Saarc Summit postponed

decision of the government of India not to attend the 13th Saarc Summit when all preparations had been completed the keep the Saarc spiri and process alive," said Chowdhury.

"Bangladesh has also received words of solidarity from other Saarc countries," he said. "Comprehensive and blanket security arrangements were made at an unprecedented level. All Indian security concerns were fully considered and accommodated.'

Referring to the presence of an Indian security team here, Chowdhury said, "It is ironic that India undertook the decision when an Indian security assessment team was still present in Dhaka and consulting our security agencies."

The Indian foreign secretary however, told reporters in New Delhi that an assessment by the Indian high-level security team was factored into the decision and that violence in Bangladesh seemed to have "intensified" recently

Speaking on the Nepalese turmoil, Chowhdury said, "With regard 'to developments in the neighbourhood' it is a shared believe that Saarc should not be held hostage in bilateral considerations." In this respect, he referred to the Saarc Charter that savs "Bilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from the delibera-

"It is regretted that once again a Saarc summit has been postponed at the last moment because of a decision by the government of India Such postponements go counter to the spirit of and letter of the Saarc Charter," Chowdhury added. "It is a sad commentary for South

Asia that its largest member state should retract its commitment to the Charter on this excuse," said Chowdhury.

Referring to Indian press reports announcing India's withdrawal from the summit from early morning yesterday, Chowdhury said, "The media reports were flooding in far before the official announcement by the Indian government. I will leave it up to you interpret what that

Asked if the opposition Awami League's assertion that the 'law and order' situation here is out of control had influenced India's decision, Chowdhury said, "I will leave it up to your wisdom to decide what is implied by what.

While the Indian foreign secretary in his statement to the press said that India "wishes to reiterate its continuing and consistent commitment to Saarc process and to increase regional cooperation among member states.

Meanwhile, Pakistan also ques tioned Delhi's decision. Expressing surprise, Pakistan Information Minister Rashid said. "It is beyond our understanding why India refused at the last minute, we are asking them to explain."

Pakistan foreign ministry spokesman Masood Khan, who is in Dhaka for the summit, also told AFP that Pakistan was disappointed with the Indian decision. "Frequent postponements could tarnish the

image of Saarc. It was a highly anticipated event, not only in India and Pakistan, but all around the

Our New Delhi correspondent adds: The Indian foreign secretary told reporters that there is no question of behaving like a big brother.

Asked if this decision would isolate India when even King Gyanendra of Nepal agreed to attend the summit, he said, "There is no threat of isolation."

'What has happened in Bandladesh and Nepal is not ordinary," he added. "There is a serious situation in Nepal and an increase in

Blanket

2,000 Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) members, army troops and different intelligence agencies swung into action yesterday, three days before the scheduled start to 13th summit of the seven South Asian nations.

Army troops and Rab men police and Armed Police Battalion (APBn) formed a chain around the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre and other venues and Dhaka Sheraton Hotel where Saarc leaders were sched-

The vast field adjacent to the conference centre, which was prepared as parking space, was also kept under constant watch throughout the day. People and vehicles were also off-limits to the road near the conference centre.

Security was further beefed up at the Sheraton Hotel yesterday with only a few people were allowed to enter the premises with vehicles The closed main gate was opened briefly only to allow foreigners,

boarders, short-listed government officials and security officers to exit from the hotel. People were even barred to walk by the footpath in

front of the hotel

Army, Rab, APBn, police and intelligence men also swarmed the State Guest House Jamuna Meanwhile, Rab and other intelligence men mounted watch at Guruduara Nanakshahi temple on Dhaka University campus, a venue where Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was scheduled to

Besides, the security men, over the past few days, manned the grave of former president Ziaur Rahman and National Mausoleum in Savar, two places where the aarc leaders were planned to go.

Besides, security forces with sophisticated arms kept strong vigil at several VIP roads, entry and exit points of the capital, railway station bus stoppages, Zia International Airport, foreign consulates and key establishments

Rab men in uniform and plainclothes followed movement of people at places adjacent to the venues, and checked suspicious people with dog squad. Over 200 teams of Rab detectives had been

working since Tuesday. HC declares illegal

Bangladesh

The United States, which pro-

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters in Washington that the United States demanded an "immediate move toward the restoration of multiparty democratic institutions under a constitutional monarchy.

