## Gunmen ambush UN convoy in Darfur

AP, Khartoum, Sadan

Gunmen ambushed a United Nations convoy in Darfur in the first attack against the peacekeepers since their mission began this month, the UN said yesterday.

A Sudanese driver was wounded and in critical condition after the UN road convoy was attacked late Monday in a volatile area near Sudan's border with Chad, the UN mission, known as UNAMID, saidin a statement.

A fuel tanker truck was destroyed by the assailants, and an armored personnel carrier was damaged, the UN said. Peacekeepers said they did not return fire and that no UN staffwas injured.

The ambush occurred after nightfall between the West Darfur towns of Tine and Kulbus, an area where both Darfur and Chadian rebels as well as the Sudanese army are suspected of

The statement did not indicate who was suspected in the attack but said the UN. leadership "is in direct consultations and discussion with Sudanese

authorities...overthematter. Sudan's military was not immedi-

national attempt to quell the violence in Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million have fled to refugee camps in nearly five years of fighting between the Sudanese government and local rebels.

unable the end the chaos and suffered dozens of casualties.

Under a compromise with the Sudanese government, the new U.N. force incorporates the African peacekeepers already deployed and is to

remain predominantly African. The mission is due to number 26,000 peacekeepers and police, but the deployment is far behind schedule the people's right bearer. and Western countries have so far failed to commit heavy fighting equipment such as helicopters.

### Lanka minister

FROM PAGE 16

known to make sharply varying casualty claims.

On Sunday, security forces also conducted a major search operation in the entire Western province, which covers the capital and airport area -questioning tens of thousands of people and arrested nearly 200.

The killing of the minister also came five days after a similar roadside bomb in Colombo targeted a military bus, killing five people. The authorities blamed the LTTE for that

The Tigers are yet to formally respond to the government's decision to pull out of the truce. The rebels, however, have already said they believe peace talks with the island's ethnic Sinhalese majority are a waste of time.

The government now believes it has the upper hand over the rebels and is in a position to capture the

Tens of thousands of people have died in the 35-year-old conflict, one A previous African Union force was of Asia's longest-running wars.

## Cops claim progress

The robbers paid Tk 70,000 as rent for the rooms at Hotel Nidmahal housed on the upper floor of the bank.

"Nobody is beyond suspicion,"

The robbers tunnelled into the bank's locker room cutting through the ceiling sometime between Thursday night and Saturday night and made off with gold ornaments

mated at several crore of taka. renters are yet to assess the quantity of gold ornaments they kept in the

Bursting into anger yesterday,

Golam Azam, an affected renter. said he kept the valuables in the locker after the bank authorities had assured him of having proper security system with CCTV and an effective alarm system. But they did not

The affected locker renters yester-National Press Club demanding immediate compensation from the

BANKTO COMPENSATE

ties yesterday gave assurance that they would compensate the affected recover the looted gold ornaments and other valuables within the next

requested the locker renters to sub-

mit the estimated value of the looted gold ornaments and other valuables. Abedur Rahman Sikder, head of

marketing and corporate affairs of BRAC Bank Ltd, said "If the booties are recovered, the police not the bank authorities will handover those to the

He also said if the law-enforcers fail to recover those, the bank authorities will give compensations.

Replying to a query, he said, "Since we have no document about the gold and valuables kept in the lockers, police will justify the claims. We hope that the customers will not make false claims. BBMEETING Bangladesh Bank (BB) vesterday

morning held a meeting to discuss theissue The BB also sent a letter to the

chief executive of BRAC Bank asking him to provide it with an explana-Sources said, the BB also decided

to examine the security measures taken for lockers and ATM booths of all the banks.

## RRC for online

to give people easy access to gov-

ernment documents. "I am expecting that details about

government rules and regulations will be put on the website within February 21 this year, "he said.

The proposed rules and regulations will be made public for three weeks for getting opinion from people. After scrutinizing their opinion, the government will formulate the rules and regulations, he said.

The RCC chief also sought suggestions and recommendations from all quarters in the country for smooth functioning of the commission.

#### HR body FROM PAGE 1

police force should adopt transparency and respect for human rights, and should focus more on public service.

She said real issues of human security must be addressed otherwise human rights and democracy will be rendered meaningless.

