After a meeting of the Food, Planning and Monitoring Committee, Food Adviser Tapan Chowdhury yesterday said OMS outlets will be introduced soon to contend with the increasing prices of rice.

He said the BDR will be supbe supplied for workers in the says BSS.

Meeting sources said the price of rice at the OMS outlets will be

The government will also write

Mirza Azizul Islam and Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Adviser Anwarul Igbal were also present at the meeting.

the ministry.

wholesale market, meanwhile, blamed the increased price of rice imported from India for the

"The quality of local rice is better than that of Indian rice and comparing the quality traders have increased the prices of local "rice," a trader at Karwan Bazar

paddy has jumped to Tk 750-800.

Sources meanwhile said a twomember delegation of the food ministry will visit India soon to discuss import of five lakh tonnes of rice pledged by the Indian government as aid for the cyclonehit people. The delegation will finalise the prices of rice as well as time and ports of the delivery.

imported from India soon, it will increase the supply in the market and thus reduce the prices," said a ministry official.

to provide another five lakh tonnes of food grains as aid instead of money. Food ministry officials, however, said donors said they are facing a lot of complexities in providing food instead

domestic market price will find its parity with the global market in an import-dependant country," he

\$500 from \$425," he said, adding

that China has also imposed export tax on food grain.

The finance adviser said days to sort out the import issue import of rice by the private sector has stood at 21 lakh tonne as of December of this fiscal year while their total import during the whole year was 24 lakh tonne. RICE PRICES TO COME DOWN SOON, SAYS COMMERCE

SECRETARY Commerce secretary Feroz Ahmed yesterday said the prices of rice are expected to come down in a few days as the government has decided to release a huge quantity of rice to reach buyers through different distribution channels,

He expressed the optimism while talking to journalists after a meeting with leaders of the city rice traders and importers at his secretariat office.

"The price of rice increased from market shocks following the Indian government announcement of its rice export price at \$ 500 per tonne," he said, adding the government has already taken measures to neutralise the Indian monopoly

"Buyers have no reasons to be panicked" he said explaining government efforts to reign in the market. He said the government current food stock is quite comfortable at 6.04 lakh tonnes compared to 6.28 lakh tonnes at the same time last year.

The commerce secretary said the government is moving fast to face the situation. The food ministry has already invited tender to import one lakh tonnes of rice from Thailand while preparation is underway to invite tender for another one lakh tonnes Thairice.

The government is also working on a plan to import rice from Vietnam and Myanmar to ease the situation created by recurrent floods and cyclone.

"Look at the onion market or sugar market, the distortion did not last long," he said pointing to a stiff decline in onion prices from around Tk 60 to Tk 20/25 before the Eid. Outlining the government

steps to address the market situation, the commerce secretary said a meeting at the food ministry yesterday decided to release 20,000 tonnes of rice through BDR shopping outlets at lower price.

The operation will begin in one or two days. The government-run open market sale (OMS) operation of rice at low price will start to pull down the soaring prices.

Under the Test Relief (TR) programme, the authorities have, moreover, decided to put 75,000 tonnes to support the poor. Another 85,000 tonnes will be

distributed under the Food for Work Programme (FFW). The Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) Programme will add another 38,000 tonnes to the supply chain in addition to 10,000 tonnes under the Vulnerable Group Daily Star preferring not to be Development (VGD) Programme.

Replying to a question on sudden rise in export price of rice to \$500 per tonne by the Indian government, he said New Delhi has allowed earlier import shipment booked at \$ 425 per tonne from yesterday through Benapole and other border points.

It will have dumping effect on market. Moreover, the Indian government has indicated that permission for importing 5 lakh tonnes of rice has given to Bangladesh earlier will not be subject to the latest price ceiling.

Tapan antics

Leaders of political parties also bitterly criticised and protested the his comment, and termed it 'irresponsible and ridiculous'.

'irresponsible and foolish'.

