Bullet-hit

FROM PAGE 16 Contacted, MA Hasem, officer-incharge of the DB in Jhenidah, said they had no information about the Shibir men.

Gifari, son of Nur Islam of Chapali village in Kaliganj upazila, was a third-year student of the Bangla department at Jessore MM College, and Shamim, son of Ruhul Amin of Bakulia village, was a second-year student of the management department at Jhenidah KC College.

Ilias Hossain, officer-in-charge of Jessore Kotwali Police Station, confirmed that police recovered two bullet-hit bodies.

"They might have been shot by some criminals. We are investigating the incident," the police official said. Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station, said there was no case against Gifari, while Shamim stood accused of felling

Some plainclothes men introduced them as DB officials and picked up his son when he was returning home after saying Jumma prayers on March 18, alleged Gifari's father Nur Islam.

roadside trees in 2013.

Ruhul Amin, father of Shamim, said Shamim was picked up on March 25 in similar fashion from Mahtab Uddin Degree College in Kaliganj.

Later, both the families held press conferences in Jhenidah town. Gifari's father Nur Islam claimed

law enforcers shot his son dead. "We requested the DB police to release our son. They didn't even

admit picking up our son." OC of Kaliganj police Anwar refused to file a general diary following the abduction, Nur Islam added. However, Anwar said nobody had

come to him to lodge a GD. Shamim's father said his son was innocent and not involved in subver-

sive activities. In another incident, a few men picked up another Shibir activist on

Sunday from Ishwarba village in Kaliganj, his family said.

Sohanur Islam, 19, son of Mohsin Ali of the village, is a first-year student of Shaheed Nur-Ali College in Kaliganj.

HC asks

FROM PAGE 16

2001 and 2009 directed them to relocate the tanneries to Savar by 2010. The court later extended the deadline until 2013.

The tanneries are being run in violation of the HC directive which is tantamount to contempt of court, he

Manzill said they would pray to the HC to initiate contempt proceedings against the tannery owners after the industries secretary provides their

names and addresses to it. Following a contempt petition moved by HRPB, the HC bench on April 10 issued arrest warrants for three

tannery owners -- Abdul Wadud Mia of

Mahin Tannery, Abdul Wahab of Nabipur Tannery, and Mafiz Mia of Asia Tannery -- for failing to comply with the HC directive on relocation of tanneries. Another defendant Arefin Shamsul Al Amin, managing director of Rana

Leather Industries Ltd, is now abroad and has been asked to appear before the bench on May 3.

The same day, the bench had kept three other tannery owners in custody for over five hours for not implementing the 2001 judgment on relocation of the factories to Savar.

They are Mahbubur Rahman Panna of Pubali Tanneries, Giasuddin Ahmed Pathan of Rumi Leather Industries Ltd, and Akbar Hossain of Paramount

Tannery.

Dhaka city.

Transport FROM PAGE 1 two-stroke engine "baby taxis" in

Later, Auto Rickshaw Workers Union filed writ petitions and leave to appeal with the High Court and the Appellate Division. The High Court issued an order containing guidelines for distribution of the

CNG-run auto-rickshaws. The clarification said Road Transport and Highways Division had only been reviewing the approv-

als given in 2007 and guidelines given later on the writ petition [4818/2010].

It said in continuation of the process, opinions have been sought from Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Dhaka North City Corporation, Dhaka South City Corporation and the home ministry about the probability of issuing 5,000 CNG-run auto-

rickshaws. The clarification said appropriate measures would be taken after considering all issues concerned for

building an ideal public transport system in Dhaka metropolitan city. It said the division was aware of the ever increasing traffic jams and

the people's sufferings in Dhaka city. It said the division was also aware of building an improved public transport system by introducing more large buses.

Abducted boy's body recovered after 36 hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Nearly 36 hours after his abduction on Monday, police recovered the body of an abducted boy in Hakimpur upazila on Tuesday.

The abductors had earlier sent text massages to his father, demanding Tk 30 lakh for his release.

Mamunur Rashid of Muharapara village under Hakimpur municipality, was abducted around 11:00am on Monday. His father, the principal of Hakimpur Women's College, filed a general diary with Hakimpur police the same day as they failed to trace his son.