"Too often, state security seems to trump human security," said Irene adding the people's daily concerns are not addressed

She' warned, "An apathetic electorate is a tyrant's dream," adding there must be an understanding that the government is

government wants change it must include civil society and other stakeholders along with politicians to debate and discuss reforms, She hoped the government

would pass the right to information legislation before it leaves office as she is deeply concerned at reported restrictions on the media

internet service providers being asked to name people who access 'certain websites'.

Mahmud told the audience that the government must hold debates with all stakeholders to create a citizens' charter in order to reduce all political uncertainty, which in turn will effectively reduce eco-

He said there is no shortcut to achieving a sustainable democracy and it is a long process which will go beyond the tenure of the current caretaker government.

Former attorney general Hasan Arif said the rule of law must be established in order to further the

Rahman and The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam also spoke.

In the wealth report submitted

The FIR said Altaf gave false

Altaf in his wealth statement

said he had lent Tk 14 lakh to his

wife Suraiya, but she said that her

husband lent her Tk 17 lakh. Altal

also said he purchased a jeep at Tk 8

lakh while the real price of the

vehicle was Tk 20.17 lakh. Besides

he showed low price of the car he

Tk 68.27 lakh, adding that a loan of

Tk 5.16 lakh was taken from

Standard Chartered Bank in his

Now defunct Bureau of Anti-

Corruption (BAC) had filed four

graft cases against him during the

Awami League rule, but the cases

were withdrawn following an order

of the BNP-led alliance govern-

witnesses and set tomorrow for

next hearing of the case

Investigation officer (IO) of the

case Babul Bhuiyan will give state-

In the statement, Shahed Kabir

told the court that he recorded

what the three witnesses said about

the violent incidents on the DU

campus during the investigation of

Shafiqul and Rubel said the IO

The four teachers, who are in jail

seized a CD at the TV office in their

presence after the violent incidents

custody, are Dhaka University

Teachers' Association (Duta)

President Prof Sadrul Amin, its

General Secretary Prof Anwar

Hossain, Science Faculty Dean Prof

Harun-ar-Rashid and Applied

Physics Department Chairman

Sardar, who was arrested earlier, is

permitted to sit on a bench in the

dock in the courtroom during

DU student Moniruzzaman

The four accused teachers were

A case was filed against some

6,000 unnamed students and

teachers of DU and outsiders on

August 22 for violating the EPR,

vandalising public and private

properties, obstructing the police

from discharging their duties, and

assaulting law enforcers on the

15 students of DU on September 9

for inciting violence on the campus

and in the Shahbagh area on

against the same accused will be

However, the police pressed

campus and its adjacent areas.

Prof Neem Chandra Bhowmik.

also behind bars.

yesterday's hearing.

August 21 and 22.

held today.

DU teachers

FROM PAGE 1

occurred.

ment the same day.

Altaf also said he took loans of

purchased in his wife's name.

to the ACC, Altaf mentioned low

price of the assets he purchased in

his own and his wife's names.

Standard Chartered Bank.

Altaf Chy

FROM PAGE 1

#### prices of essentials put a dent in the public support it has been enjoying. Some of the advisers soon appeared to be a lightning rod for controversy and it did not help

People's frustration over the interim regime became obvious after the recent crisis of food grains. It has been widely speculated in

committed to mitigating their this year

Resignations of the advisers would help him avoid his words being perceived as empty rhetoric, added the sources.

## Mainul, Tapan

FROM PAGE 1 instance of advisers leaving their office en bloc.

The incumbent administration came after the one headed by President Iajuddin Ahmed had failed to create an atmosphere conducive to holding the ninth parliamentary election as per the constitutional provisions.

Amid growing political violence and public displeasure, Iajuddin stepped down as the chief adviser and dissolved the advisory council on January 11 last year, declaring the state of emergency and cancelling the ninth parliamentary polls scheduled for January 22.

Immediately after coming to power, the present government launched a crackdown on "corrupt political bigwigs and businessmen". Its anti-graft drives were greeted with popular acclamation but some of the measures led to panic among the business commu-Its failure to contain soaring

things either.

the past few days that the council of advisers might be reshuffled at any

Sources close to the policymakers said Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed might address the nation on January 12. In his speech, he would seek to assure the people that his government is sufferings and achieving the goal to have a free and fair election held by

#### FROM PAGE 1 reaction to the resignation of four advisers. "Resignation or induction of

Analysts and politicians, however, observed that it would still be difficult for the government to

improve the overall situation. Faced with the task of running the country for around two years, the caretaker government had tried before to expand the council but failed for what was described as constitutional obligation not to have more than 11 advisers including the chief adviser.