The remarks came up for serious discussions among the advisers as well as high officials, and they also

the government.

down rice price within the buying capacity of general people and keep it stable, they mentioned. REACTION OF POLITICAL

LEADERS

continues.

essentials, he said while talking to reporters at his Gulshan residence in the capital. He demanded urgent steps to bring down the prices to ease people's sufferings.

Admitting that the government was

unable to resolve a number of other

issues, Iftekhar also said trying the

war criminals must be a part of the

ernment campaign to lay out its

achievements over the past year, the

foreign adviser spoke on the coun-

try's foreign policy in 2007 and said

Bangladesh is looking forward to

becoming a dialogue partner of the

Asean (Association of Southeast

and other South Asian neighbours

have improved significantly during

the last year while Bangladesh's

engagement in multilateral organi-

sations, especially in the UN and

Iftekhar said relations with India

At a press briefing, part of a gov-

country's domestic policy.

FROM PAGE 1

Asian Nations).

Zillur also urged the government to initiate dialogue with political parties to resolve the prevailing 'political deadlock' and the price spiralissue.

Asked whether they demand resignation of the adviser concerned for his failure to control the price hike, he said the government should decide what to do about it.

In his reaction to the remarks of Tapan Chowdhury, BNP Acting Secretary General Hafiz Uddin Ahmed (appointed by the party standing committee) said it is the responsibility of the government to ensure food security.

"So, the government should take the initiative. It should import food if necessary, through spot tenders, and also continue diplomatic efforts in this regard," he told jour-

Considering the food situation and price hike of essentials, different political parties also demanded that the government introduce rationing. And it should also hold discussion with the parties to frame strategies to ensure supply of essentials at affordable prices, they said.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a joint statement said Tapan Chowdhury's comment sounded a fun with the people who are now in distress due to the price hike.

They asked the government to go for immediate import of rice, and supply of it at subsidised price. Workers Party of Bangladesh in a

press statement said the food adviser's comment has contributed to deterioration of the market situation, and he has to take responsibil-

The other parties which came up with similar reaction to Tapan's remarks included Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD Khalequzzaman), Bam Gonotantrik Front, Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal (ML), Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, Gonotantrik Andolon, Bangladesh Jubo Moitree, Jatiya Mukti Counci and Bangladesh National Awam

Ex-additional secy commits suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former additional secretary and ex-member of National Board of Revenue (NBR) committed suicide at his Shyamoli residence in the city yesterday.

Family members found Anwar Hossain, 67, hanging with a rope tied around his neck from the staircase railing of his four-storey building around 6:00pm.

Quoting family members, Officer-in-Charge of Mohammadpur Police Station Shibli Noman told The Daily Star that the security guard of the building informed Anwar's wife, a Supreme Court advocate, over phone that they are not getting any trace of Anwar since lunch.

Later, Anwar's wife and other family members rushed to home and found him dead.

ACC files case

FROM PAGE 1

information about their wealth in their wealth statements submitted to the ACC.

In the first information report filed with Joydevpur Police Station, ACC official Jafar Ahmed, the complainant, said Prof MA Mannan, his wife Sajeda Begum and son Manzurul Karim amassed wealth worth over Tk 9.79 crore illegally between 1998 and 2007.

They mentioned their wealth valued at Tk 4.95 crore in the wealth statements submitted to the ACC and concealed information about wealth worth over Tk 5.78 crore, the complainant said.

The case also mentioned that after checking with the balance sheet of Gazipur Fashion Pvt Ltd, it was found that the company's wealth is worth over Tk 5.51 crore but the accused concealed this information about their company in the statements.

The complainant also said Sajeda Begum in her wealth statement said her wealth was worth Tk 8.5 lakh but it was later discovered she owns wealth valued at Tk 55.24 lakh. Manzurul Karim mentioned his wealth to be Tk 2.65 lakh but the ACC found out he has wealth worth Tk35.30 lakh.

