandum to the PM urging her to take initiative to find out her husband and issue "special" guidelines for the law enforcers.

Yesterday, she reiterated in the memorandum if her husband committed any crime or was accused in any case, he should be produced before the court without any delay.

An emotional Hasina Ahmed also said they did not get any cooperation from any level of the government despite repeated

attempts in the last 28 days. "Even law enforcement agencies did not extend proper cooperation in this connection," she added.

Air force

FROM PAGE 16 The accident forced the authorities to

suspend other flights' operations at the airport in the capital. Around 40 minutes later, the aircraft

was removed from the lone runway and regular operations resumed at the airport.

By the time, the landing and departure schedules of at least five domestic and international flights were delayed. Meanwhile, one of the two newly

acquired turboprop aircrafts, which could not fly due to a technical glitch on Monday, was put into operation yesterday.

The aircraft Dash 8-Q 400 had developed a technical fault prior to its

inaugural flight.

Sources at Biman Bangladesh Airlines said necessary parts were purchased from Bangkok to repair the

aircraft. It was put into operation

around 3:00pm.

HRW calls for moratorium 134 police on death penalty

STAR REPORT

The Human Rights Watch has reiterated its longstanding call for Bangladesh to impose an immediate moratorium on the death penalty.

The death penalty is inconsistent with the international human rights laws, according to statements from UN human rights experts and various UN bodies, the New York-based rights body said in a press release yesterday.

The Bangladesh Supreme Court's rejection of the death penalty review petition for Muhammed Kamaruzzaman permits his imminent execution, the HRW mentioned in its statement.

Terming the trial "seriously flawed", the statement further said, "The authorities should immediately stay Kamaruzzaman's death sentence pending an independent review of his case." HRW called upon Bangladesh to join

UN General Assembly's December 18, 2007 resolution, calling for a moratorium on executions and a move by UN member countries towards abolition of the death penalty. "The Bangladesh government should impose a moratorium on the

with countries already committed to the

death penalty and quickly join the growing number of countries that have abolished this barbaric practice," said Brad Adams, Asia director at HRW. "The severity of the offence in question provides no justification for its continued use." Human Rights Watch opposes the

death penalty in all circumstances as an inherently cruel punishment, the rights organisation said in the release.

The UN Human Rights Committee, which interprets the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bangladesh is a state party, has said that "in cases of trials leading to the imposition of the death penalty, scrupulous respect of the guarantees of fair

trial is particularly important" and that any death penalty imposed after an unfair trial would be a violation of the right to a fair trial, the release said.

Kamaruzzaman, a leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami, was convicted of war crimes committed during Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971. His death sentence was upheld on

appeal in November 2014. Following the publication of the full text of the judgment against him, he filed for an independent review of his sentence to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on March 5, 2015. "Without hearing the application on

its merits, the country's highest court summarily rejected his petition and upheld the death sentence," the HRW claimed. "The death penalty is an irreversible and cruel punishment that is made even

worse when the judiciary fails to fully

review such sentences," Adams said.

"Bangladesh's war crimes trials have

been plagued by persistent and credi-

ble allegations of fair trial violations that require impartial judicial review." Kamaruzzaman was arrested in July 2010 on the orders of the International Crimes Tribunal, which was set up to address the atrocities committed during the 1971 war which led to independence for Bangladesh from Pakistan. He was given no reason for his arrest, leading the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to classify his arrest as arbitrary and a violation of interna-

At his trial, the court arbitrarily limited the ability of the defence to submit evidence, including witnesses and documents, the HRW statement claimed.

tional law, the release said.

The court denied the defence an opportunity to challenge the credibility of prosecution witnesses by rejecting witnesses' earlier statements that were inconsistent with their trial testimony, it

have been transferred or promoted for the sake of "public interest", says the circular signed by Joint Secretary ASM Emdadud Dastagir of the home ministry.

Contacted, the joint secretary said the promotion and transfer were made as per a routine work and no external affairs were linked with it. Speaking anonymously, a police

official said the lists were prepared about one and a half years ago.

On Monday, the government promoted 227 joint secretaries, 288 deputy secretaries and 321 senior assistant secretaries in the biggest ever promotion in the civil service. The mass promotion came just

over a year after the Awami League-

led grand alliance government

assumed office through the January 5 national polls last year. In the reshuffle in police, DIG Binay Krishna Bala has been transferred from the Police Headquarters to Criminal Investigation Department (CID), while Additional

Commissioner Mili Biswas and DIG

Muhammad Mahbub Muhsin to

Police Headquarters from Dhaka

Metropolitan Police (DMP) and CID respectively. SPs Jihadul Kabir (Magura), AKM Ehsan Ullah (Barisal), Manjur Morshed Alam (CID) and Taptun Nasrin (Rajbari) and DC SM Aktaruzzaman of DMP have been transferred to Rajbari, Magura,

Barisal, Sylhet range and Police Headquarters respectively. Of the promoted officials, Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam, DCs Krishna Pada Roy, Jahangir Hossain Matubbar, Ekramul Habib and Khandaker Lutful Kabir of DMP and Additional Commissioner AKM Shahidur Rahman of Chittagong Metropolitan Police have been promoted to the rank of

additional DIG.