Boucher said that in addition to undercutting democratic institutions, King Gyanendra's actions "undermine the Nepalis' struggle with the Maoist insurgency, which is a very serious challenge to a peaceful and prosperous future for Nepal."

moned the Nepalese ambassador Prabal Rana to convey the British government's "grave concerns" over the king's actions.

human rights. arms, bomb blasts and grenade attacks even at shrines, the state-

ment said perpetrators of these crimes are hitting the root of the country's liberal social and political system. They called upon government

officials and law enforcing agency personnel to discharge their duties properly to uphold the constitution. Signatories to the statement

Hossain Tawfigue and secretary M Mokammel Huq, former central bank governor Dr Mohammad Farashuddin, former principal secretary Abdus Samad and secretary AKM Moshiur Rahman, and many other former secretaries. acting secretaries, additional secretaries and joint secretaries.

Some 14 retired foreign secretary including former foreign secretary Farugue Chowdhury and Shafi Sami, former high commissioner A. H. Mahmood Ali, and Mostofa Faruk Mohammad and some 36 retired police officers including former inspector general of police (IGP) Abdur Rakib Khandokar, Ismail Hossain and Nurul Huda.

Alliance

Talking to The Daily Star, BNP policymakers yesterday said that the alliance at this meeting will discuss and take up political programmes to face the opposition parties, particularly the Awami League in the street.

"Awami League is once again hatching conspiracy to topple the government by creating instability and resorting to violence even at the cost of destroying the image of the country," said a top BNP leader, adding, "We have decided to face them to foil their conspiracy."

He said the alliance will soon announce political programmes like public rallies, processions and mass contacts while the government will take a hard line on any attempt to create violence.

The BNP leader said law enforcers have been given instructions to take tough action against the lawbreakers, pickets during hartals and those who will be found involved in destructive activities like setting fire and damaging vehicles.

Nepal king

dismissed, king takes charge," said the Himalava Times, a leading privately owned newspaper. Witnesses in the capital saw only

one demonstration under new laws banning free assembly. It was by several hundred pro-rovalists near the palace, who shouted: "Long Live the king, peace will now prevail

Opposition leaders were out of sight and believed to be under house arrest. Witnesses said security men dragged away G.P. Koirala, leader

the Nepali Congress, and Madhay Kumar Nepal, head of the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist Party, yesterday when they emerged from their homes to try to speak to reporters. "People are trying secretly to

organise meetings but some of the senior leaders have been arrested so they have not been able to. There are army watchdogs at the gates (of the campus). They're asking for information and checking ID," said a 20-year-old student at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Universitv.

A Supreme Court lawyer, Mitilesh Kumar Singh, called the king's move a "political tsunami. He wants to bring about peace and security ... a good thing but I doubt he'll be successful and it's a violaion of the constitution.

The king's dismissal of the ruling coalition was condemned by the United States, United Nations, Britain and India as a setback for democracy UN Secretary General Kofi

Annan led demands for an immediate restoration of democracy in Annan "is deeply concerned"

over the king's actions, which are a serious setback for the country, UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said. "Steps should be taken immedi-

ately to restore democratic freedoms and institutions," Eckhard said, noting that Annan had called for "calm and restraint by all parties in the country, so as to avoid actions that could worsen the situation. Rights groups Amnesty

International and Human Rights Watch as well as the International Commission of Jurists in a joint statement expressed fear for the immediate safety of human rights campaigners, political activists and members of the National Human Rights Commission, who have recently faced increasing harassment from both security forces and the Maoist rebels. The groups are concerned that

the steps being taken by the king and his army "have been sweeping, arbitrary and excessive "

vides Nepal's army with badly needed weapons and training in its fight against the Maoist guerrillas, said it was "deeply troubled" by the apparent step back from democ-

In London, Foreign Office Minister Douglas Alexander sum-

Pak PM

He also expressed his satisfaction regarding overall security measures taken on the occasion.