Meanwhile, the ACC yesterday approved filing of a case against former state minister and Jubo Dal President Barkat Ullah Bulu, his wife and son in connection with amassing wealth illegally. The commission decided to file

the case as investigation found that Bulu accumulated wealth worth Tk 4.89 crore beyond his known sources of income and he also concealed information about wealth worth Tk 3.37 crore in his wealth statement submitted to the commission.

Bulu submitted his wealth statement on July 30 showing he owns properties worth Tk 1.2 crore while his wife Shamima Akter said her wealth was worth Tk 1.23 crore and his son Omar Sharif Mohammad Imran mentioned his wealth to be Tk 49.41 lakh.

Humayun

FROM PAGE 16 station in Nilphamari.

The officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station said they raided Noman's Lalmatia residence on Dhanmondi Road-27 around 10:00am soon after receiving an arrest warrant issued by a Nilphamari court.

The police produced Noman before the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Hemayet Uddin around 7:00pm.

The court later ordered for sending Noman to Dhaka Central

10 asked

FROM PAGE 16 though the complainant filed it more than two weeks ago. The case was recorded under sections 447 trespass), 436 (torching), 302 (mur-

Ahmad Khan, who is now Dhaka district unit Muktijoddha commander, filed the murder case on December 17 last year, stating that the Jamaat men killed his nephew Osman Gani and fellow freedom Ali on November 25 in 1971 in

Keraniganj Police Station to register the double murder as a first information report and take action against the accused following investigation into the matter.

Complainant Mozaffar said 60 to 70 other unknown activists of the three militias took part in killing,

case by Keraniganj Police Station. The party said the allegations of

Election in Pakistan

FROM PAGE 1 "I assure all political parties that the elections will be fair, free and transparent. I appeal to them to accept this decision in the supreme

The election is seen as a crucial next step in the transition to civilian-led democratic rule in Pakistan under Musharraf, a close ally in the US-led "war on terror" who stepped down from his other post as army chief just weeks ago.

amid an uproar over the delay and the government response to Benazir's death.

sition leader Benazir Bhutto will stand in general elections which have been delayed until February 18, a senior party official told AFP vesterday. "We are taking part in the elec-

tions," Nabil Gabol, a member of the Pakistan People's Party central executive committee, said after a meeting here following the postponement of the vote from January

Pakistani premier Nawaz Sharif said yesterday that the opposition leader's party would take part in elections after they were delayed until February 18. "Yes, we will certainly partici-

ment of the January 8 vote.

Sharif's party, Raja Zafar ul-Haq, said that the delay was "unfair and not reasonable" We believe that it was the

mission to hold the election on time. The election commission has failed

killing of opposition leader Benazir The government is committed

eign office spokesman Mohammed Sadiq told reporters. He said visiting French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner had offered help with the probe yester-

that they could assist in the investi-"France is an important country of the European community. He did offer French help in the investigations. We assured we will contact

Government officials have previ-

"This is a very significant investigation. All the confusion that has been created in the nation must be resolved," the stony-faced Musharraf said in a pre-recorded address broadcast on state televi-

He said Bhutto, a two-time former premier, had been killed by the same "terrorists" who have been behind an unprecedented wave of violence in Pakistan in the past year.

Militant groups have vowed to disrupt the vote, which the president said now had to be delayed.

unavoidable and the decision by the

Charges framed FROM PAGE 16

threatened him citing Minu's name.

ces forced Nurunnabi to sign papers for selling his stakes in Jamuna Seed Cold Storage Private

Lutfar paid Nurunnabi Tk 43 lakh while about Tk 1 crore remained unpaid.

Minu was shown arrested in the case after Lutfar gave a confessional statement on August 14 disclosing Minu's involvement in

court at about 10:45 am and sent back to the Khulna District Jail at 11:30am. The court rejected his bail

any decision on the petition submitted by the defence lawyers for sending him to Dhaka for better medical treatment. The judge fixed January 9 and

14 for the hearing of the arms case and the narcotics case respectively.

prosecution witnesses.

the decline.

