Cries for help edited out of 9/11 tapes

Emergency operators listening to trapped callers' heartbreaking pleas from the burning World Trade Centre repeatedly said help was on the way while they struggled with crashing computers, utter confusion and their own emotions, several hours of 911 calls released Friday show

In releasing the 130 calls, city officials edited out the voices of those who sought help. But the police and fire dispatchers often repeated the callers' words, reflecting the fear and chaos of the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

The first call came seconds after terrorists flew a hijacked jetliner into the north tower of the trade centre at 8:46 a.m. A second plane struck the south tower 17 minutes later, and by 10:28 both towers had collapsed, leaving 2,749 people dead.

Dispatchers assured the callers most of them on floors above the burning plane wreckage that help was coming, or already there. In many cases, they had little to offer but com-

"OK, ma'am. All right," a fire dispatcher told a caller at 9:05 a.m., two minutes after the second tower was hit. "Well, everybody is there now. We're trying to rescue everybody.

Twelve minutes later, another dispatcher told a frantic caller trapped on the 105th floor of the south tower to instruct people to put wet towels over their mouths, lie on the floor and no

"We are trying to get up there, sir. Like you said, the stairs are collapsed. OK?" the dispatcher said. "I know it's hard to breathe. I know it is.

The transcripts and nearly nine hours of audio recordings were released after The New York Times and relatives of Sept. 11 victims sued to get them. An appeals court ruled last year that the calls of victims in the burning twin towers were too intense and emotional to be released without their families' consent.

As a result, the transcripts held long blank spaces where the callers' words would have appeared.

Often, it was clear from conversa tions between police and fire department operators that they were not sure what had occurred. At one point a police operator told a fire dispatcher that a helicopter had hit one of the towers.

The operators managed generally to maintain their composure even as word spread that what initially appeared to be a tragic accident was actually a choreo graphed terrorist attack involving two planes and both towers.

Sirens screamed in the background as the callers pleaded for elp. Although there were no voices, their desperation was evident in heavy, audible breathing on the other end of the operators' calls.

Delegates funded

also remained inactive regarding the ruling party leaders, police officials and local administration whose links to the militants have long been revealed by the media as well as the arrested militant leaders themselves. It has been reiterating that all involved with the militants will be punished, but no action has been taken yet against these militant patrons.

During interrogation, arrested militant leaders and activists said their main sources of funds are zakat, "osor" (crop donation), "yanat" (dona

According to the investigators however, the militants also had a good number of sources of money from different countries.

The financial support chiefly came through different ways, including hundi, in the name of funds for Islamic activities, Islamic NGOs, construction cation of Islamic books and booklets.

guests of various Islamic programmes, including conferences and meetings, for strengthening Islamic movements and NGO activi-

organisations have visited Bangladesh, stayed for significant period of time on different occasions and met the militant leaders investigator told The Daily Star on

condition of anonymity. The militants took all sorts of assistance from these delegates to create a war-like situation in Bangladesh, in the name of jihad, for paving the way for establishing Islamic rule in Taliban

have the citizenship of another, the investigators said, declining to disclose the names of the suspected foreign connections for the sake of

The sedition case filed on March 16 against seven members of JMB's Majlish-e-Shura, top decision-making body said the militant outfit is determined to achieve its ultimate goal of ousting the government and establishing Shariah law by force. And for this, it is collecting firearms and ammunition, making bomb attacks, resorting to armed hooliganism, injuring common people, damaging people's property and trying to create public hatred against the existing laws and the government to destroy the whole state

Islamic delegates who visited Bangladesh on different occasions are Abdul Matin Salafi of India, Moulana Fazlur Rahman, Malik Mohammad Khan Sherani, Allama Osaya and Moniur Ahmed Chiniutee of Pakistan. Abdullah Abdut Tawat al Madani of Nepal, Sailee Rifat Osman Mahmud. Abbas Bao, Kamal Hossain and Mohammed Ahmed al Sheikh of Sudan, Zafar Musa Abu Moaz of Iraq, Abdur Rahman of Yemen, Moulana Sheikh Abdullah Nasser al Rahmani.