The policymakers are now considering appointing assistants to the advisers to reduce the burden of task ahead, sources said.

The first time the caretaker government saw resignation of its advisers was in December last year when four advisers--Akbar Ali Khan, Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowhdury, Sultana Kamal and CM Shafi Sami-stepped aside protesting the then chief adviser's role perpetuating the political bickering.

None of the caretaker governments formed in 1996 and 2001 had to reshuffle its cabinet, and they successfully discharged their duties by extending all-out support to the Election Commission for holding the parliamentary polls within the stipulated timeframe.

But the current government, which came at the end of the constitutionally specified time limit for holding the polls since dissolution of the eighth parliament, began its journey with tenure not set.

Fakhruddin Ahmed was sworn in as the chief adviser on January 12 while his advisers later Mainul, Geeteara and Tapan took oath of office on January 13 and Matiur on January 16. In an address to the nation,

Fakhruddin declared that the government would have a credible national election held by December 2008.

# Antics saw 'em off

inaugurated PoliceWeek 2008.

meeting with officers of the law enforcement agencies there, he was called over telephone from the chief adviser's office. Mainul then went to his ministry around 1:30pm and left the office an hour later. Sources said Mainul sent his

resignation letter by a messenger and then left the office for his residence in Baridhara. The adviser for the ministries of information, law, justice and parlia-

mentary affairs, housing and public works, and land is often accused of making outrageous, sarcastic and controversial comments on political matters. Over the last few months, he

blasted politicians on different

ministers Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia into exile also earned the government a bad name in home and abroad.

ing statements when the issue of war criminals' trial was raised.

criticism for failing to tackle the crisis of food items, the prices of which have doubled since the care-January 11 last year.

management ministry, Tapan was resources, science, information and communications technology, and youth and sports. His recent comment that the

government has nothing to do with checking the skyrocketing food prices earned him the biggest blow. Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam strongly opposed his statement the next day. On his last day in office, Tapan

talked with reporters at the power ministry and said the government is trying to ensure necessary supply of power for irrigation during the coming Boro season. Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, who

was in charge of the ministries of industries, textiles and jute, social welfare, and women and children affairs, came under severe criticism for shutting down several jute mills in Khulna. Already criticised for

underperformance, Geeteara last November described the ongoing fertiliser crisis as a "myth", sparking nationwide protests. ASM Matiur Rahman, adviser for

the ministries of health and family welfare, water resources, and religious affairs, was also criticised for poor performance, especially for the mismanagement in sending hajis to Saudi Arabia for performing Prior to his resignation, Matiur

addressed a high-level meeting at his office to evaluate hajj operations and find out the shortcomings yesterday, acknowledging mismanagement in hajj operations and causing immense sufferings to the pilgrims. He, however, initially denied that

he resigned and requested reporters not to ask him "embarrassing" questions.

"Do not ask me this question.... have not resigned. I am busy with the bird-flu issue," he said around 3:15pm when the media had already circulated news about his resigna-

But later, emerging from his health ministry office at about 5:15pm he told reporters, "What you have seen on television is true.' Asked about the reasons for his

resignation, he said, "Power does not last forever." He said he has performed his responsibilities and would do it if entrusted with in future. Earlier on December 26, educa-

tion and cultural affairs adviser Ayub Quadri resigned in the wake of a huge public outcry over the theft and destruction of two Paris-bound Vishnu statuettes. Mainul Hosein, Geeteara Safiya

Choudhury and Tapan Chowdhury took oath as advisers on January 13 last year. Matiur Rahman and Ayub Quadri took oath three days later.

# When ends don't meet

Education expenses as well as

sharp a rise.

house rent especially marked a

According to Consumer Association of Bangladesh (CAB), the house rent has increased at least 10 percent in different areas of the capital with the starting of the new year. "My landlord has increased the

rent by Tk 1000 from this month. Now I have to pay Tk 11,000," Anisul Islam, working in a private company, said.

"Admission fees of my son was Tk 13,000 last year but these have become Tk 17,000 this year. Other school expenses like school van charges, tuition fees, tiffins, VAT, added up to around Tk 4000 monthly earlier, but now it is over Tk 5000," Anisul said who is also considering to enroll his son to another school to manage the expenses.