Election Commission is correct," Musharrafsaid. Benazir's party and others con-

demned the vote's postponement from January 8 but grudgingly said they would still take part. Musharraf appealed for national

fighting terrorism. The parliamentary vote is seen as Pakistan's crucial next step in the transition to civilian-led democratic rule under Musharraf, a close ally in the US-led "war on terror" who stepped down from his other post as

unity, which he said was essential in

Benazir's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has condemned the delay as an attempt by the government to give Musharraf's allies time to rig the vote, but said it would contest the election nonetheless.

army chief just weeks ago.

"We condemn the delay but we are taking part," said Bhutto's husband and the party's de facto new leader, Asif Ali Zardari.

The other main opposition party, led by former premier Nawaz Sharif, also criticised the postponement as "unfair" but said it would not boycott the polls.

But with Musharraf under pressure to hold free and fair elections that will cap nearly a year of political turmoil, analysts said there would be doubts about the decision to

"The credibility of the Election Commission is more in doubt now,' Rasul Baksh Rais, a political scientist at Lahore University of Management Sciences, said before the Musharraf speech. "It is neither independent nor free.

Opposition parties say the commission has been stacked with Musharraf supporters, and a senior PPP official said Tuesday that Bhutto was going to go public just hours before her death with evidence of plans to rig the vote.

Senior officials had confirmed since Monday that the vote would be delayed, but the public announcement was held up by consultations with the parties amid an uproar over both the delay and the government response to Bhutto's death. The United States, which counts

against Al-Qaeda and Taliban extremists, had previously said a delay would be acceptable if the major political parties approved. Every recent election in Pakistan,

Musharraf as a bulwark in the fight

the world's only nuclear-armed Islamic nation, has been marred by allegations of fraud.

Editors review FROM PAGE 1

Alamgir Mohiuddin, editor of Nava

Diganta, Abul Asad, editor of Sangram, Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, editor of Manabjamin, Nayeemul Islam Khan, editor of Amader Somoy, Shyamal Dutta, editor of Bhorer Kagoj and Abdul Baten, editor of Dinkal, attended the meeting at National Press Club. Mostafa Kamal Majumdar,

editor of New Nation, Nurul Kabir, editor of New Age, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of Bangladesh Observer, Reazuddin Ahmed, editor of News Today, and Shawkat Mahmud, editor of Weekly Economic Times were also present.

The meeting formed a steering committee with Mahbubul Alam as its convener and Amanullah Kabir and Motiur Rahman Chowdhury as joint conveners to discuss the issues affecting the print and electronic media with the authorities concerned in both government and private sectors.

The committee members are Matiur Rahman, Reazuddin Ahmed, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Golam Sarwar, Nayeemul Islam Khan, Abul Asad and Chairman and MD of channel i Faridur Reza Sagor.

2 cold waves

ranging from four degrees Celsius to eight degrees Celsius, said the forecast. The country's northern and

central parts experienced a mild cold wave during the second half of December.

Endangered birds

the country was released at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Eminent ornithologist Enam Ul Haque said presence of these two globally threatened fowls has made the site very important for the global bird conservators. He urged the government to

announce two beels of the haor as designated important bird areas. Secretary for environment and

forest AHM Rezaul Kabir, Director General of Department of Environment Dr Khandakar Rashidul Haque, and World Conservation Union (IUCN) Country Representative Dr Ainun Nishat also spoke at the press conference.

The National Committee for Waterfowl Census conducted the three-day survey from December 27 at Hakaluki Haor, coastal islands of Sonadia and St Martin's and the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf coast with the support of coastal and wetland biodiversity management project of the Environment Department.

land areas has increased significantly this winter compared to last year although the number of indigenous Raj Sarali (whistling duck) has dwindled greatly. He said the decrease in the

number of local species of duck proves that the feeding and breeding grounds of the local birds are on The survey team found 51,526

birds in the Hakaluki Hoar last year, but the number rose to 1,26,851 this year. The team found 66 species of bird at 23 sites, of which 41 species were found in Hakaluki Haor alone.

has increased recently, BDR offitonnes of rice a day from 40 out-

rice a day," said a BDR official.

plied with 15,000 tonnes of rice for selling at subsidised prices while another 5,000 tonnes of rice will closed mills areas in Khulna.

around Tk 25 per kilogram.