Some of them visited Bangladesh more than once while some stayed hack for long.

Fazlur Rahman, president of Jomiate Ulamave Islam and also head of Muttahida Mailish-e Amal. a coalition of six Pakistani Islamic people to join the movement to save slam, saying the religion has been in danger across the globe.

The Pakistani, known as a pro-Taliban Islamic leader, also visited

foreign Islamic NGO leaders and officials are presently staying in the

JMB's military commander and Shura member Ataur Rahman Sunny and another Shura member Abdul Awal Sarker confessed before the court on February 8 that two British citizens gave the JMB chief a sum of 10,000 pounds for bomb attacks in Bangladesh by the end of June last

The two top JMB leaders identified the Britons as Abdur Rahman and Sajjad, leaders of a London-based

Abdul Quayyum told reporters after the capture of JMB chief Abdur Rahman that they had found no proof of the militants' foreign link as yet.

Booters makewinning

FROM PAGE 1 Cambodia at the premier venue of

the country. Away at the Chittagong MA Aziz Stadium, the other venue of the meet. SAFF champions India's under-23 side blanked Afghanistan

2-0 while Chinese Taipei edged the

Philippines by a solitary goal.

In between the matches at the big bowl, a lively 20-minute fanfare with loud music brought the festive mood back to the good old venue after a long time. Sixteen mounted horsemen marched-past with the national flags of the participating nations before 150 schoolchildren

put on a physical display. AFC president Mohammad Bin Hammam attended the ceremony as special guest.

Back to the day's play, goals by Alfaz and Emily ensured Bangladesh's first home win in three years since beating India in the SAFF Championship semifinal in

March 2003. After a cautious start, Bangladesh who had Ebnul Siraji as the only debutant in the line-up, began to slice through the rival defence in the Group C match but created their first opening in the 29th minute. A right-flank cross by Siraji set striker Alfaz with only the goalkeeper to beat, but Ouk Mic was brilliant to parry the close-range effort. Alfaz got the rebound but miskicked, only to see Monwar's

powerful shot saved by Mic's stretching hands. The pressure told a minute later when Alfaz, taking a pass from Emily, ran down the right and coolly placed a low right footer into the far

post to get a rousing reception from a 15,000-strong crowd. Young striker Emily made it 2-0 for the hosts from a spot-kick after leftback Parvez Babu was brought

down by Seyla inside the box. Cambodia midfielder Rithy Chan tested Aminul with two curling longrange freekicks either side of the break, but the Bangladesh goal-

keeper thwarted both the efforts in nilar fashion. Aminul, however, was completely sent the wrong way when

Rithy reduced the margin from a 66th minute penalty after Cambodia midfielder Seng Narath was fouled inside the penalty area by centreback Nazrul. Bangladesh failed to raise their

game afterwards and their inexperienced defence -- missing two stalwarts through injury -- were under pressure when Cambodia threatened to equalise in the 78th minute, but Kumpehak's shot from seven yards was foiled by Aminul's leg-

Bangladesh hit back in the injury time but Kanchan and Zahid Parvez wasted two chances inside three

lawmaker killed

A suicide attack on a coalition convoy in southern Afghanistan yesterday killed the bomber but hurt no one else. A lawmaker was shot dead the country's north, officials said.

Security forces shot and killed an alleged accomplice of the suicide bomber as he was fleeing the scene on a motorbike, said Gen. Rahmatullah Raufi, the local army chief. A detonator was found in one of his pockets.

The attack happened on a main road in Maywand district, Kandahar province, when the convoy of coalition and Afghan forces was passing. None of the troops in the convoy was pelieved to have been hurt, he said.

Sayed Sadeq, the speaker of northern Tahhar province's governing assembly, died in hospital after receiving multiple gunshots to his body after an assailant broke into his home Saturday, said Ghulam Hazarat, the deputy local police chief.

He said it was not clear who was behind the killing and that an investigaion had been launched.

Sadeg was well respected in the mountainous region and was a supporter of the country's US-backed central government.