The abductors sent the text message to the father's cellphone the next day. Desperate to save his only child, the father exchanged several text messages with the abductions and agreed to pay the ransom. But that certain number was found

switched off later. Passers-by around 9:30 on Tuesday

night smelt something unusual and traced the source of it. Around 10:30pm locals broke into the tin-shed house of Samiul Islam at Muharapara village and found the body in a sack.

The locals caught Samiul Islam, son of Amzad Hossain of Muharapara, and handed him over to Hakimpur police.

The police said Samiul sent the text messages to the father from his mobile demanding the ransom. ASP Mizanur Rahman of district

police said the boy was choked to Abtahi Al Rashid, 4, son of death around Monday noon. The police sent the body to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy. As the news spread, angry villagers attacked the house and burned it

> down. Firefighters went to the scene to douse the fire, but the villagers prevented them from reaching the spot. At least three children have been killed in Dinajpur for ransom since November last year. Of them, an eightyear-old girl of Dinajpur satellite town

> was found dead on January 1, while four-year-old Porosh Chandra Roy's body was recovered in November last Earlier in June 2014, Mursalin Haque, a class IX student of Mohabbatpur village under Sadar

> upazila, was killed as his abductors did not get Tk 50 lakh they had demanded

In Banshkhali

FROM PAGE 16

the bail of her husband and son.

On the afternoon of April 2, Shahidul Alam, elder brother of S Alam Group chairman, went to visit the Banshkhali power plant site with a big team. They came on bikes and CNG-run autorickshaws. Seeing some villagers on their way,

Alam got off his vehicle to talk with them about the project, said Abdus Sabur, a villager. But Alam's men, mostly brokers,

hired goons and some locals loyal to the Group, were locked in an altercation among themselves over who will stay close to Alam. A scuffle among them ensued, forcing Alam to leave the place, Sabur added. Abdul Karim, another villager,

supported Sabur's version. He also said that it was Alam's men who attacked the villagers and set fire to three vehicles. But Swapan Kumar Majumder,

officer-in-charge of Banshkhali Police Station, blamed the villagers for the attack. A case was filed on the night of April

3 in connection with the attack and police later conducted the raid.

'LOOTING MONEY'

Alleged police atrocities, including beating up of women, and allegedly looting money and valuables during the raid, further fueled the tension prevailing in Gondamara union over setting up of the power plant.

"It was around 3:00am. We all woke up suddenly at hard knockings on the door. Police soon broke in. They beat my husband and my sister's husband who came to visit us. They looted our money from under the bed before taking them and two of my sons away," said Sufia, 45.

When the four were forced into an autorickshaw, Shafiq jumped off the vehicle and ran towards the sea.

The relative got freed the next day, but her husband and another son are still in jail.

Three other families gave similar descriptions of the early morning raid.

Failing to take physically challenged Ayub Ali from the neighbouring house, police allegedly picked up his 13-year-old son Akter Hossain.

Dilwara Begum, the boy's mother, alleged that police also beat her up when she tried to resist her son's arrest.

The poor couple with their three daughters is passing through hardship as their elder son, who lives in Satkania and works as day-labourer there, is on the run since he was made an accused in the case.

Nur Jahan, another neighbour, said she did not know what to do as police arrested her husband and 13-year-old son that night.

For Kodiza Begum, a widow in her middle-age, the arrest of her only son could not have been any harsher. Humayun, 22, was preparing to go to

Qatar for a job. Contacted, OC Swapan said two of "Chanmotir Pala". the six arrestees were accused in the FIR

and four others were involved in the attack. He denied that police arrested any teens or assaulted anyone. 'LAST LUNCH TOGETHER'

Day labourer Anwarul Islam of Charpara village was supposed to go for shopping on the evening of April 4 for her daughter's marriage ceremony. But the sudden call for a protest rally in

the afternoon has changed everything. He returned home from work early to join the rally to protest the arrests of seven innocent villagers. While having lunch, he told his wife that he would do the shopping after the rally. The marriage of his second daughter was

set for May 4.

"It was beyond my imagination that it would be our last lunch together. He hurriedly finished his lunch only to join the rally, though I cooked his favourite fish curry," said his wife Kohinur Akter.

Anwarul, 50, his elder brother Mortuza, 54, and Mortuza's son-in-law Jaker Ahmed are among the four people killed in the alleged police firing.