Food ministry officials said there was steady increase of rice prices as domestic production was less because of frequent floods, the recent cyclone and high prices on international market. "But we are confused about the skyrocketing rice prices in recent days, the season for Aman harvest," said a senior official of

Even we have the same stock of food grains as last year," he said, adding that the ministry is investigating the reasons for this unex-Rice traders at the Karwan Bazar

increase in the prices of local rice.

the price increase of imported Indian rice, the price of the same

"If five lakh tonnes of rice is Besides, donors have pledged

Talking to reporters, Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam blamed the price hike in local markets on the price increase in the global market. "It is a must that the

"We are continuing to import rice...We were unaware that India would raise the price of rice to

factory yesterday morning, they the deadlock, the workers remained found the factory closed and a notice firm on their demand. of closure hanging at the entrance, the workers said. Signed by Captain (Retd) Sheikh

the factory immediately. 2007 and January 1, 2008, keeping the factory officials hostage and "We came to the factory at 8:00 this morning and found the gate

In a statement, the authorities of SQ

absent from work on December 30.

brother Mohammad Rafiq.

workers of night shift entered the factory forcibly. They, however, left statement said.

rupting production and hampering law and order, it said. Under the circumstances, the

for the protection of the rights of garment workers yesterday demanded immediate trial of Salma's 'killers' after a thorough

Bangladesh Garments Workers

SQFACTORY'S STATEMENT

She died at her home at around 4:00am on December 31 and on that day, a group of workers brought her body in front of the factory. After her post-mortem in assistance with University Teachers' Association Mirpur police, the body was sent to President Prof Sadrul Amin, her village home in Pabna with her General Secretary Prof Anwar

authorities had announced leave for the workers for rest of that day. not leave the factory despite the announcement and even kept the

factory at 8:00am and remained absent from work 'illegally,' and kept the factory officials hostage. They filed a general diary with Kafrul Police Station as the strike was dis-

authorities have announced the factory closed.

Talking to The Daily Star, garmen labour leader Nazma Akter said although the leaders tried to resolve

Different organisations working investigation, providing compensa-

Workers Federation, Garments Workers Unity Forum, Biplobi Nari Sanghati, Ganosanghati Andolan and Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi

custody, cross-examined the two Sweaters Ltd claimed that Salma was witnesses. The five defendants were brought to the court, and the magistrate allowed them to sit down on a bench during the hearing. The four teachers are Dhaka

To mourn Salma's death, the

against 5,000 to 6,000 unnamed management staff hostage. Later, the students and teachers of Dhaka University and outsiders for violating the emergency rules, vandalisthe factory at around 10:00pm, the | ing public and private property, obstructing police duty and On January 1, the workers came to assaulting law enforcers at the university and in the vicinity.

> 15 students September 9 for instigating the violence on the campus and at Shahbagh on August 21 and Another court will today hear

Police, however, pressed

charges against four teachers and

Several advisers, government policymakers and high officials criticised the comment, terming it

Chief Adviser's Office on condition of anonymity told The Daily Star that Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed expressed utter dissatisfaction over Tapan Chowdhury's remarks. He also advised Tapan to

talked about that informally.