Work for AL favourites in city polls about city corporation elections and ...Taking the agony of failure, she

According to subsection 14 (C) of article 6 of the code, "... neither any candidate nor anybody on behalf of a candidate can use government publicity machinery, government vehicle or enjoy other government privileges in electoral activities..."

Asked about the PM's meeting at Gono Bhaban, Election Commissioner Abdul Mobarak said, "I don't know anything about the meeting. As you [this correspondent] have said, we will look into the matter. "The returning officer is responsible

for looking into the violation of electoral code of conduct," he said. The returning officer of Dhaka

North City Corporation (DNCC) polls, however, could not be reached over the phone. Contacted, former chief election

commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda said the prime minister is also the chief of a political party. She can hold any party meeting. But it is very difficult to prove that it was an electoral meeting.

"If the media reports can produce enough substances to prove that she [PM] was engaged in electoral activities, then the election commission should look into it," Huda viewed.

A number of party leaders present at the meeting said the PM discussed

Talking to The Daily Star, Law

Minister Anisul Huq and Attorney

General Mahbubey Alam said the jail

authorities cannot execute

Kamaruzzaman's death sentence

Kumar Sinha last night approved the

draft of the full verdict. It is likely to

be released today after the judges

concerned sign it, an SC source said

The apex court on Monday dis-

missed the Jamaat leader's review

petition against its verdict, leaving

him with only one option -- to seek

Jail didn't get a copy of the SC order,

they couldn't ask Kamaruzzaman

whether he would seek mercy from

the opportunity to seek presidential

mercy before his execution, according

to the SC verdict on the review peti-

tion of another Jamaat leader, Abdul

reporters that as per the SC verdict,

Kamaruzzaman would get "a reason-

able time" to seek mercy, but that

dent of Dhaka Central Jail, told this

correspondent on Monday that once

they received the SC order, they

would ask Kamaruzzaman weather he

2 on February 19 issued death war-

The International Crimes Tribunal-

would seek presidential mercy.

rant against Kamaruzzaman.

Farman Ali, senior jail superinten-

period cannot be seven or 15 days.

On Monday, Mahbubey told

A war crimes convict must be given

As the authorities of Dhaka Central

around 9:00pm.

the president.

Quader Mollah.

presidential clemency.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Surendra

unless they get a copy of the SC verdict.

that upheld his death penalty.

candidacies in the polls. They, however, spoke on condition of anonym-

PM'S MEETING

At the meeting, the PM said there must not be more than one councillor candidate from the AL in a ward, and asked the party leaders to withdraw their candidacy except for the partybacked ones, meeting sources said.

The AL chief said all party men would have to work for the ALendorsed aspirants to ensure their victory in the polls.

AL central leaders Col (retd) Faruk Khan and Abdur Razzaque, who have been tasked with finalising councillor candidates for Dhaka North and Dhaka South city polls, submitted reports at the meeting.

They informed the meeting that all councillor hopefuls would be finalised and announced by today so that the rest of the candidates could withdraw their nominations by tomorrow. Both the leaders warned of actions against those who would contest the polls, ignoring party decision.

Earlier in the meeting, the PM said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia had returned home embracing failure and defeat after staying in her office for 92 days aiming to topple the government.

week to seek presidential mercy after

the jail authorities receive the death

warrant and communicates it to him.

The death row convict is executed

between 21 days and 28 days after

cable to Kamaruzzaman as he was

tried under a special law, the

International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-

1971, the attorney general told report-

the review petition of Quader

review petition, the SC said, "If the

jail authority fixes a date for execu-

tion of the sentence, the same cannot

be taken as has been done hurriedly. If

any review or mercy petition is filed or

pending, the sentence cannot be exe-

cuted unless the petitions are disposed

twenty-one days mentioned in sub-

rules (I) and (VI) of rule 991 of the Jail

Code have no force of law under the

infamous Al-Badr force in greater

Mymensingh in 1971, was sentenced

to death by the ICT-2 in May 2013 for

committing crimes against humanity,

including mass killings in Sohagpur of

convict sought review of the judg-

ment. Finally, his review petition was

rejected on Monday by the four-

member SC bench headed by the chief

justice. The other judges are Justice Md

Abdul Wahhab Miah, Justice Hasan

The SC upheld the verdict. But the

Sherpur, during the Liberation War.