Before the Taliban were ousted in late 2001, he was a mid-ranking commander in a militia run by renegade former premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who is now wanted as a terrorist by the United States.

Several district government chiefs and local police commanders have been killed in recent weeks. most in attacks blamed on the Talihan

Trade deficit

million in the corresponding period of FY05.

Commerce ministry sources said the hike in export volume this fiscal year was due mainly to the duty-free access of 91 products to the Indian market and elimination of a few nontariff barriers.

free access, readymade garment, polythene sheet, plastic hanger, toiletries, glass and machine parts have contributed most in the export Battery, raw jute, jute goods,

Of the products enjoying duty-

Jamdani sari, hilsa fish and chemical fertiliser also saw increased entrance to the neighbouring market, the sources said.

During her recent visit to India Prime Minister Khaleda Zia sought duty-free access of more Bangladeshi products from the Indian government to reduce the huge bilateral trade gap. To achieve that, New Delhi suggested signing a free trade agreement between the two neighbouring economies.

Sources said, some non-tariff barriers like mandatory testing required by India, inadequate banking facility and poor infrastructure at land ports are also hindering the country's export growth to India.

The country's export earning from India was \$144 million in FY05, \$89 million in FY04 and \$84 million in FY03. Its import from India was \$2.03 billion in FY05, \$1.59 billion in FY04 and \$1.35 billion in FY03.

Huge quantities of Indian goods also get smuggled into Bangladesh regularly that many a businessman reckons are equal, if not more, in worth to the legal imports.

Indian chicks **FROM PAGE 16**

morning in presence of the officials of Livestock Department.

Assistant Commissioner of DB Zahur Chowdhury said the chicks were seized from a house of Sharafat Hossain near the KMP headquarters.

The police seized and culled 10,000 chicks in Comilla on Friday. They also captured 5,700 chicks while they were being transported to Dhaka from Natore. Those chicks are waiting to be culled.

"We have 20 vigilance teams around the border areas to capture

Poultry farm owners and experts an investment of Tk 5,000 crore and on which depends the livelihood of about 50 lakh people.

Following several newspaper reports the government also alerted Bangladesh Rifles to prevent smuggling of Indian chicks.

examination are only available in Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) in Savar.

BLRI to confirm the flu virus. Outside of Dhaka the facilities are not available." said Dr Monzur Murshid, leading poultry vaccination expert of the country. With the help of a special kind of kit, it is possible to detect the virus instantly, he said.

Bangladesh has about 150,000 poultry farms with an annual turnover of \$750 million. Production of chicks has declined from 4.5-5 million to 3.5-4 million per week following the epidemic.

Bomber, Afghan DU printing press

As the authorities have a plan to modernise the press, no appointment is being given here, as expert hands will be needed with the introduction of modern technology but anything positive is yet to be done, sources at DU press

About 15 years ago, DU authorities took initiative to modernise it through a press advisory committee. After its failure. another committee, press modernisation committee headed by the then DU treasurer, was formed in 2000 to materialise the

The press modernisation committee, which was reconstituted at least on four occasions through addition of members or by changing the person to head, submitted reports to modernise the press but nothing fruitful has been done during the six long The press modernisation

committee headed by former treasurer Prof Sved Rashidul Hasan submitted a report to the authorities with some recommendations for using modern technology and appointing necessary hands to modernise the press. It also recommended transfer-

ring the old and not properly

oriented employees to other

departments after making provisions for their jobs The DU Syndicate did not approve of the recommendation after it was produced on February 12 this year, as the committee did not show 'cost benefit', sources in the Syndicate said. The Syndicate introduced three more members

As the tenure of Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan ended, newly

into the committee and directed it

Instead of finding out the cost benefit of the earlier committee's recommendation, the newly shaped committee recommended making the printing press a joint venture one with a ratio of 51:49 that is now waiting for the Syndicate's approval, sources

"The committee thinks, if made a joint venture, the printing press can be a profitable institution. If the Syndicate approves it, we will fix the terms and conditions to make the printing press a joint

printing press a joint venture will university's different document papers and give rise to various problems including forged certificates, mark-sheets and other

make the press profitable by appointing some experts, they

If a modern offset press is introduced, it can do all the printing and binding work of the university, and the maintenance and official costs will eventually reduce, sources said.

