Tulip becomes British MP

election which saw a bloodbath of party heavyweights and resignation of Labour leader Ed Miliband, Tulip and Rushanara sailed through quite comfortably. Rupa, however, faced a very tight competition from the Conservatives' candidate.

David Cameron stays at the 10 Downing Street for a second term after the much-hyped elections that came up with many surprises, including a single majority victory for the Conservatives.

TULIP SIDDIQ Eldest daughter of Sheikh Rehana

and niece of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Tulip won Hampstead and Kilburn seat defeating Conservatives' Simon Marcus.

She polled 23,977 votes while Marcus bagged 22,839. Talking to the Bangladeshi report-

ers in the early hours yesterday, Tulip recalled how indebted she was to her aunt Sheikh Hasina. "She [Hasina] has taught me how

to conduct the electoral campaigns and how to take care of people," she said, thanking her family members and the media for her victory.

One of the first calls she had made to inform of her win was to Hasina, she said. Referring to the wins of Rushanara

and Rupa, Tulip said: "If we [the do something better for our commube a very difficult period ahead." nity [in the UK]." Living in West Hampstead with

her husband Chris Percy, Tulip has been an active campaigner since she was 16, fighting to save local hospitals, fire stations and post offices. She has previously been a local

councillor and cabinet member for culture and communities in Camden Council. She also oversaw Camden's engagement with the 2012 London Olympics, which saw the launch of three legacy schemes to encourage more physical activities -- Camden Sports Academy, School and Community Games, and Pro-Active Ambassadors.

Prior to becoming Labour's candi- RUPA HUQ date there, Tulip most recently Another British citizen of

corporate social responsibility, work- Ealing Central and Acton seat ing with major British manufacturers and transport companies to strengthen their use of apprenticeship schemes and build on links with local communities and schools.

City

Rushanara Ali has won her second spell in the British parliament from the Bethnal Green & Bow seat with a massive 24,317-vote lead over her Conservatives contender.

RUSHANARA ALI

She was the first British-Bangladeshi to sit in the House of Commons after beating George Galloway in 2010 election in the same constituency with a majority of 11,574 votes.

On Thursday, Rushanara secured an even more comprehensive win to retain her seat.

She got 32,387 votes, defeating Conservative's Matt Smith, who managed to poll 8,070 votes. In her victory speech, Rushanara

said: "I'm a campaigning politician ... The last five years in opposition has been incredibly difficult but one Strasbourg. of the highlights has been working with local residents on issues that matter to them like the National Health Service."

Calling upon the volunteers, Labour activists, Labour councillors and assembly members, she said: "We will have to work together and Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday three MPs | can work together, we can stay united against what is going to congratulated Tulip Siddiq,

Rushanara's parents moved to the UK from Bangladesh when she was only seven. Following her schooling, she got

herself a place at Oxford University and jobs in the UK parliament, the Institute for Public Policy and Research, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Home Office before becoming an MP. In October 2013, she was made the the messages.

shadow minister for education in the Labour reshuffle. Previously, Rushanara was appointed at the Labour frontbench as the shadow minister for international develop-

worked for Brunswick Group LLP in Bangladeshi origin, Rupa won younger sister Sheikh Rehana.

against sitting MP Angie Bray of the Conservatives.

Labour's Rupa won the seat with a meagre 274-vote margin. She bagged 22,002 votes while her rival Angie Bray got 21,728.

Born in London's Hammersmith area in 1972, Rupa studied Social and Political Sciences and Law at Cambridge University. Her parents came to the UK from Bangladesh in the 1960s.

She joined the Labour Party, working on a successful campaign to win Cambridge for Labour in 1992. After Cambridge, she earned her

doctorate at the University of East London. She researched youth culture, and how young people use pop music to express themselves. Rupa has published three books in

this field as well as writing articles for the Guardian. She did some of her research in northern France, and kept in touch with politics by working at the European Parliament in In 1998, she started teaching at

Manchester University, and in 2004 became a senior lecturer of Sociology and Criminology at Kingston University. GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT, PM

President Abdul Hamid and Prime

Rushanara Ali and Rupa Huq for their wins in the UK parliamentary polls. The president and the premier in their messages said the victory of the three Bangladeshi-Britons has

brightened the image of Bangladeshi expatriates in the UK. PM's Special Assistant Mahbubul Hoque Shakil and president's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim conveyed

Karim said President Hamid wished success for them in discharging their responsibilities as members of parliament.

The prime minister expressed her deep gratitude to those who worked hard for the victory of the three, particularly of Tulip, daughter of her

Myanmar hails move to fight

Rohingya, and Malaysia is a destination of choice for boat people. He said the long and short-term

measures to tackle the crisis would be similar and were expected to be carried out equally effectively in each country.