On hearing the news of Anwarul, his 10-year-old son rushed to the spot, only to be hit by a bullet himself.

Kohinur now sees bleak days ahead

with her two unmarried daughters and the wounded son. Her eldest daughter was married several years ago. Though the family of her second daughter Meena's would-be husband

assured that the May 4 wedding would go ahead, she is worried about arranging the money. "We have no land. For years, we have been sub-leasing land for salt

farming. This year my father leased some land for six months," said Manik, Mortuza's son.

For the land, they have to pay more than Tk 60,000.

With his father gone, Manik, 22, has three unmarried sisters and two little brothers to take care of all by himself. His three other sisters are already married. One of these sisters, Afsara, lost her husband in the clash.

"We have nothing, not even any land. I have lost my husband and my father. Now who will look after my children?" she said pointing at her three kids. "I have no alternative but to beg."

Her zeal for art

FROM PAGE 1

People now know her as a victim who was studying history at Comilla Victoria College and was engaged in theatre of the institution.

But that is not all about her.

She gave dance performances at several functions and competitions. In February this year, she stood first in the dancing competition between students of different colleges under the National University in her district and was second at Chittagong division level, her family said.

Dancing was her passion but she used to practise singing and recite poems too. "I never imagined she would be

known this way," said Yaar Hossain. Tonu brought honour to her college and district through her talents. At quiet

times, she used to paint as well. "She loved to draw scenes of villages and used to show me her paintings.

"All my dreams about her have shattered. Her paintings, prizes and favourite things are what I have now to live with for the rest of my life," Tonu's father said in tears.

She was supposed to perform in a dance programme on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh and give her voice to the background music in a drama

"Now everything is over," Yaar Hossain said, staring into space. After a long pause, he added, "I want

immediate trial of her killers." PAHELA BAISHAKH PERFORMANCE DEDICATED TO TONU

The Victoria College theatre dedicates this year's performance on Pahela Baishakh to Tonu. It will hold a rally on the college

campus and stage a performance in Victoria College intersection area today. Tonu was an excellent performer,

said Farhana Ahmed, general secretary of the theatre. "We will miss her terribly."

Fire breaks

FROM PAGE 16 areas, said forest officials.

Firefighters from Bagerhat with the help of locals were working to douse the flame. Forest officials also sought assistance from Khulna fire service, sources said.

It could not be immediately known what caused the fire.

Divisional Forest Officer (east) Saidul Islam said the damage from the fire was yet to be assessed. A committee, led by Assistant Forest Conservator Belayet Hossain, was formed to investigate the incident and it was asked to submit a report within 14 working days. He said three fire engines from

Bagerhat fire service were working to put out the blaze. The DFO, however, claimed that

the fire was under control. Prof Dilip Dutta of Environmental

Science Discipline at Khulna University said due to changes in tida surge, the area remains dry most of the time and natural methane gas accumulates there.

Fire can break out there due to natural or man-made reasons. This fire is usually termed "ground fire", he added. On March 27, a fire broke out in the

Chandpai range and gutted foliage on

1.66 acres of land in the forest. Firefighters with the help of locals brought the blaze under control. Fuel prices

FROM PAGE 16

at his office yesterday.

The prices of octane and petrol will be lowered by Tk 10-15 and that of diesel and kerosene by Tk 4-5. "The prices of fuel oil will be adjusted further in future if the slide in the international market continues."

Oil prices in the international market have been falling since 2014. However, the government did not lower the oil prices, saying that it would help state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) to make profit and flourish.

The government's move drew criticism from several quarters. ACTIONS AGAINST FRAUDULENT PETROL PUMPS

The state minister warned petrol

pump owners saying that their licences would be cancelled if anyone stops selling petroleum fuel fearing loss after their price cut.

Legal actions would be taken against them, he said.

Moreover, the licenses of petrol pumps selling adulterated oil would also be cancelled and cases would be filed against them, he said, adding that the government already had identified 350 such fuel pumps across the country

Earthquake

FROM PAGE 1 7.2-magnitude quake.

The quake, which was 134km deep, hit some 396km north northwest of the Myanmar capital

Naypyidaw, according to the USGS. In Dhaka, at least four people, including a Dhaka University student, suffered minor injuries while running out of the buildings for safety.

In Chittagong, more than 50 people were injured during the earthquake as they jostled to come out of multi-storey buildings in different areas of the port city and Chittagong University areas.