Yusuf Haider said a proposal for modernisation of the printing press is waiting for the Syndicate's approval.

McKinon for unity

to find 'cost benefit'.

on some issues is very important," he said in an interview with UNB at his office. "If the two party leaders are seen

to be working together on some issues that can engender confidence of the whole country. They are both partisan people, but there are some issues when by working together you can get a better result for the whole country," he said.

McKinon visited Dhaka in January and met both government and opposition leaders. He told the leaders that the Commonwealth would be sending an assessment mission in a couple of months to make a judgment on quality and transparency of electoral roll, look into problems in previous elections and to see if those were corrected.

On the basis of report of the assessment mission, the election observers will be sent to Bangladesh about three weeks ahead of the vote, he said.

Mckinon, however, said it is very difficult to find good people with experience in election monitoring for a long-term period. Several observers have been selected. In Dhaka, they will talk to the Election Commission, political parties and other people concerned during the pre-election assessment.

Stressing the need for an independent election commission, the secretary general said, "We have conveved a clear message to the government that we want to see a fully independent election commis-

He said alongside the Commonwealth election observers the European Union and the UN will also send observers to monitor the upcoming elections through discussion and coordination among them.

The secretary general said the Commonwealth might provide technical assistance, if needed, on the basis of the report of the assessment mission to help stage free and fair polls.

Asked his opinion about the opposition proposals for reform of

during his meeting in Dhaka. "I think both sides want the system to work, not to destroy." he said, adding that caretaker system that attained more than 10

years should continue to enjoy the

people's confidence as before. Asked about any mediation from the Commonwealth to resolve the disputes between the two parties over the reforms, Mckinon said the Commonwealth is always ready to

"We are always ready to help when Commonwealth enjoys support of all political parties, not one party," he said and recalled Commonwealth envoy Sir Ninian's

The secretary general appreciated Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's move for talks on the opposition's reform proposals.

Electoral Reforms

their representatives to the committee, with the condition that if there were any anti-liberation element on the government side they would shun the dialogue. Sources also said the opposition

half of the committee would most probably comprise three AL leaders of policymaking level and two from other alliance partners. Ahmed chaired the meeting held at the AL central office in the capital.

The participants included Rashed Khan Menon, Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Hasanul Hague Inu, Obaidul Quader, Bimal Biswas, Dilip Barua, Syed Jafar Sazzad, Pankaj Bhattacharya and Zakir Hossain During the discussions in the

meeting, Workers Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas suggested that the 9-member team which drafted the 14-party's reform agenda should represent the combine in the dialogue, said another meeting source. On their staunch opposition to

Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik said. "We can't sit at a discussion table with the government with Jamaat men present, because we're struggling to rout the anti-liberation elements and it's one of the major demands we're going to discuss.

claimed.

In his Friday's reply to a letter sent nine days ago by 14-party coordinator Abdul Jalil, Mannan Bhuiyan proposed constituting the committee with five members from each side of the political divide. The BNP wants its coalition partners to participate in the proposed committee to discuss the opposition's reform proposals agreeing to allow non-legislator leftist opposition

told reporters they would not waste so much time like the government in responding to Bhuiyan's letter. "They took nine days, but we'll respond within a couple of days," he announced. Jalil said the ruling alliance

seems to be reluctant to implement autopsy.

He reiterated that they would continue with the movement side by side the dialogue with the govern-

Church

FROM PAGE 16 the conversion of local Buddhists to Christianity.

Upazila nirbahi officer of Panchhari and BDR zonal commander visited the area yesterday. A BDR contingent was deployed there to avert further violence.