"Thailand cannot deal with the issue single-handedly, but it has to be dealt with from the origins in Myanmar and Bangladesh," he said.

Prayut reiterated that a 10-day deadline he had imposed on local authorities was for a complete scrutiny of trafficking activities and locating possible detention camps and was not the timeframe for the long-standing problem to be solved.

Thai police have arrested a highprofile suspect involved in trafficking Rohingya and demanding ransoms from their relatives.

A police source said Suphoj Muensew was hiding at a home in Trang province.

There were explosives buried around this home, with detonators ready for use, and there were also tunnels and underground rooms with rifle slots, the source said.

Meanwhile, 54 Bangladeshis were taken to a local shelter after they were found in Songkhla's Rattaphum dis-

Six Bangladeshis were also found at a nearby waterfall. They said that they were brought to Thailand by smugglers, entering the country in Satun and bound for Malaysia. A total of 96 Bangladeshis and

after hiding on Khao Kaew mountain the past two days, officials said. Officials believe many more migrants are lost on the mountain,

Rohingya have been taken to shelters

where a mass grave was found earlier this month. It is believed that the remains are mainly those of Rohingya and

Bangladeshis. Reuters reported yesterday that Myanmar's permanent secretary at the Ministry of Immigration Myint Kyaing said Myanmar had not yet

been contacted about the meeting. "I think we would be interested to take part in that meeting if they officially invited us," said Win Naing Tun, deputy chief of Myanmar's anti-

human trafficking police. Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, during an official visit to Thailand, yesterday commended Thailand for its "timely response" to the discovery of the mass graves and suspected trafficking camps.

"This is a very tragic finding. These

atrocities must be stopped," Bishop told Reuters. The United States, which has cen-

sured Thailand for failing to act against human trafficking, called on Monday for a speedy and credible inquiry into the discovery of the mass

reported that Bangladesh's ambassador to Thailand, Saida Muna Tasneem, had reached the first mass grave of human-trafficking victims in Songkhla on Thursday night.

in Bangkok.

The Bangladesh ambassador is views on how Bangladesh can cooperate with the province's authorities to operating regionally.

Pak chopper crash kills Two other eye-witnesses intermourning, according to his office. viewed by AFP also said they did not

The military and Pakistan's foreign office said the crash was due to a technical fault while landing. Officials added the school was shut at the time.

"The matter will be investigated as initial reports suggest it was a technical fault," the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

A statement by Sharif's office had said he was on a plane en route to the Gilgit area at the time of the incident, but turned back to Islamabad after news of the crash broke.

He was due to inaugurate a chairlift at a ski resort, one of the region's top administrative officials told AFP.

Leif H Larsen, the Norwegian of the Philippines were killed along with the wives of the Malaysian and Indonesian ambassadors, as well as the helicopter's two pilots and another crew member according to official tweets by the army. Norway's foreign office confirmed the death of its diplo-

The Indonesian foreign ministry in a statement confirmed the death of the ambassador's wife, Heri Listyawati Burhan Muhammad, but said that Ambassador Burhan Muhammad was safe though he had sustained injuries.

Sharif "expressed deep grief and

sorrow" and announced a day of

Polish ambassador Andrzej Ananiczolish and Dutch ambassador Marcel de Vink were also injured, the army said. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed Vink's injury.

It was Pakistan's worst air crash since 2012 when a Boeing 737 passenger plane went down in Islamabad, killing 130 people. In 1988, a plane crash killed

Pakistan's then military-ruler General Zia-ul-Haq as well as the US ambassador at the time, Arnold Raphel. A local police official on duty near

the site told AFP: "I was watching the helicopters arriving, they were comenvoy, and Domingo D Lucenario Jr ing since the morning, it was their third or fourth trip. "One helicopter suddenly whirl-

ing at its place and went down with a bang, then there were flames." An emergency medic who was

deployed nearby ahead of the inauguration ceremony said the helicopter only exploded and caught fire after landing. "The pilot was gesturing at us to

come and help him. We rushed there, broke the windows, and started dragging people out.

"After some minutes, there was an explosion, injuring some of the medics too."

Bangladesh-based The Daily Star

She also met with the Bangladeshi

survivors -- one adult and one minor -- from the mass grave uncovered in the province's Sadao district on May 1. The meeting came after sustained efforts from the Bangladesh Embassy

The survivors are being kept in a hospital under police protection.

scheduled to meet the governor of Songkhla and the province's police chief to receive information about Bangladeshi nationals and exchange combat trafficking syndicates that are

According to a list of passengers obtained by AFP, the ambassadors of Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Romania, Norway, South Africa, the Philippines and Poland were scheduled to fly on the helicopter. "It was a diplomatic trip with mem-

see the chopper being hit by a missile.

bers of 37 countries in total," said a passenger in one of the helicopters, who requested anonymity, concurring that the school had caught fire after the crash. The passenger added that the air

convoy was supposed to have included four helicopters but the number was later reduced to three. The Russian-built Mi-17, used by

air forces across the world, has had a patchy safety record in recent years. In the city of Gilgit, the region's

administrative capital, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) to the southwest, a hospital official said the injured were carried on stretchers to the emergency ward of the Combined Military Hospital.