The Pakistan PM pointed out that the heads of state and government of the Saarc countries were ready to join the summit---and pre-summit meetings and other formalities were

Shawkat Aziz was quoted to have said, "Security arrangement and the situation in Dhaka was OK and in favour of holding the meet peacefully and properly. He observed that the recent

situation in Nepal is "totally internal" affair of that country. Agreeing with the Pakistan PM,

Khaleda said there was no flaw in the arrangements and security guaranteed according to requirement of the heads of state and government of the Saarc nations.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister thanked Shawkat Aziz for making the call and expressing his disquiet.

report said they have identified 1,363 acres of land for recovery. It blamed five developers for grabbing

The reports said the authorities of the three districts have filed 164 criminal cases against the land grabbers and are going to lodge another 159 cases.

committee on land ministry discussed the reports at a meeting vesterday.

BNP lawmaker Mahbubur Rahman later told reporters some developers grabbed over 2,000 acres of gov-Amin Mohammad Foundation,

Northern Holdings, Ashulia Model Town, Probhabti Housing and others have grabbed the land, he said quoting the district administration Besides developers, industries

have grabbed land, he added. and found a few developers

"Then we asked the district administrations to report in detail the status of grabbed lands in the three districts.

in its report said nine developers have grabbed 238 acres of public land in Dhaka Metropolitan area and Savar upazila. Jamuna Builders grabbed 19.26

acres, Metro Makers Development 24.28 acres, Amin Mohammad Foundation 3.32 acres, Samatat Housing 13.80 acres, Eastern Housing 69 acres, East West Property Development Ltd. 102 acres, Chan Mia Housing Fercon Real State acres. and Mohammadia Housing Society has grabbed 2.45 acres, it

Residential Project has grabbed 1.59 acres, Ananda Meghna City

8.38 acres, and Ananda Builders

11.44 acres, the district administra-

In Gazipur, Dhaka University

Samabay Samity has grabbed .88

acres Southern Developmen

Property Ltd. 5.09 acres, Hi-tech

Garden 5.45 acres, Plash Griha

Nirman Samabay Samity 5.69 acres

members of the parliament. He

alleged it has been carrying out

indiscriminate killings patronising

Ahmed alleged the superintendent of

police and officer-in-charge have been

transferred, as they had identified the

"I wonder why the deputy com-

If they were transferred for a

breach of security, the prime minis-

ter should also step down for her

failure to provide security for an MP,

AL presidium member Suranji

The local administration took

The leaders and activists of the

comprehensive security measures

for the meeting attended by several

All its allies thronged to the meeting

venue in processions, turning it into

AL leaders Asaduzzaman Noor.

MP, Dewan Farid Gazi, Abdus

Shahid, MP, Workers Party leader

Fazle Hossain Badsha, CPB

General Secretary Mujahidul Islam

Selim, Moinuddin Khan Badal of

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Dilip

Barua of Samyabadi Dal, among

"It is only in an environment free

"We have formally communi-

from political turmoil and violence

that a summit would vield the

cated to the government of

Bangladesh that India will not be

able to attend the forthcoming

SAARC summit in Dhaka on the

scheduled date and a request has

been made for fresh dates to be

worked out through consultations

among the member states," the

The statement said India would

"It is only in an environment free

held in the near future and that it had

from political turmoil and violence

that a summit would yield the

desired outcome." it said.

statement added.

requested fresh dates.

desired outcome," it said

others, addressed the meet.

missioner was not transferred," he

AL presidium member Tofail

and Pariiat Housing Ltd. .32 acres.

tion's report said.

Coalition

the communal forces.

criminals behind the carnage.

FROM PAGE 12

added.

Sengupta said.

a human sea.

thousands supporters.

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Haji Selim

Parishad in Kamrangirchar.

Judge AR Masud of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 fixed February 8 for the trial and summoned the plaintiff and some other prosecution witnesses to

Selim and 24 others on bail and charges were read out to them.

In the case filed with Kamrangirchar Police Station, Mizanur's brother Mohammad March 31 last year.

witnesses.

Zuman, Khokan, Raihan, Abul Akbar and Kalu.