"My income has not increased. How can I afford so much," said a distressed Anisul.

Besides, prices of school uni-Hearing of another case filed form, books, notebook, pen and offered dearness allowance to other education materials have increased by 10 to 50 percent, he

"I usually buy one dozen of oranges for around Tk 90 to Tk 100. But today, I bought only four oranges when I saw that the price per dozen is Tk 140,"Amena Begum, a consumer at Hatirpul market, said. Asked if she had ever gone to

"But maybe we have to start going there," she said with a faint

Talking about how the increased

Filling Station (Beribadh) at Mohammadpur, Sher-e-Bangla Community Centre at Agargaon, Shah Ali Mazar at Mirpur, Paikpara, Padma Garments at Mirpur, Nikunja-2 Park at Uttara, Hazi Camp near Airport and Banani Park at Banani. "Some are doing extra work. But others have been living on less to

every day from 8:00am to 5:30pm, manage extra expenses," he said except on Monday. BDR will also sell highest 3 kg of rice to an individual at the rate of Tk 25 per kg. A correspondent from Benapole

> adds: Around 2,000 metric tons of rice was imported from India through Benapole Port yesterday.

# Political parties US, Iraq launch

FROM PAGE 16

four-five new advisers will bring no

solution to the current crises. The

only way to solve the problems is to

hand over power to the people's

representatives by holding polls

quickly," acting AL President Zillur

Rahman told reporters at his

BNP Standing Committee

Member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur

Rahman said, "We want to see a

people's government as early as

possible. The state of emergency

will have to be lifted to create a

congenial political atmosphere for

restoring democracy soon,

Mahbub told The Daily Star in his

reaction to resignation of the advis-

cerned over their resignation, nor

due to this, he said.

There is no reason to be con-

Mahbub, a former army chief,

various pledges have raised expec-

want it do this by holding free and

fair elections after creating a

healthy political atmosphere, he

He also demanded early imple

Jatiya Party acting Chairman

Anisul Islam Mahmud asked the

government to initiate dialogue

with political parties so that the

existing crises including skyrocket

ing prices of essentials could be

On the resignation of four advis-

ers, he said it is a matter for the

government to exclude or include

advisers for its smooth function-

President Dr Kamal Hossain said

the government thought it needed

a change in the advisory council

and for this it has made the change.

Razzak said the four advisers cer-

tainly had their failures that forced

Tofail Ahmed, another AI

Presidium Member, said the care-

taker government has taken the

right decision by excluding law

adviser Mainul Hosein as he never

acted neutrally and tried to make

the political parties opponents of

President Hasanul Haque Inu

hoped that resignation of the four

advisers would end misunder-

standing between the government

government to take political par-

ties into confidence and start

dialogue with them. They also

urged it not to induct any contro-

Chairman Misbaur Rahman

Chowdhury and Secretary General

Moniruzzaman Rabbani in a state-

ment expressed satisfaction at the

Dr M Abdul Matin, general secre-

tary of Bapa, said the present care-

taker government should give its

attention to the issue and take

Mahidul Haq, treasurer of Bapa,

said some vested quarters always

try to capture common property

submitting false documents and

bribing the authorities concerned.

Amnesty chief

in Rajshahi, said the victims of JMB

militants want to return to their own

houses but they could not go back

out of fear. Now, of course, they feel

Irene, however, would not com-

University teachers and students.

statistics regarding the extra-

Appreciating the government

rights commission, she hoped that a

will be set up by the caretaker gov-

Irene also welcomed the institu-

tional reforms done by the present

secured, she observed.

the emergency rules.

comes to nil.

ernment.

stern action against the grabbers.

Bangladesh Islami Oikya Jote

Both Tofail and Inu urged the

and the political parties.

versial persons as advisers.

resignation of four advisers.

Govt urged

FROM PAGE 16

FROM PAGE 1

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

them to resign.

the government.

AL Presidium Member Abdur

In his reaction, Gono Forum

solved through discussions.

mentation of the already

announced electoral roadmap.

Gulshan residence in the capital.

dramatically in recent months, ous areas and a center for outan improvement attributed to a combination of 30,000 extra troops sent into the Baghdad area; the work of U.S.-backed predominantly Sunni tribal groups who turned against al-Qaida in Iraq; and a cease-fire declared by radical Shiite cleric Mugtada al-Sadr for his Mahdi Army militia.