Foster son kills

reared his nephew Shafiqul as his own son, locals said, adding that Shafiqul, father of two, indulged in anti-social activities

He used to torture his wife Selina. As it reached the level of intolerance she went to her father's house with her daughter several months ago. A few days ago, Saider Ali took

the decision to bequeath his three houses to Shagor. Furious at the decision, Shafiqul, aided by Jahurul, attempted to kill the three by setting fire after spreading

petrol on them. Hearing their cries, locals came to their rescue and doused the fire. They took the three to Mohammad Ali Hospital in Bogra where they succumbed to their injuries at around 9:00am yesterday.

The dead bodies were sent for Shafiqul and Johurul are

Wasa bleeds

FROM PAGE 1 stations in view of continued erratic

power supply Now, Wasa has also sought similar police protection for its pump stations.

"Three of our pump operators were picked up by people agitating over water scarcity, and were released after being utterly humiliated. In such a situation, we have written to all police stations in the city asking for protection of Wasa infrastructure and employees, said a top Wasa official. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of

admitted receipt of one such letter from Wasa on March 28. " We've already instructed our patrol teams to keep more vigil on pump sta-He however said the city's

Lalbagh Police Station Abdul Matin

police are needed for this. Water crisis has reached such a level that different city areas are now fighting for realising their respective shares of Wasa water by any means. On Friday night, residents of DCC Ward- 27 attempted to draw water from Wasa pipelines in Ward-28, creating tension in the areas. Things came under control only after

intervention from local elders. Ali Azam pleaded for public role in this regard.

He hinted at a long-term Wasa plan to use more surface water for its supply than depending on the

JCD strike

ensure students' security on cam-

Joint Convener Mamun-ur-Rashid, speaking at the meeting, demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to expelled JCD leader Golam Kabir who had attacked and injured JCD Joint Convenor Masudur Rahman Rana

On contact VC Altaf Hossain said. "We formed a committee headed by Prof Azhar Ali of Department of Chemistry to investigate the Thursday's incident and find a solution to break the current

Body on cards FROM PAGE 16

keep the fare below that for surface

The tunnel boaring method is very expensive and time consuming, Contech Managing Director engineer Masud Reza said, adding that neighbouring India set up metro rail in Delhi and Kolkata under cut

MRA will maintain time schedule of the underground rail and monitor the fare and ticketing system, sources said.

2 die FROM PAGE 16

found the bodies floating in the knee-deep water in the drain and informed firefighters The firefighters later recovered

the bodies. They were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for Work is going on under a project to clean up all sewerage lines in old

Earlier on February 7, three locals of Hazaribagh in old Dhaka

Shias call for Iraq PM

FROM PAGE 16

give Jaafari just days to persuade the Kurds. Sunnis and secular leaders to drop their opposition to

That seems highly improbable but a committee of three Alliance officials was holding meetings with the Kurds and Sunnis today. A Kurdish political source said: "Our position regarding Jaafari is clear and has not changed." The minority groups had for-

mally written this week to Alliance leader Abdul Aziz al-Hakim urging him to produce a more acceptable candidate. Jaafari beat a candidate from Hakim's SCIRI party by a single vote in an internal ballot in February. It was not clear what mecha-

nism might be used to choose a new nominee for prime minister nor who that might be. A favorite may be the defeated SCIRI candidate. Vice President Adel Abdul Mahdi. Jaafari continued to have the

support of his own Dawa party, its Dawa-Iraq allies and the movement of Iranian-backed cleric and militia leader Moqtada al-Sadr. SCIRI and its Badr allies, the independents and the Fadhila party . were against Jaafari.

US diplomats deny accounts from SCIRI and other Alliance officials that Washington has pressured Hakim to drop Jaafari.