Of those, 21 were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and the rest were given primary treatment at local hospitals for minor injuries.

Two Chittagong University students -- Md Raihan and Masum -were injured when they jumped from their halls in panic.

Masum took primary treatment at the university health centre and Raihan was taken to the CMCH.

MA Malek, deputy assistant director at Agrabad Fire Service and Civil Defence office, said they had reports of eight buildings being tilted in Sagarica, Halishahar, Love Lane, Nandankanon Jesico Lane and Jubelee road.

Locals said another five-storey building tilted in GEC area.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of EPZ Police Station, said 40 garment workers of different factories in Chittagong Export Processing Zone were injured as they tried to jostle through the stairs of the building. Night shifts were on at the time. Three of them were admitted to

the CMCH and the rest were given primary treatment at BEPZA hospital, said the OC. At the port city's Oxygen area, 10 workers, including nine women, of a

garment factory were injured when they were running for cover. They were taken to the CMCH, officials said.

Nurul Huq, a worker, was injured when a three feet high boundary wall fell on his leg at Kalshi Dighi. He too was sent to the CMCH. In Feni, a four-storey building at

Sultanpur tilted but no one was injured. The local administration evacuated the building immediately. In Sylhet, at least 10 people, including two women, were injured

while trying to get out of the buildings. They were admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital. In March 2011, at least 75 people died when a powerful earthquake hit

Myanmar near its borders with Laos

and Thailand.

SC orders

FROM PAGE 16 Mohammad Nasiruddin, Aman's wife

Sabera Aman, Nasir's son Mir Helal Uddin and former BNP lawmaker Monjurul Ahsan Munshi.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC, headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, came up with the orders after hearing separate petitions moved by the accused seeking review of its earlier orders. The Anti-Corruption Commission

had filed the corruption cases against the eight. Its lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan said the jail sentences of the accused are under challenge as the apex court has asked the HC to hold fresh hearings on their appeals.

The HC will now decide whether the lower courts had delivered the verdicts in the cases rightly. The accused will be on bail until the HC disposed of the appeals, Khurshid told The Daily Star.

NAZMUL HUDA AND WIFE

The ACC on March 21, 2007 had filed the case against Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda with Dhanmondi Police Station on charges of taking Tk 2.40 crore from a businessman in favour of their weekly newspaper Khoborer Ontorale.

A special court on August 17, 2007 sentenced Nazmul to seven years imprisonment and his wife to three Following their appeal, the HC on

March 20, 2011 acquitted the couple of the corruption charges. The Appellate Division on December 1, 2014 scrapped the acquit-

tal and asked the HC to hold a fresh

hearing on their appeal. AMAN ULLAH AMAN AND WIFE

A special court on June 21, 2007 had sentenced Aman Ullah Aman to 13 years imprisonment for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information in his wealth statement. His wife Sabera was also sentenced

to three years imprisonment by the

same court as she was found guilty of

abetting the offence. Following an appeal filed by the couple, the HC on August 16, 2010

acquitted them of the graft charges.

The SC on May 26, 2014 cancelled the HC verdict and asked it to hold a fresh hearing on the appeal.

IQBAL HASAN MAHMOOD TUKU

The anti-graft watchdog on March 21, 2007 had filed the case with Mohammadpur Police Station, accusing Iqbal Hasan Mahmood Tuku of illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 2.57 crore and concealing information in his wealth statement.

A special court on November 15,

2007 handed Tuku a nine-year jail term in the case. Following his appeal, the HC on

June 16, 2011 acquitted the BNP leader of the corruption charges. The SC on January 27, 2014

cancelled the HC verdict and asked it to hold a fresh hearing on his appeal. MIR NASIR AND SON The SC on July 3, 2014 had scrapped two HC verdicts that acquitted Mir

Mohammad Nasiruddin and his son Mir Helal Uddin in two corruption The apex court also asked the HC to hold fresh hearings on the appeals

A lower court in July, 2007 had sentenced Nasiruddin to 13 years imprisonment and Helal to three

filed by the accused.

Mir Nasir was found guilty of illegally accumulating wealth worth around Tk 28 crore and concealing information in his wealth statement, while his son was convicted of aiding his father in protecting their property.