Extremists have been pushed out of their former stronghold in Anbar province west of Baghdad to the east and north, and appear to be concentrated in the province of Diyala to the northeast of the capital and in Mosul to the north.

"Al-Qaida in Iraq is attempting to regain strength and establish new support areas in northern Iraq," said Lt. Col. James Hutton, a spokesman for the U.S. military. Few details were given on the

the government is facing any crisis operation, which will go beyond military activities and focus as well on providing basic services said the caretaker government's and improving local governance and economic life for Iraqis, the statement said. tations about giving back people's Despite the general reduction power to the people. And they now

of violence, attacks against civilians, members of U.S.-backed in the north of the Maldives, a chain armed groups mainly known as of 1,192 coral and white sand islands 'awakening councils," and Iraqi security forces continue to kill On Monday, a double suicide

bombing in Baghdad's northern Azamiyah district killed 12 people and wounded 28, including former police Col. Riyadh al-Samarrai, a key leader of the local awakening group. That attack came days after

Osama bin Laden condemned the new American allies in an audiotape released Dec. 29, and said they would "suffer in life and in the afterlife. The switch of allegiance by

insurgents in Azamiyah was one of the most significant in a series of similar moves across Baghdad's Sunni neighborhoods Azamiyah is home to Iraq's most revered Sunni shrine, the mosque of Imam Abu Hanifa, and many in the area served as officers in Saddam Hussein's army and security agencies.

U.S. military spokesman Maj Gen. Kevin Bergner said last week the recent attacks were the "clearest indication" that al-Qaida in Iraq believed to consist mainly of Iraqis but to have foreign leadership was worried about losing the support of its fellow Sunni Monday's bombing occurred

at the entrance of a Sunni Endowment office, a government agency that cares for Sunni mosques and shrines, and near an Awakening Council office in Azamiyah, which had been a stronghold of Sunni insurgents and a safe haven for al-Oaida in

Sunni Endowment leader Ahmed Abdul Ghafur al-Samarrai who is from the same tribe as the former colonel blamed bin Laden for the attack.

"Those criminal gangs fled from al-Anbar province to Azamiyah neighborhood for bloodshed and to abuse the dignity of the people," he said. On Tuesday, banners erected

by the local awakening council bearing words of condolence hung on walls and at intersections in Azamiyah. A three-day funeral was planned for al-Samarrai In a separate attack, police

said on Tuesday that gunmen

kidnapped eight members of a

newly-formed U.S.-backed Shiite

armed group in northern

Baghdad's Shaab neighborhood,

crackdown on what he considers to be Islamic extremism. The measures include bans on women wearing the full veil and foreign preachers as well as unli-

> In a recent interview with AFP, Gayoom said the bomb attack targeting foreign tourists followed by violent clashes with police and security forces had alerted the country to the "very serious threat of extremism."

# Benazir's son warns

studies as an undergraduate at Oxford University later this month.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who took over as leader of the PPP after his mother was assassinated last month, said he was doing his duty and was not put off by the threat of being killed himself.

aspiration. I was called and stepped up to do what I was asked to do," he said, rejecting questions about the undemocratic nature of his PPP succession.

"It wasn't handed on like some piece of family furniture. They asked me to do it and I did," he said, speaking in English, and looking relaxed after a tense start before the

were postponed until next month after his mother's killing.

I fear for my country. I fear that if free and fair elections are not held it may disintegrate," he said.

political experience, he said his immediate priority was to resume his studies, adding that otherwise "I will never be in a position to have sufficient wisdom to enter the

"At present my role as chairman is one into which I shall step gradu-

Oxford when terms starts next "I'm only too willing to give time

to talk to journalists ... but in moderation, not only for my own sake but for the sake of my fellow students and the college," he said.

murder of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto met President Pervez Musharraf yesterday, a British diplomat said. British High Commission (em-

bassy) spokesman Aidan Liddle

told AFP the anti-terrorism team met Musharraf at his office in Rawalpindi. The detectives arrived in Pakistan on Friday after Musharraf called for Britain's help to investigate the gun and suicide bomb

former prime minister at an election rally on December 27. The assassination sparked a wave of bloody rioting and forced general elections to be postponed by six weeks until February 18.

attack which killed the two-time

### CID records

**FROM PAGE 16** 

night, Assistant Superintendent of Police [CID] Fazlul Kabir confirmed that the CID has sent the letters. But there was no reply yet. He said all the personnel con-

According to sources, the DMP, DC-DB and city SB officials have

cerned would be interrogated.

agencies. About testimony of the three witnesses, Kabir said, "In their statements, they have described what they saw and knew." He,

ments of AL president and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, acting AL president Zillur Rahman and several others in connection with the carnage.