Outlaw held for threat to iournos

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An alleged activist of outlawed Purba Banglar Communisty Party's (PBCP) ML-Janajuddha faction was arrested vesterday from his house for threatening with death eight journalists and a police official. The arrestee, Alamgir Hossain

work to make sure the summit was Monju of village Dadpur in Tala upazila, is a PBCP activist, police

> Station in a letter on Tuesday. A police team was quizzing him till last Meanwhile, the district administration has taken security measures

> for local journalists. Police have been deployed at the reporters' club and offices of local dailies.

Asma Kibria

FROM PAGE 1

Asma declared that her peaceful movement would begin with a 30minute silent protest tomorrow afternoon when she and her family members would take to street. They will demonstrate in front of their Dhanmondi residence from 3:00pm to 3:30pm. She urged all to participate in the demonstration.

"My lone voice is not enough .Please come and join us in the protest programme," said a sobbing Asma, also an artist Nazli Kibria, daughter of the slain

minister, said she would launch an international campaign against her father's killing. "I will go to the international community and expatriate Bangladeshis in different countries, and seek their support," she said. An emotion-charged Nazli agair

blamed the government for negligence to treatment of her injured father. "My mother and other family members tried their best to manage a helicopter but failed," she added. She also alleged the government

has resorted to 'falsehood' about international probe into the carnage. They (government) have not yet made any formal requests for this,' she said. The rally, chaired by Barrister

Rokanuddin Mahmud, also addressed by Prof Anisuzzaman. Barrister Amir-ul-Islam. Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Abdur Razzak MP. Mosatafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Shirin Akhter, Mamunur Rashid, Tarana Halim and Kibria's sister Sharifa Musaddit. They stressed unity of pro-

liberation and progressive forces against the ruling alliance, and said if it continues in power, such killings will not end.

Rice offers

FROM PAGE 1 The investigation officer pressed

Secretary Rice said the failure to investigate these acts only foster "the climate of impunity further encouraging such attacks. Rice hoped that the Bangladeshi

qualities of resilience and fortitude would aid Sheikh Hasina and the people in pursuing justice for these crimes in a peaceful and lawful

Murder charge Global warming sends framed against

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim and 31 others accused of killing Mizanur Rahman, member of Sultanganj Union

appear before the court that day.

three in custody pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after the

Afsaruddin alleged assailants led by Selim gunned down his brother on He filed the case the next day and accused Selim and 38 others of

the murder. However, the investigation officer pressed charges against Selim and 31 others on June 22, showing 40 people as prosecution The accused out on bail are

Selim, Mohammad Mafizul Islam, Hedavetul Islam, Ali Ahmed, Tara Miah, Mohammad Arif, Biplob Golam Mohammad, Mohammad Babla, Abul Hossain, Amir Hossain, Mohammad Kashem, Mohammad Hanif, Abdur Rashid, Mohammad Shafiq, Mosharraf Akhter. Mohammad Baten, Mohammad Member, Afsar, Aziz Miah, Mohammad Jahangir, Mohammad Miah Delwar Hossain, Shafiqul

Islam, Salah Uddin and Tiger Anu are absconding and Joynal Abedin, Tunda Ismail and Jane Alam in

The outlaw gave the threat to journalists of Satkhira and the officer-in-charge of Tala Police

Superintendent of Police Abdur Rahim said, "We will hunt down the outlaws involved in threatening

on January 30, 2002. All the five commissioners were picked from retired civil servants

had resigned last year belongs to that group. The industry took his resignation as a window of opportunity to inject new

however, busy with fulfilling the wish list of his cabinet colleagues' children on various telecoms deals. As a result, the issue of timely

ous to the law. Has this lawmaker alerted the government about the aftermath of disobeying the law? Circumstantial evidences don't show any sign of such whistle blowing. Moreover, the government has recently created a total vacuum at the

the telecoms law's subsection 2 of Section 9, the commissioners were appointed for three years and their tenure expired on January 30, 2005. The government should either reappoint the incumbent commis-

Remuneration of the BTRC officials has been provisioned at such a low level that competent candidates take

Inevitably BTRC became the

Interpol

others, a source in the police head-

quarters said. The Interpol officials, Japanese

Hiroshi Sumi and US citizen Marc

The basis for this calculation is "business as usual," in other words, no controls are put on carbon pollution, causing Earth's temperature to reach some four C (7.2 F) higher at the end of this century when com-

pared with 1990. "Climate change will bring some health benefits," but these will mainly go to northern countries. where fewer people will die of cold and crop yields will be better, his study said

Overall, these benefits will be hugely outweighed by increased disease and malnutrition.