Kamaruzzaman, key organiser of

changed conditions," said the SC.

"So, the period of seven days or

He referred to the SC judgment on

In its verdict on Quader Mollah's

However, the jail code is not appli-

Jailors wait for copy of judgment

receiving the SC order.

ers on Monday.

Mollah.

had to appear before the court, and returned home," she said. Khaleda Zia had earlier said she

would not return home until the AL

government was overthrown, and thought that she would be able to oust the government sitting in her office, said Hasina. The AL chief thanked the country's people as well as party leaders and activists for "shattering Khaleda's

dream". "She [Khaleda] couldn't return to her home as a winner." She said this is the victory of the pro-liberation forces. "We have to defend this victory."

Comparing the BNP-Jamaat's recent activities with "nor'wester and cyclone", the PM said, "This is just the beginning of nor'wester and cyclone. They can hit any time. We'll have to remain prepared to face these."

Those who are engaged in the welfare of the people will always win, not those who are against humanity, and those who are killers, terrorists and militants, Hasina said.

Senior AL leaders Matia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Shahara Khatun and AFM Bahauddin Nasim, among others, were present at the meeting.

Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik.

JAMAAT HARTAL

the capital.

FROM PAGE 16

complete, he said.

Aden and Sana'a.

there were speculations that

Kamaruzzaman might be executed or

Monday. His family members met

him at the jail in the evening that day.

No incident of violence was reported

anywhere in the country yesterday,

the first day of Jamaat's 48-hour

nationwide shutdown. Vehicular

movement was thin on major roads in

The Jamaat enforced the hartal

from 6:00am yesterday, protesting

what it said was "the government's

conspiracy to kill its leader

23 Bangladesh

Besides, efforts are on to evacuate

and other means, Mahbub informed.

maintaining communications with

Bangladesh nationals in two cities --

Meanwhile, in a tweet, the Indian

High Commission in Dhaka said INS

Tarkash, a Talwar-class frigate con-

scheduled to reach the Al Hudaydah

port yesterday. "It'll assist in evacua-

Some 2,500-3,000 Bangladesh

nationals are living in Yemen, and

not all of them are interested to

return home, according to

Bangladesh foreign ministry.

structed for the Indian Navy, was

tion of Bangladesh nationals."

A Bangladesh team, led by

Mahbub, is now in Djibouti and

Muhammad Kamaruzzaman."

Food-borne diseases FROM PAGE 16 against chemical or microbial contamination of food, the WHO said.

burden of food-borne diseases of 2010, whose full results will be published in October this year, the WHO said there were an estimated 582 million cases of 22 different food-borne enteric diseases and 3,51,000 associated deaths. The enteric disease agents responsi-

ble for most deaths were Salmonella Typhi (52,000 deaths) enteropathogenic E. coli (37,000) and norovirus (35,000). The African region recorded the

highest disease burden for enteric foodborne disease, followed by South-East Asia, which includes Bangladesh. The report said over 40 percent people, suffering from enteric diseases

caused by contaminated food, were children aged under five years. Unsafe food also poses major eco-

nomic risks, especially in a globalised world. Germany's 2011 E coli outbreak reportedly caused \$ 1.3 billion in losses

for farmers and industries and \$ 236

million in emergency aid payments to

22 European Union Member States. Efforts to prevent such emergencies can be strengthened, however, through development of robust food safety systems that drive collective govern-

Memorial Hall in the capital yesterday, Health Minister Mohammed Nasim warned that stern action would be taken against those responsible for ment and public action to safeguard food contamination.

its activity.

ple in Bangladesh.

Economic zone

China, but Bangladesh's export to his

country was also increasing. The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam

welcomed the Chinese ambassador and moderated the session.

The ambassador said Bangladesh had a huge potential in quality leather, which could tap the Chinese market. Garment products were also being exported there, while there were many other opportunities that needed to be tapped by Bangladesh, he observed. In reply to a question, the ambassa-

dor said China provided grants and concessionary loan to Bangladesh. The interest rate was set at 2 percent and China did not impose any conditions, he added. "We don't have any conditional loan

with Bangladesh," he claimed.

Historically, Chinese loans to Bangladesh had mostly been hard in nature. In recent years, China provided \$224 million loan for the second unit of Barapukuria coal power project with an interest rate of 6.5 percent. "The good thing is that the Chinese

loan is very speedy," he said and added that his government was considering Bangladesh's plea to further slash the interest rate to the standards of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

"We are working on it," he said.

Moreover, he said the Chinese loan was not only very speedy but the cost of projects funded by them was also much lower compared to other countries. Asked about delay in completion of

several projects in Bangladesh, the envoy said Chinese companies were fully capable in terms of their technological expertise and financial power. However, in some cases they were not

familiar with circumstances, legal complexities, social factors and atmosphere in other countries, which might cause some delay, he added. He noted that Sinohydro had delayed

the Dhaka-Chittagong highway expansion project due to various reasons but expressed the hope that it would be completed without further delay.