#### ately available for comment Tuesday. "The is the first time UNAMID is attacked, and we hope it will be the last," mission spokesman Noureddine Mezni told The Associated Press. "We are in Darfur to bring peace, not to

The UN mission is the latest inter-

said Shibly Noman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mohammadpur Police Station.

and other valuables, primarily esti-Meanwhile, the value of the looted gold ornaments and other valuables could not be determined as of vesterday as many of the locker

affected locker renters blamed the bank authorities for not ensuring enough security at the bank branch.

day held a press conference at the

Meanwhile, the BRAC Bank authoricustomers if the law enforcers fail to

The bank authorities yesterday sent letters to all the affected customers to inform them about it. They also

Govt trying to reform FROM PAGE 1 pointed out that some problems

They reiterated that national elections must be held as per the timeframe announced earlier. Otherwise, it will be unfortunate for the nation, they said. Regulatory Reforms Commission Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan said, "I think it is a 'routine' resignation of the

four advisers. I do not think these

advisers had any reservations about the government's policies." Akbar Ali, one of the four advisers of President Iajuddin-led caretaker government who had stepped down, said, When we resigned, we had disagreements with the then caretaker government. We thought it was not possible for that government to hold a

free, fair and credible election.

performance of the government." He soped that the advisers to be inducted deadline to hold elections to reduce would help accelerate development of the political and economic uncerthe country. Elections should be held as soon as possible. It will be unfortunate for the nation if the Election Commission fails to hold the polls as per the announced

He went on, "We don't want to

bother about who resigns or joins the

government, rather, we want to see the

unconstitutional." Akbar said, "I hope this government will succeed in its mission because it took over at a crisis moment, and will consider opinions of all on its way ahead." Renowned economist Wahiduddin who become advisers now will make

Mahrnud said resignation of the four

advisers show that along with political

roadmap, he said. "It will also be fully

reforms, the government is also trying to reform itself. appointed) would add momentum to Syed Manzur Elahi said resignation of charges against four teachers and government efforts to accomplish the advisers is not a major factor. What difficult tasks ahead.

laker government, M Hafizuddin

Khan, said reshuffling of the present caretaker government was long over-"It is better than never," he said.

He mentioned that this government was facing many problems including the price hike of rice blurred including food crisis and price hike of essentials. There was also no signifithe successes of the present governcant improvement of power situation, fertiliser crisis persisted, foreign investment came down and several jute mills were closed down. Besides, the government was embarrassed due to the remarks of one of the four advis-

> ers who have resigned, he added. The government should be very careful in selecting the new advisers," Hafizuddin said. Sultana Kamal, another former adviser to caretaker government, said any one in a government is free to

resign. "I cannot comment on the

resignation of the four advisers as I do

not know the reasons behind that."

Sultana Kamal, who is one of the four advisers who resigned from the immedi ate past caretaker government, said, "We resigned because we thought we could notplayourduerole." Economist Atiur Rahman told The Daily Star the government should immediately announce a specific

tainty worsened by yesterday's resig-Resignation of the advisers is a direct result of high food prices, rice shortage and fertiliser crisis, he said.

The government should now step up efforts to complete preparations for polls so that the whole nation gets into an election mood, Attur said. Transparency International Bangladesh, executive director Iftekharuzzaman hoped that those

the government more capable and

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and He hoped that new advisers (to be Industries (FBCCI) Administrator the government should now do is to Another former adviser to care- realise the ground reality and act accordingly The government can reshuffle

itself any time," he said, adding the

per the declared timeframe.

national elections should be held as

enough.