Bill Hare, a former Greenpeace campaigner who is visiting scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in eastern Germany, said a two C (3.6 F) rise seemed to be a key threshold.

"Above two C, the risks increase very substantially, involving potentially large extinctions or even ecosystem collapses, major increases in hunger and water shortage risks as well as socioeconomic damages, particularly in developing countries," said Hare.

The conference wraps up on Thursday with a set of conclusions about the current state of knowledge about the dangers of global warming. The document will be submitted to Group of Eight (G8) policymakers and the IPCC for consideration in its next big report, due out in 2007.

Countrywide FROM PAGE 1

purview of the 6:00am to 6:00pm

shutdown. The main opposition AL and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) will enforce another non-stop spell of 36-hour shutdown from 6:00am

on Saturday. Earlier, the opposition parties called a 60-hour hartal from Saturday morning in protest against the killings in the grenade attack on Habiganj AL rally, similar to last year's August 21 attack in the capital that killed 23 people.

3 outlaws

FROM PAGE 1

Akdil Hossain and accused in 20 cases including 15 for murder. Akdil is also accused in 35 cases including 15 for murder and sentenced to

life term in two cases. The police believe Akdil was presiding over the secret meeting. They filed a case against Akdil and

his 30 accomplices for attacking the

PBCP MAN SLAUGHTERED Santhia police recovered the slaughtered body of Ansar Uddin Manik, a PBCP-Red Flag cadre,

napped by his rivals in the outlawed party and later killed, the police said. The body was sent to Pabna

Telcoms ministry

BTRC and appointed the officials to it

track record of tampering with his age n the government's record. Three out of these five commissioners are ex-BTTB officials and the one that

The telecoms minister, through whom the BTRC reports, has been,

filling the vacant commissioner's post, despite having strict legal obligations, remains at the bottom of But the telecoms minister, who is

top level of the BTRC. According to

no interest in this outfit.

oseudo-rehabilitation centre of the retired civil servants. Most of its permanent staffs were also hired through nepotism.

Beauchemin arrived here Monday as an advanced need assessment team. They are tasked to find out what sorts of expertise and logistics are required for proper investigation into the August 21 carnage.

These issues have ultimately made BTRC utterly dysfunctional. The industry has been nervously waiting for a second setup of BTRC

spite of it, the government must give

Govt to take

we'll have to face it legally and politically," said Moudud Ahmed, minister for law, justice and parlia-

issued by a New York-based organisation of expatriate Bangladeshis that urged all expats for sending protest letters to Bangladeshi missions abroad against 'lawlessness' in

The organisation also prepared a "draft protest letter" and sent it to its members with a note of caution Don't circulate this alert after Sunday, February 20, 2005."

A policymaker of the ruling party indicated certain 'mystery' behind such note of caution. He said if they really want to mobilise opinion of the expatriates, they can express their observations regarding Bangladesh at any time -- there is no need to create any bar fixing the date in the circular.

such cyber-propaganda from the internet. Moudud said as the government's

of the technology to turn the tide in their favour. He said the government is going to enact a cyber law so that the latest technology can be used in positive

real scenario of the country," the law minister added.

As the allegations against a sitting judge of the HC were serious

SJC's recommendations, removed

Writ petitioner Syed Shahidur Rahman himself pleaded his case while Attorney General Hassan Ariff

Attorney General A F Hassan Ariff conceded that the order of Shahidur Rahman's removal "has not been done in accordance with the constitutional provision."

Chowdhury delivered the verdict

after hearing the writ filed by the

removed additional judge challeng-

ing the president's order.