However, a US diplomat said on Saturday that it was Washington's analysis that any prime minister must be both competent and able to unite Iragis -- and that Jaafari did not score well on those criteria. The United States, however, had no preferred candidate in mind and would not impose its views. In fresh violence, gunmen

attacked a minibus carrying Shias northeast of Baghdad, killing six men and wounding one woman, an official said yesterday. The Shias were returning home from visiting relatives when they

were ambushed Friday night near

Balad Ruz, about 70km northeast

of Baghdad, according to the

town's mayor, Mohammed Maarouf. The motive for the attack was unclear. However, it occurred in a religiously mixed province, which has recorded numerous acts of violence by Shia and Sunni Arab

extremists against members of the

rival communities. Tension between the rival Shia and Sunni Muslim communities escalated following the Feb. 22 bombing of a Shia shrine in Samarra and reprisal attacks on Sunni mosques in Baghdad, Basra and other mixed cities. In other violence, gunmen killed

at least six people in the capital.

including three ice cream vendors

in the southern neighbourhood of Dora and a butcher and his son in east Baghad, police said. Another son was also wounded in the attack on the butcher shop. In the western Iskan neighbourhood, gunmen killed the owner of an air conditioner repair shop on his way to work. A woman and her child were wounded when a mortar shell landed on their house in

east, wounding two policemen and three civilians, police said. Police discovered two more bodies of young men shot in the

central Baghdad, and a roadside

bomb targeted a police patrol in the

Baghdad the latest victims, apparently, of sectarian death squads. Witnesses also told police they saw three gunmen in a BMW pull a handcuffed man out of the car and

West of Baghdad, US and Iraqi troops killed three suspected insurgents, including a woman and captured three others in an operation in Amiriyah in Anbar province, the US military said.

In Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, a joint British-Iraqi force detained 14 people, including a policeman, in a dawn raid in two neighbourhoods, Brig. Patrick Marion said. Four detainees were

US officials have been pressing the Iraqis to form a government of national unity capable of winning the trust of all communities and cooling the violence. Iraqi political leaders were to meet again Saturday to discuss how much power the prime minister should wield over security forces in the next government.

On Friday, US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad urged the Iraqis to speed up the talks. The election was held Dec. 15 and still no government has been formed.

"The terrorists are seeking to provoke sectarian war, and Iraq needs a government of national unity in the face of this threat," Khalilzad told a meeting of Iraqi women. "This government needs to have a good program to govern from the centre, and needs good ministers who are competent.

"Iraq is bleeding while they are moving at a very slow pace," he

Khan Chowdhury, the rally was addressed by District AL General Secretary Nazrul Islam, Tala upazila AL President Sheikh Nurul Islam, A Ahmed, Syed Firoz Kamal, Shahidul Islam. MA Faroog, Monowara Farooque, Firoz Ahmed Swapan, Advocate Ali Ahmed, Ruhul Quddus Jahangir Hossain and Abdur Rouf

and the farmers are desperate for power to irrigate their lands for Boro

due to the load shedding, they said. They demanded smooth supply of power within two or three days and

threatened to launch tougher protest

programmes otherwise. They said some dishonest dealers who are trying to reap benefits by creating an artificial crisis of fertilisers are linked with the ruling party lead-

supply and fertilisers. Persuaded by the UNO, protesters withdrew the

Thais go to polls today

roadblock.

confirm a new prime minister, forcing by-elections and leaving the country facing months of political

The Election Commission late

Saturday said 589 candidates

would contest the poll, while the

Supreme Court was still deciding on a further 30 candidates. The self-made billionaire, 56. remains hugely popular in rural areas, where 60 percent of Thailand's 63 million people live. Elections in February 2005 saw him

returned to office with 377 of parlia-

ment's 500 seats held by his party. But his autocratic style has angered many in the urban middle class.

But protesters, angry over a controversial stock sale that saw Thaksin's family make 1.9 billion dollars tax free, have vowed to continue demonstrations calling for him to quit long after the ballots have been counted. Ahead of a 6:00 pm (1100 GMT)

end to campaigning Saturday, Thaksin again urged his opponents to abide by the election results, saying: "Whatever the people's decision is ... every political party, group and organisation must respect it." He said that after the election he

would consider "every demand" of his opponents, including calls that In the absence of opposition

candidates, the biggest challenge to Thaksin in Sunday's election is the 'no vote" option that could be exercised in Bangkok and the troubled south, where anger towards the premier is most fierce. Thaksin has pledged not to take office if he wins less than 50 percent

Thaksin his majority win. Sirirat Choonhaklai, an associate professor in public administration at Bangkok's Mahidol University, downplayed the impact of the "no vote" option, saying