Some advisers contacted Tapan Chowdhury and wanted to know what prompted him to make such remarks that simply went against

remarks of the food adviser. government for the spiralling

Better foreign ties security pact under Asean Regional Forum -- in Manila last July, the country's next goal is to become a

> it has demonstrated by the recent decision to form a National Human Rights Commission, he said. Asked whether this meant that the government would try individuals who committed war crimes and crimes against the humanity in 1971,

country's domestic politics." The adviser also mentioned that he had sent personal letters to 435 US Congressman to ensure their biparti san support on a trade bill that would give developing countries including

Asean, is deepening. Bangladesh duty-free access to the "Our aim was to make Bangladesh a responsible state actor in the international arena through reform initiatives by getting the Trade Organization, he added. world community involved and

interested in Bangladesh" he told the journalists. He revealed that Bangladeshi expatriate workers remitted a record \$6.5 billion in 2007. The same year 600,000 workers migrated to different countries and another 200,000 are ready to follow -- another record for the country, he said adding that more middle eastern countries are

interested in Bangladeshi workers with the labour minister of Qatar set to visit the country this week. Bangladesh's proactive efforts with India, its giant neighbour, has brought the two countries very close to starting rail links and the signing of

He however admitted that trade. water sharing and border issues with India were far from resolved and required persistent and proactive efforts over time. "We are not saying we have been able to resolve all problems. We could

not do many things during this short

period of time," he said referring to

the government's failure to improve

important security deals, Iftekhar

plummeting trade deficits between the two countries. Iftekhar said the change needs to be incremental and he hoped that the next government would followup on the progress made by this caretaker government. Asked whether the recent cancel-

tion would hurt relations with France, Iftekhar was confident in saying that a "single incident" would not harm well-established relations. The government has made breakthroughs in strengthening relations with Myanmar, Russia and China by opening up new avenues in connec-

The foreign adviser said after signing of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation -- a non-aggression

Govt to import

The government has already asked

donors to provide 5 lakh tonnes of

FROM PAGE 16

tivity, energy cooperation and trade,

rice to meet a massive food shortage in the country after recurrent floods and Cyclone Sidr. The upcoming boro crop is crucial if the country is to offset chances of the food shortage spiralling out of control.

"false" fertiliser crisis.

December 23. Recently, Industries Adviser Geeteara Safiya Choudhury blamed the media for creating a said they also wanted to know its outcome.

Bangladesh shares European values of preserving human rights, as

Iftekhar declined to go into details and said, "This has to be part of the

The issue would also be pursued through negotiations in the World Aman shortfall

failed to achieve its target and lagged behind at least 1.16 tonnes due to the recent floods and water logging, said DAE officials in the district. A senior DAE official said the yield of Aman in the district this

season was only 33 thousand tonnes against the estimated target of 1.49 lakh tonnes. In Gaibanda, Aman harvest was 98 thousand tonnes less than the estimated target of 2.88 lakh tonnes while in Pabna, the target deficit

was 13 thousand tonnes. DU teachers

detainees to that end, he added.

"Once the legal procedures are completed, there might be some steps so that the teachers can return process will be acceptable to them, He made the comments while

ers will comply with it. "We are in a position to work together on the Asked whether the "legal procedure" is only for teachers, he said:

"I'm talking about all the detained

The VC however did not clarify

when asked about the legal proce-

dure. But he said the detained teach

the campus last year. BLUEPANELTEACHERSMEETVC Meanwhile, a number of teachers belonging to pro-Awami League Blue Panel met the VC and talked about the release of the detainees. After the over one-hour meeting,

Prof M Akhtaruzzaman told report-

release of the detainees is being

delayed in spite of government

assurance. On December 9, the government set a two-week deadline for the detainees' release, which expired on

nate and unexpected.

national interest and participate fully," he said.

The party of slain Pakistan oppo-

A spokesman for former

pate," Sharif's spokesman Zaeem Qadri told AFP after election officials announced that unrest caused by the assassination of Benazir Bhutto had forced the postpone-

responsibility of the election com-Meanwhile, Pakistan's foreign

to a thorough and transparent investigation and is open to receiving assistance from outside," for-

Sadiq said.