FROM PAGE 12

The allegations of bail fixing against Shahidur were not proved beyond doubt, he added. He referred to the report of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) headed by the chief justice that said,

"There is total absence of material in

support of the allegations nor can it

be said that the allegations are without any basis. The council had however recommended that "Shahidur Rahman should not continue as an additional

The court in its verdict observed,

"It appears that the Supreme

Judicial Council has gone beyond

the authority given by Article 96 (6) of the Constitution. Article 96(6) says, "If, after making the inquiry, the Council reports to the President that in its opinion the judge has ceased to be capable of properly performing the functions of his office or has been quilty of gross misconduct, the

the judge from the office. The SJC has not said that the additional judge committed 'gross misconduct' and the allegations brought against the sitting additional iudge were proved 'beyond any doubt', the court observed. Allegations of bail fixing against

Shahidur Rahman were raised by

Supreme Court Bar Association

President Barrister Rokanuddin

President shall, by order, remove

Mahmud at a lawyers' meeting in October 2003, six months within Rahman's appointment as an additional judge of the HC. Mahmud alleged that the appointment was made on political considerations, ignoring the question of efficiency and integrity of the

in nature and stirred political upheaval, the SJC took up the matter for investigation and submitted its report to the president. The president, acting upon

stood for the government.

Improvement in transport and trade services, a boost in the recruitment in public administration including the implementation of the revised pay scale and high profitability of

private sector banks are expected to lift the services sector, the report During the first four months of FY 2005, manufacturing output increased by 8 percent as against the corresponding period of the preceding year. The increase was

driven by export oriented production

particularly garments and knitwear

97 former

They urged the government to ensure exemplary punishment of people involved in violation of Referring to smuggling of fire-

include former cabinet secretary

6,000 acres gobbled

The Gazipur district authorities'

The parliamentary standing

Committee Chairman and ruling

"We visited Savar on January 7 grabbed large areas of government land," the committee chairman said.

The Dhaka district administration

In Narayanganj, New Town

India points former finance minister of Bangladesh," an Indian foreign

The situation in neighbouring

Nepal, where King Gyanendra on

Tuesday sacked the government

ministry statement said.

and seized power, was another factor in the decision, Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran told a press "We have set out very clearly our reasons for this decision. It is not directed against the country (Bangladesh). What has happened in

Nepal is not an ordinary event. What

has happened in Bangladesh is not

He denied a suggestion India did

not want to share the stage with the

an ordinary event," Saran said.

Nepalese king who was due to India said it would work to make sure a summit is held in the near "The government of India wishes

to reiterate its continuing and con-

sistent commitment to the Saarc

process and to increase regional

cooperation among member

states," the foreign ministry state-

The statement came on the eve of

the second spell of the opposition-

sponsored strike to protest the

January 27 gruesome grenade

attacks on an Awami League rally in

Habiganj that killed former finance

minister Shah AMS Kibria and four

"The business community com-

mends the government's decision to

seek international assistance in the

investigation process and expects

the killers will be brought to justice in

the shortest possible time," the

again repeats what it has been

saving over the last several years

that political differences ought to be

resolved in the Jativa Sangsad,"

said the statement jointly signed by

MCCI President Kutubuddin

Ahmed, BTMA Chairman MA Awal,

BEF President M Anis Ud Dowla

scrutinise the recommendations in

the light of the government's finan-

cial capabilities, a finance ministry

This committee will then file a report to the PM on the implementa-

mentation will cost an additional Tk

5200 crore a year, implementation

of the new pay structure may be

"The business community once

statement said.

source said.

But Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan said the repeated postponements could make the regional grouping a laughing stock

"We are disappointed because

the delegates were working around

the clock to prepare the agenda for

Trade bodies say strikes

and FICCI President Mahbub Jamil. The statement also condoled the death of Kibria and others. **BGMEA FOR WITHDRAWAL OF** Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA) in a separate statement yesterday urged Leader

League chief Sheikh Hasina to withdraw the hartal in the interest of the country's export-import busi-"As the garment exporters are trying hard to survive in the quotafree regime, the hartal will badly hit

of the Opposition and Awami

RMG sector," said BGMEA Secretary Md Fasihur Rahman in the statement. Foreign buyers will also lose confidence in Bangladeshi garment

exporters if the situation continues,

Pay Commission

tion of the new pay structure, to be in effect from January 1 this year in Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman earlier said as its imple-

Thanking the commission for their hard work to prepare the report in a short time. Khaleda Zia said her government is always sincere about the welfare and interest of the government officials.