Known for its spectacular mountain ranges, Gilgit-Baltistan is a strategically important autonomous region that borders China, Afghanistan and Indian-held Kashmir.

PM greets Sushma

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj last night and greeted her for the passage of the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) bill in the Lok Sabha. PM's Special Assistant Mahbubul

Hoque Shakil said the conversation that started at 8:32pm continued for 10 minutes. Hasina extended her thanks to the

parliament members, officials and people of India for the passage of the LBA in Indian parliament in line with the historic Mujib-Indira Agreement, 1974 and the protocol signed between Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina and Indian Premier Manmohan Singh in 2011, Shakil said. The prime minister expressed her

firm conviction that with the passage of the bill, the existing relations between the two countries would be strengthened and vibrant in the coming days.

PM wonders

FROM PAGE 16 take steps to preserve the memories of the great poet.

She announced that another university would be set up in Kushtia and named after the Nobel Laureate poet as Bangabandhu had pledged to establish it during his visit to Shilaidah.

She called upon all to extend their cooperation and support to her party and the government so that Bangladesh could earn its place in the global arena as a dignified nation. "We don't want Bangladesh to

march backwards," she told her audience. The PM assured the locals of

building Narina bridge, taking steps for setting up milk-processing factories and developing the handloom industry in the area.

From the same venue, she also inaugurated the Regional Passport Office, Sirajganj, upgradation of Sirajganj 150-MW gas turbine power plant to 225 MW combined cycle one, the Institute of Marine Technology, the District Registrar's Office and Sheikh Russell Poura Children's Park, Sirajganj.

Hasina also laid the foundation stone of Sirajganj 225-MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (2nd unit).

A special munajat was offered on the occasion seeking continued peace, progress and development of the country.

Egypt's Sisi says Ethiopians 'rescued' from Libya

AFP, Cairo

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said Egypt had "rescued" 27 Ethiopians who were abducted in war-torn Libya, as state television showed him greeting the group at Cairo airport on Thursday.

It was not immediately clear how the Ethiopians were rescued, or the details of their abduction, but Sisi's office said the group flown in on an Egyptian plane was "liberated by Egyptian and Libyan security services".

"All efforts were made to bring the Ethiopians to Egypt safely... Egyptian services participated in this effort to protect, rescue and secure our Ethiopian brothers," Sisi told reporters at Cairo airport.

Bank guard FROM PAGE 16

About three weeks earlier, there was a deadly robbery in the capital's Ashulia branch of Bangladesh Commerce Bank during which robbers killed eight people including the branch manager, raising serious concerns about the bank's security measures.

Amazing victory FROM PAGE 1 around Scotland as a political activist,

23,548 votes against 17,804 for Douglas Alexander in the Paisley and Renfrewshire South constituency -- a hugely embarrassing result for a man who is Labour's shadow foreign minister and electoral campaign chief.

It symbolized a wretched night for Labour as the SNP routed it across Scotland in what could be one of the worst results for Labour north of the border a century. Black is in her final year studying

Politics and Public Policy at the University of Glasgow. Born and bred in Paisley, south of Glasgow, she grew up in a Labour-voting house. Her first political stirrings included

marching against the Iraq war. Her official biography says that traveling

she was struck by its deprived areas and was inspired to work for social justice. "It was here that I witnessed first hand the level of poverty and injustice

prevalent in our society," she says. She has, however, been hauled up for some youthful indiscretions.

A fan of Partick Thistle soccer club, she once used expletives to describe Celtic, Scotland's most famed side. She was also caught on camera after

the referendum loss as saying she would like "put the nut in" on a Labour councillor-Glasgow slang for head-butting. Black is the youngest lawmaker

elected to the House of Commons since 1667, when 13-year-old Christopher Monck took his seat, the BBC reported.

Now wait for early FROM PAGE 16 "There is no way to make its imple-

legislatures of half of the total number of states, the bill will be referred to the Indian President for his assent to reach the finality," said an Indian diplomat.