MUSHRRAF'S SPEECH In his first speech to the nation since Benazir assassination, which set off widespread unrest, Musharraf said a Scotland Yard team would "immediately" come to help

(criminal trespass), 448 (house der) and 109 (abetment) of Bangladesh Penal Code. Freedom fighter Mozaffar

fighter Golam Mostafa alias Tukub Keraniganj. After recording Mozaffar's statement, the judicial magistrate directed officer-in-charge at

Other accused are two assistant secretary generals of the Jamaat --Abdul Quader Molla and Muhammad Kamaruzzaman --Keraniganj upazila unit Amir Haji Nazim Uddin, Islami Chhatra Sangha leader KG Karim Babla, and Abul Kashem, Foyzur Rahman Foyaz and Yasin. The last three were al-Badr, Razakar and al-Shams activists during the war.

ers they wanted to know why the torching and looting valuables in Keraniganj on the day. Jamaat in a press release yesterday condemned the recording of the

> killing and arson against Jamaat leaders are false and filing of such false and fictitious case is unfortu-

Senior officials had privately confirmed since Monday that the vote would be delayed, but the public announcement was delayed by talks with main political parties

help in the investigation into the

day, while the United States and Britain had already told Pakistan

them if such assistance is needed,'

resolve doubts surrounding the circumstances of her death.

The postponement was

asked him to sell his shares and

Ltd on October 19, 2004

the extortion. KHULNA MAYOR Meanwhile, the Khulna District and Sessions Judge's court

plea. However, it did not make

SI Shibupada Dutta, also IO of the arms case, submitted charge sheet against the KCC mayor to the CMM court on December 25 last year showing 15 persons as

Enam Ul Haque said waterfowl population in the country's wet-

cials said. "Usually, we sold 150 lets, but in the last couple of days we have sold over 200 tonnes of

to all donors, asking for food grains as post-Sidr aid instead of money, the sources said.

pected price hike.

Aman paddy was sold at Tk 550 per maund when the harvest started a month ago but following

Workers demo abstained from work on Monday and

Tuesday, and when they came to

Arif Ahmed, manager of the factory, the notice reads the factory management has announced the factory closed under Bangladesh Labour Law-2006 as the workers observed strike 'illegally' on December 31,

locked. Finding no other way, we took to the street," Shahidul Islam, an operator, said. By 8:30am, several thousand workers gathered on the SQ Sweaters Ltd factory premises and went to

other factories in the area chanting

started joining the demonstrators in

large numbers, the authorities were

forced to shut down their factories.

As workers from other factories

disrupting production.

The workers warned that they would continue the demonstration on the street until their demands of trial of the 'killers' of Salma and compensation to her family are met. Several hundred vehicles got stranded on both sides of the road stretching from Mirpur-10 to

Agargaon causing untold sufferings

to the commuters as the workers

staged demonstration on the road till

Informed, police rushed to the spot and tried to convince the workers to clear the road, but the aggrieved workers did not pay heed. Officials of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) tried to sit with the labour leaders to

"'Outsiders' might be involved in instigating the workers to continue the movement, "he added.

resolve the crisis, but the workers did

not respond to their initiative, Joint

Secretary of Labour Department of

BGMEA Rafiqul Islam said.

tion to her family, and reopening of The organisations include Mukti Andolon, Textile Garments

man of applied physics depart-But the workers of day shift did | ment. The case was filed on August 22

the other case against the same accused.

He said a government team will be leaving for New Delhi in a few

including the price confusion. He said the government is relentlessly trying to control the situation. Quarishi

FROM PAGE 16

district.