Another analyst said Thaksin's stay away from the polls "It takes a lot to go out and vote for no one," said Thitinan

science at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok According to Sirirat, a landslide would be the best way to end the political crisis, as a marginal victory

protests. "If (Thaksin) gets a landslide victory, people won't be able to say he can't rule the country," Sirirat told AFP. "If he doesn't get ... a comfortable victory, those people will have an excuse to come out and protest

February to demand Thaksin quit, suspended its protests Thursday but vowed to resume them April 7. Around 100,000 people rallied in Bandkok last weekend in the big-

has rejected Thaksin's offer to form a government coalition if he wins, insisting on constitutional reforms to limit the powers of the prime minis-

tion), and their own contributions.

of mosques and madrasas and publi Talking to The Daily Star, investigators said the foreign delegates visited Bangladesh on different occasions as

"Many delegates of foreign Islamic

style, he said Some of these foreign delegates were born in one country and now

Important among the foreign

organisations, addressed a meeting in Sylhet in March last year. They asked

According to sources, some

Islamic militant organisation. But Inspector General of Police

Indian chicks with the help of the law enforcers," said Syed Abu Siddique. said any kind of apathy on the part of the government agencies might damage the poultry sector that has

Until now the facilities for bird flu "All samples should be sent to

Abul Kalam Azad took over the new committee

venture one," said Prof Syed Abul However, sources talking to The Daily Star said making the interfere with the secrecy of the

It is very much possible to using modern technology and

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM

tions," he said yesterday. police stations do not have enough manpower to keep round-the-clock vigil on all pump stations. Extra

understanding that the current water crisis is due to erratic power supply, and hoped members of the civil society would play an active

pus. They demanded immediate release of the five arrested JCD activists and withdrawal of the police case

and cover method. Reza welcomed the government's plan to set up an independent authority for the purpose. After completion of the subway

part of the city, Dhaka Wasa Executive Engineer AKMA Hamid

> of the vote, and his critics have called for voters to tick the abstention box on the ballot in a show of no confidence, saying this could deny

shoot him near a highway in west Baghdad.

later released, Marion said.

Farmers block

FROM PAGE 16 A spontaneous rally was also held at the barricade. Chaired by Kalaroa upazila AL Convener Sajedul Islam

among others. Speakers criticised the government for its failure to ensure smooth supply of power and fertilisers. They said the Power Development Board (PDB) failed to ensure smooth power supply during the peak Boro season

cultivation. The examinees taking the secondary school certificate examinations are also suffering immensely

During the programme Kalaroa Upazila Ninrbahi Officer (UNO) Bashirul Alam and Officer--incharge of Kalaroa Police Station Arzu Mia rushed to the barricade and assured the protesters of power

Thaksin's support remained strong in the country's north and centre. opponents would most likely just

Pongsudhirak, professor of political would further fuel anti-Thaksin

The People's Alliance for Democracy, which has been holding rallies in Bangkok since late

gest in a series of demonstrations calling for him to quit, urging the king

The premier has said he would overseen by a neutral body.

to intervene and appoint a new prime minister. The opposition Democrat party

consider constitutional reforms

AL Presidium Member Tofail

Jamaat's inclusion in the committee,

Seeking anonymity, a senior AL leader expressed his support to Saifuddin's views.

caretaker government, McKinon said every system can be improved with consent of the people. He said Sheikh Hasina gave him a copy of her reform proposals

assist any member-country on request of all parties concerned.

initiative to mediate between BNP and Awami League to break a deadlock over the caretaker system in the late 90s.

The 14-party alliance components today will discuss the issue separately at their own party level before joining the combine meeting at 11:00am, which is likely to finalise the selection of combine's nominees to the reform committee.

leaders to be in it. After yesterday's meeting, Jalil

the reforms, which would only trouble the country. "The government can make trouble, if it wants, in brining the reforms. But it'll not change anything, as it has now become a national demand," he

died from inhaling toxic gas as they got into a clogged sewerage line to