The AI head also said if the

and human rights activists. She said she received reports of

Economist Wahiduddin

nomic uncertainty.

prospects of democracy. Prothom Alo Editor Matiur

In the FIR (first information FROM PAGE 1 report), it was mentioned that Altaf kept the wealth in his own name When Mainul was attending a and the names of his wife Suraiya Akter and daughter Jubaida Akter.

information about loans and did not mention anything about the five firearms worth Tk 2 lakh, which he purchased between 1974 and erez (guitar) who recu-He also concealed information about three savings accounts with

> occasions, obliquely saying that they are out to push the government He also made inconsistent remarks on formation of the national government, but the army chief later brushed aside the possibility of formation of such government. His disclosure of the government move to send former prime

own and his wife's names. The former home minister submitted his wealth statement to Mainul took public flak for makthe ACC on July 25 last year, saying that he has wealth worth Tk 3.25

He also drew huge criticism from journalists, press workers and employees for awarding a faulty Adviser Tapan Chowdhury drew

taker government took charge on Apart from the food and disaster also at the helm of the ministries of power, energy and mineral

BDR shops to buy anything, she replied in the negative.

prices of essentials have been affecting the middle class and how they are coping with the situation, noted economist Dr Atiur Rahman observed that the middle class is cutting back on their spending to deal with the situation, as their income has not grown.

adding many people have started selling their savings certificates. "The government should have those who earn less than Tk 10,000 permonth," Dr Atiur said.

Open market FROM PAGE 1

caretaker government.

The outlets will remain open

group fighting Indian rule over part of the Himalayan region of Gayoom, who has ruled the islands since 1978, responded to

FROM PAGE 16

About Rajshahi University teachers, she said although they were pardoned, they must be acquitted of the cases filed against them under

ment about the arrested Dhaka On human-right situation, the Al secretary general said although judicial killings look good, AI wants the number of extra-judicial killings

move to establish a national human neutral and competent commission

political arena."

ally and carefully," he added. returns to Christ Church College

"When I am at Oxford I hope

Meanwhile, Scotland Yard investigators helping probe the

special forces in the Madain area, about 15 miles southeast of Baghdad, killing two members of

Gayoom

FROM PAGE 16 The attack took place on Hoarafushi off the southern tip of India.

year-old Mohamed Murshid, who was unemployed and who had no previous criminal record -- had hidden the knife wrapped in a national flag, the president's spokesman Mohamed Hussain Shareef said. "Hewas an idling youth," he said.

The attacker -- identified as 20-

Assistant Police Commissioner

Abdulla Rivaz told AFP said investi-

motive for the attack.

gators were trying to establish a

"It's still at a very, very early stage, we are questioning him. Investigations are still going on. It is too early to say if he has links to any Islamic militant groups." Gayoom was saved as 15-yearold boy scout Mohamed Jaisham

grabbed the attacker as he tried to

stab the president, Shareef said.

Jaisham's hand was injured and he

was being treated in the island's health centre. Gayoom said in a nationwide address after the attack that he had survived "thanks to Mohamed Jaisham and Allah."

The Maldives, a top destination

for well-heeled tourists and honey-

mooners, has been tense since a

September bomb attack in the

capital Male injured 12 foreign

Authorities blamed the bombing on Islamic extremists seeking to wreck the country's vital tourism industry, which accounts for a third of the nation's economy.

Three men convicted of carry-

ing out the bombing -- the holiday

archipelago's first ever terror

attack -- were last month each jailed for 15 years. Police are also looking out for foreign militant groups after press reports said some of the suspects had links to a Muslim separatist

the bombing by ordering a tough

censed Muslim prayer groups.

reporters in London, after his return to Britain to resume his

"I do not claim to have any

Bhutto Zardari also stressed the importance of elections, which

Acknowledging his "limited'

He appealed for privacy once he

that I can be left alone."

destroyed the files containing the list of the personnel deployed on Bangabandhu Avenue, the rally venue. The CID, however, has already questioned a number of personnel from different law enforcement and intelligence

however, declined to disclose their identity on security grounds. Earlier, the CID recorded state-

#### group, Sheik Ismaiel Abbas, was shot to death in Shaab. Elsewhere in the capital Tuesday, the head of the municipality of Baghdad's primarily Sunni neighborhood of Yarmouk was killed when a bomb attached

to his car exploded, a police officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release information. To the south, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives at a checkpoint manned by police

one of the capital's most danger-

checkpoint when they were kid-

napped Monday night, a police

officer said on condition of ano-

nymity because he was not

authorized to release informa-

tion. Last Sunday, the head of the

The men were manning a

lawed Shiite fighters.

## the special forces and wounding five people, police said.