Following their appeals, the HC in August 2010 scrapped their jail sentences.

MONJURUL AHSAN MUNSHI A special court in 2007 had sentenced

former BNP lawmaker Monjurul Ahsan Munshi to 13 years imprisonment for illegally accumulating wealth worth Tk 5.37 crore.

The HC acquitted him of the charges following his appeal. The SC later cancelled his acquittal and asked the HC to hold a fresh hearing on his appeal.

Panama cops

FROM PAGE 16 A year-long probe by a consortium of investigative journalists examined the papers, which come from around 214,000 offshore entities and cover almost 40 years.

even sports elite have been thrown onto the defensive. Iceland's prime minister was forced to resign after it emerged he owned shares in the country's banks through an offshore

The world's business, political and

company during the financial crisis. Leaders in Britain and Ukraine have faced questions over their taxes, while Russian President Vladimir Putin has sought to divert attention from his entourage by claiming it is all a US plot against him.

forums and media to stifle discussion of the papers, which showed relatives of eight of its political top brass also owned offshore companies. And wealthy citizens in Australia, France,

India, Mexico, Peru, Spain and elsewhere face probes over suspected tax avoidance after their names figured in some of the

11.5 leaked million documents. THE BIGGER PICTURE Panama has hit back at the apparent

blemish on its image as an important financial crossroads. It warned France earlier Tuesday, before the raid on the law firm, of unspecified diplomatic measures if France does not remove it from a

blacklist of tax havens. Paris put Panama back on its national list of uncooperative jurisdictions, after removing it in 2012, in the wake of the leaks.

France is also urging the European Union and all member states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to follow suit. Meanwhile, tax powers from the

world's richest nations opened a meeting in Paris yesterday to jointly probe murky offshore dealings revealed in the huge 'Panama Papers' data leak. "We are basically trying to get the

bigger picture," Australian Tax Commissioner Chris Jordan, who proposed the joint investigation, told the Australian Financial Review

business daily. "It has never been tried on this scale

before," Jordan added. "A number of countries have got slices or pieces of the data and that's China has been censoring online been very useful, but really, the start of the conversation is to work out who's got what, how we can pool that

> information and start to work together." Australia convened the closed-door meeting of government officials in Paris as chair of the Joint International Tax Shelter Information and Collaboration Network, which collaborates to crack

down on cross-border tax cheats. The tax haven investigative network is an initiative of the Paris-headquartered 38-nation advanced economies club, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation

and Development (OECD). "The meeting at the OECD presents tax administrations with a first opportunity to act on the considerable body of information revealed by the Panama Papers release," the OECD said in a statement in the run-up to the gathering.

Hawking backs

Yuri Milner, supported by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. Interstellar travel has long been a

logical hurdles remain. But Prof Hawking told BBC News that fantasy could be realised sooner than we might think.

dream for many, but significant techno-

"If we are to survive as a species we must ultimately spread out to the stars," he said. "Astronomers believe that there is a reasonable chance of an Earth-like planet

orbiting one of the stars [in] the Alpha Centauri system. But we will know more in the next two decades from ground California. based and space based telescopes. "Technological developments in the last two decades and the future make it

possible in principle within a generation." Prof Hawking is backing a project by Milner's Breakthrough Foundation, a private organisation funding scientific

sending information back.

research initiatives that government funders think to be too ambitious. The organisation has brought together an expert group of scientists to assess whether it might be possible to

The nearest star system is 40 trillion km (25 trillion miles) away. Using current technology it would take about 30,000 years to get there.

The expert group concluded that with a little more research and development it might be possible to develop spacecraft that could cut that journey time to just 30 "I'd have said that even a few years ago

travel to another star at that kind of speed would not be possible," said Dr Pete Worden, who is leading the project. He is chairman of the Breakthrough Prize Foundation and a former director of Nasa's Ames Research Center in "But the expert group figured out that

because of developments in technology there appears to be a concept that appears to work." The concept is to reduce the size of the

spacecraft to about the size of a chip used in electronic devices. The idea is to launch a thousand of these mini-spacecraft into the Earth's orbit. Each would have a solar This is like a sail on a boat - but it is

pushed along by light rather than the wind. A giant laser on Earth would give each one a powerful push, sending them develop spaceships capable of travelling on their way to reaching 20% of the speed to another star within a generation and of light.