She said her government pro-

vided dearness allowance and

increased medical allowance and

employees and ensured that the

widow of a retired pensioner would

continue to get the pension after her

husband's death, she said

festival bonus for the civil servants after formation of the Pay Commission. The BNP government during its 1991-96 period simplified the pension drawing procedure for retired tioned the introduction of various allowances for freedom fighters, elderly citizens and physically handicapped people. Finance and Planning Minister M

Saifur Rahman, Principal Secretary to the PM Dr Kamal Siddiqui and Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan, among others, were present Rapist jailed

In the case filed with

Mohammadpur Police Station,

victim's father Mohammad Ismail

alleged his neighbour Guddu took

his daughter to his place and raped

her when she was playing in front of the house. Locals caught Guddu when he was fleeing the spot and handed him over to police.

charge on April 29 and the court

framed charge on October 6, 2003.

FROM PAGE 12

a jam-packed courtroom.

Special Public Prosecutor Mohammad Akhteruzzaman appeared for the state, while Advocate Mahmuda Akhter defended the accused.

But a common expectation is that widespread misery is lurking, a few decades down the road. Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the

climate shift.

According to a study quoted by UN's top scientific authority on climate change, by 2050 as many as 150 million "environmental refugees" may have fled coastlines

how well countries can adapt to

vulnerable to rising sea levels, storms or floods, or agricultural land that became too arid to cultivate. In India alone, there could be 30 million people displaced by persistent flooding, while a sixth of Bangladesh could be permanently lost to sea level rise and land subsi-

dence, according to the study. Pachauri's body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), estimated in 2001 that by 2100, temperatures would rise by between 1.4 C (2.5 F) and 5.8 C (10.4) compared to 1990 levels, driven by atmospheric carbon pollution which stokes up heat

from the Sun. The mean global sea level would rise by between nine and 88 centimetres (four and 35 inches).

Those increases depend on whether carbon dioxide (CO2), doubles or nearly quadruples from the pre-industrial levels of 280 parts per million (ppm). Global warming will also add significantly to Earth's worrisome water problems

Already around 1.4 billion people

ive in water-stressed areas, a term

defined as having less than 1,000

cubic metres (35,000 cubic feet) of

Most of them live in southern and

By the 2050s, water availability in

southwest Asia, the Middle East and

the Mediterranean.

water per person per year, said Nigel Arnell of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at Britain's University of Southampton.

these water-stressed regions -- but also in parts of central, north and south America -- may be further crimped because of changed rainfall patterns. Between 700 million and 2.8 billion people in such areas will be

affected, depending on population

growth and the pace of temperature

School of Hygiene and Tropical

Sari Kovats of the London

Medicine put forward a study coauthored by four World Health Organisation (WHO) scientists that gives a snapshot of global health problems caused by climate change Between the 1970s -- when

double" by 2020, mainly because of

diarrhoea, which is propagated

easily in floods, and hunger, Kovats

temperatures first rose significantly and the year 2000, climate change cost around 150,000 lives from malnutrition, diarrhoea, malaria and floods. from village Dhalaura in the upazila That tally will "approximately early yesterday. Manik was kid-

Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

including the one with controversial

blood into the BTRC.

the ministry's priority. also a lawyer, should be well aware of the consequences of being so oblivi-

sioner(s) or hire a new setup. Neither has been done vet.

FROM PAGE 1

commissioners with qualitative improvements. Given the government's past

records, there are many reasons to

be skeptic about the appointment of

proficient people to lead the BTRC. In

merit a chance

mentary affairs, yesterday. Without naming any party, he said those defeated in the 2001 general elections are now trying to "destroy the country's image through malicious propaganda in a planned and motivated wav". He cited a 'mysterious' circular

Bangladesh.

and effective way for development of the country.

He urged all at home and abroad to

He said they have downloaded

positive activities are not being high-

lighted in the media accordingly

vested quarters are taking advantage

"Despite ongoing propaganda when any foreigner visits Bangladesh, they find contradiction between it and

refrain from "malicious propaganda".