capital, Progressive Democratic

Party (PDP) yesterday held a meet-

ing in Siddhirganj upazila of the

PDP President Ferdaus Ahmad

Quarishi attended the meeting

held at the house of local party

leader Rafiqul Islam Dewan at

Taltola. About 200 leaders, workers

and supporters of the party joined

Khan, Maj Gen (retd) Rafiqul Islam

Hiru and Ashraf Uddin Chunnu,

among others, spoke at the meting

Quarishi said corrupt politi-

cians are responsible for the cur-

rent situation in the country as they

did everything only to serve their

own interests. They looted public

property and smuggled money out

Khaleda, Hasina

detained and under trial, the law

adviser said, "There are many

options including bail and release on

pro-Awami League doctors, lawyers

and cultural activists already

demanded that the caretaker gov-

ernment sends Hasina abroad for

Asked if the Awami League would

send the proposal to the caretaker

government, the party's acting

President Zillur Rahman said they

would not send any formal proposal

as the government earlier said there

is no rule to send detainees abroad

He, however, said, "It is the party

chief's decision whether she wants to

go abroad for treatment. If she wants

to go then we will support it," Zillur

told reporters at his Gulshan home,

adding that they would talk to Hasina

adviser's comments "a reflection of

the government's previous plan to

Zia is seriously ill," said Rizvi Ahmed,

acting office secretary of BNP. He said

if such situation arises, her physi-

cians and family members would

termed the issue of sending Hastha

abroad "a political matter". "There

certainly is a government move to

send her [Hasina] abroad using

senior Awami League leader told The

Jail authorities yesterday told

journalists that the Awami League

chief expressed her wish to go abroad

for better treatment and under the

jail code there is no way she could be

Another source said if the govern-

Asked about the government's

stance on Awami League's call to

ernment and political parties, except

Jamaat-e-Islami, to resolve the

current political situation, Mainul

said, "It is the chief adviser who can

Awami League's presidium mem-

bers will sit today to discuss sending

Hasina abroad for better treatment

Flower-shop staff

assistant, and tea vendor Shah

anything against the defendants

who were accused of violating the

emergency rules and vandalising

that Shahbagh police seized sev-

eral fragments of broken glass from

in front of fine arts institute in their

presence on August 22 last year

They said they later signed the

After their statements, defence

lawyers of the four teachers and

one student, who are now in jail

Hossain, Prof Harun-ar-Rashid,

dean of science faculty, and Prof

Neem Chandra Bhowmik, chair-

Sabuj and Alam told the court

public and private property.

They, however, did not say

and dialogue with the government.

initiate dialogues between the gov-

ment actually sends her abroad, it

could be part of its own plan.

answerthis."

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seizure list.

Alam of Shahbagh area.

'better treatment' as an excuse,"

Awami League insiders, however,

decide whether to send her abroad.

send the two leaders on exile"

The BNP, however, termed the law

"We have not heard that Khaleda

Hasina's personal physicians,

of the country, he alleged.

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better treatment.

for treatment.

in this regard soon.

chaired by Abdul Aziz Pathan.

Party leaders Nur Mohammad

An adviser holding important portfolios like food, disaster management and energy should not have made such comment, they A highly placed source at the

refrain from making such comments in future.

They said the government must not express its inability to handle any matters. It has many things to do and is trying its best to bring

severely criticised the government Coming down heavily on the

Different political parties yesterday for the continued price spiral of essentials, especially rice, and

prices, Awami League Acting President Zillur Rahman feared that many people might die due to lack of food if the current trend of prices The government has completely failed to control the price hike of

dialogue partner in Asean.

FROM PAGE 16 The recent floods and the fertiliser crisis have affected the harvest said DAE sources in Bogra. Aman harvest in Sirajganj also

to the campus with dignity. The **ProfFaizsaid** talking to reporters at his office lation of the Guimet artefacts exhibiyesterday evening.

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teachers and students." The teachers and students were arrested after the August violence on

About Tuesday's meeting with an army official, Prof Akhtaruzzaman

However the chairman of

to fulfil its responsibility," Haq told office said yesterday that the government was open to international

ously rejected an international

Later, Lutfar and his accompli-

framed charges against KCC mayor Tayebur in two cases. Tayebur was brought to the

The charge sheet of the narcotics case against Tayebur was submitted by SI Masudur Rahman of Khulna Police Station the same day.