Bangladesh's parliament ratified the 1974 LBA but India's did not. In 2011, the two countries signed a protocol to the 1974 LBA and related

matters to address all outstanding land boundary issues and provide a final settlement to the India-Bangladesh boundary. According to the agreement, "the protocol shall be subject to ratification by the government of Bangladesh and India

exchange of instruments of ratification." Bangladesh is ready to ratify the protocol in the upcoming budget session, said Vice-Principal Abdus Shahid, a ruling Awami League lawmaker.

and shall enter into force on the date of

internal procedures. We want to complete all formalities and pass it in the upcoming budget session beginning next month," he said. For ratification of the protocol, the government will prepare a bill to place in parliament after New Delhi hands

After the bill's passage in parlia-

ment, the two countries will exchange instruments of ratification of the LBA when officials of both sides will prepare terms of reference and other necessary rules to formally begin the implementation of the pact and

were transferred between up to six

ger for whom they were to be compen-

sated by tying plastic colour bands

around their wrists, and separating

them according to wristband colours

unearthed mass graves with dozens of

bodies believed to be those of smug-

hended as many as 137 Rohingya and

Bangladeshi individuals, some of

whom had been chained by the legs

and scalded with hot water, either

shortly after they had entered overland

from Thailand or, in one case, as doz-

ens were disembarking from a fibre-

Conditions in the smugglers camp

glass boat off Sungai Padang beach.

gled Rohingyas and Bangladeshis.

The Thai authorities have since

The Malaysian authorities appre-

Smugglers identified each passen-

boats before reaching shore.

upon reaching Thailand.

25,000 trafficked

cal developments in Myanmar, it observes

have increasingly said they were able to set sail having only been agreed to pay between \$90 to \$370 for the entire journey or, in some cases, were told they could board for free and pay later with earnings to be made in Malaysia,' the report claims.

Malaysia, even small cash inducement, and an option to return home upon seeing the conditions, but they were forced by smugglers to remain aboard.

larger amounts to be released from the smugglers' camps in Thailand. UNHCR interviewed more than 150

According to the interviews, there has been a slight increase in the pro-

interviewees, who are either themselves victims or know of others, who were raped occasionally on board but more frequently and repeatedly at the smugglers' camps in Thailand.

are horrific. People are held and abused until their relatives pay for their release. More than half of the survivors interviewed by UNHCR since October witnessed someone's death at the smugglers' camps where they were held.

The UNHCR in its report recommends law-enforcement measures be accompanied by efforts to reduce the need for migrants and refugees to turn to smugglers in the first place by, among others, addressing the root causes driving them to undertake these dangerous journeys and providing safe alternatives for them to access asylum and protection.

Terracotta army

FROM PAGE 16

when activity was halted at the site due to a lack of adequate personnel.

Some of the most exquisite statues were uncovered during early work at the site, including a rare warrior with a green face. The discovery suggested that the army was once colourfully painted,

gists leading the project, said the pit contained "the essence of the terracotta warriors" due to the mix of figures there. According to China News Service,

archers, soldiers and cavalry in the

"Their colourful paint is also rela-

tively well preserved." The terracotta army was first discovered by accident in 1974 by farmers in Lintong District, Xi'an.

Archaeologists have uncovered four distinct pits each around 23 feet deep -the largest of which contained 6,000 of the terracotta warriors.

The second pit is thought to contain the cavalry and archers, although only 120 figures have been recovered so far. The third pit contained the tallest

figures, which are thought to be the generals and officers while the fourth pit appears to have been left empty. The army is thought to have been

under a mile east of his burial mound.

UNFPA Country

Office, Dhaka

Post

1 (One)



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Service Contract

(SB 5 Level)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following position: No of **Post Title** Vacancy No. **Duty Station** Category

Special Advisor to Representative on

Maternal Health

How to Apply: For Details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, Please visit our website: http://www.unfpabgd.org. Only short-

Job ID 15-07

listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNFPA's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant. Application should be received no later than 17:00, Saturday, 23 May <u>2015.</u>

Only Applications Submitted Through UNFPA Bangladesh Job Portal Will Be Considered For Further **Evaluation**

"There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process" "UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV or AIDS and does not discriminate on the basis of

HIV/AIDS status"

mentation lengthy ... we will ratify the LBA as soon as India completes its

> over the instrument on completion of all internal procedures, added Shahid, also a former chief whip.

redraw their maps.

competition among smugglers manipulating the Bay routes were evidenced by several individuals who said they

"Individuals who departed by sea

Several individuals described being lured to a boat by the prospect of jobs in

Unless they later escaped, all individuals ultimately had to pay much

In the first quarter of this year, recent maritime arrivals in Thailand and Malaysia who had departed since October 2014 on boats that cumulatively carried an estimated 7,000 passengers.

portion of female passengers leaving from the Bay, from 10 percent in the first three quarters of 2014 to 14 percent in the last quarter of the same year. Rape by crew members and smugglers was also reported by the female

The extensive network of and rising

It is the first dig at the site since 2008

but the pigments have faded over time. Yuan Zhongyi, one of the archaeolo-

he said, "You can find all the kneeling number two pit.

after his death and were positioned just

built to protect Emperor Qin Shihaung