Mentioning the Chinese company

that would build the Padma bridge, he said it had the expertise in constructing the longest 46-kilometre bridge over sea in China.

Global and national level measures

can be taken, including using interna-

tional platforms, to ensure effective

and rapid communication during

At the consumer end of the food

Food safety has become a serious

supply chain, the public plays impor-

tant roles in promoting food safety, it

public health concern in Bangladesh.

According to experts, excessive use of

pesticide, ripening agents, and the

presence of heavy metals like arsenic in

certain crops pose a great risk for peo-

media campaigns against food con-

tamination, the Bangladesh govern-

to ensure coordination among the

relevant ministries and departments.

However, the authority has yet to begin

At a discussion at the Osmani

ment has passed Safe Food Act 2013.

Following a series of public and

It also formed a Safe Food Authority

food safety emergencies.

In reply to another question, Ambassador Ma said China was currently assisting several mega projects in Bangladesh with loans and grants in the areas of water treatment plant, tunnel under the Karnaphuli river, construction of railroad and bridge, establishment of refinery data centre for telecom, among others. China was also assisting construction

railway track and setting up of a coalbased power plant. He said China assured Bangladesh of setting up a hybrid rice research centre so

of the Dhaka-Cox's Bazar broad-gauge

that Bangladesh could grow more crops and be self-reliant in food. About Chinese initiative of the 21st

Century Maritime Silk Road, the ambassador said the project was not solely by China as it would be designed by all, would have ownership of all and the main objective was win-win for all stakeholders.

"It's a very much inclusive project and everybody will get benefit from it."

On India-China relationship, he said the two giants of Asia had very collaborative initiatives and strong partnership for economic development. "We want peaceful coexistence and grow

together for the benefit of the people." In this context, he said Bangladesh had unique opportunities to grow and develop as it was a bridge between Southeast and South Asia and its location was strategically very important.

"My mission is to further cement and consolidate the bilateral relations with you," he said, noting that media had a critical role in enhancing mutual understanding and trust among the

people. "Diplomats come and go, the governments come and go, but the people remain. "You are the one who can help us having people's support for us," he

Chinese embassy officials Hu Hailiang and Li Guanya accompanied

the ambassador.

Bangladeshi diplomat

"gross misconduct".

of passing-out officials, said a high official of the foreign ministry.

is scheduled to distribute certificates among the junior officials on Thursday evening, inducting them in the Foreign Service permanently on successful completion of their various trainings at home and abroad.

Service through the competitive BCS exam in June 2012 along with nine other Bangladeshi Foreign Service officials, went to The Hague to participate in a training course for young diplomats at the Netherlands Institute for International Relations, Clingendael under a Dutch government scholarship. During the training in February, he

from an electronic shop. The Dutch police detained him afterwards. Although he was released by virtue of his diplomatic immunity, he had to pay a fine of euro 350.

Immediately after the incident, the Dutch government through a formal communication informed the foreign ministry in Dhaka about the entire incident and urged the Bangladesh government to take steps so that such

They said the foreign ministry is also investigating whether other diplomats in the team were involved in any

of the matter immediately after receiving a letter from the Dutch government about the young diplomat's gross misconduct," said a senior official at the foreign ministry, wishing anonym-He claimed although there is strong

lobby against any punitive measure against him, the matter is now under an administrative process and a decision will be taken in light of the existing law in a day or two. About the kind of action Shisir may

face, the senior official said the government may delay the confirmation of his service or recommend that the Public Service Commission dismiss him from the service.

be harsh because the official has tar-

action or terminate a government official from service is a lengthy prothe official.

ment in any act of stealing. He told The Daily Star that no such incident of stealing of mobile set was taken place

some people are trying to frame false

allegations against him.

As per the jail code, a convict gets a Foez Siddique and Justice AHM FROM PAGE 16 dismissed from the service for his As the SC delivered the verdict,

He [Shisir] is already out of the list

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali

Shisir, who joined the Foreign

was caught stealing a mobile phone Bangladeshi expatriates through ships

incidents would not happen in future. Quoting the Dutch government

letter, foreign ministry sources said Shisir told the Dutch police that he followed several of his colleagues who committed similar offences and were successful in stealing items from different shops in The Hague.

such misconduct. "The ministry has taken cognisance

"Whatever the punishment is, it will

nished the country's image," he said. The process to take departmental

cess but it is now at the final stage, said When contacted, Mahbub Shahid Shisir, however, denied his involve-

He told The Daily Star that he has successfully completed all trainings and examinations during his three years service in the foreign ministry but