Selim Al Deen

Selim, placing floral wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar where the body was kept.

The professor of drama and dramatics department at JU breathed his last around 2:00pm on Monday at city's Labaid Cardiac Hospital at the age of 58.

Selim is the best humanitarian artist. One requires to have a good understanding of world history, literature and Bangla theatre to understand him and his work," said prominent theatre personality and Selim's friend Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu.

"I am not feeling well. I had so many things to write but I will not write. Selim, my friend, sleep in peace," wrote JU Vice-Chancellor Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman in the condolence book kept at the drama and dramatics department.

The body of Selim was brought to campus by an ambulance at 2:39pm.

Hundreds of students, teachers, university officers and employees lined up on both sides of the road in front of the old arts faculty building as the ambulance went towards the drama and dramatics department, which Selim had founded.

Writers, dramatists, actors, theatre activists, teachers and students from across the country thronged JU to pay their last homage to the person who brought back the year-old Bangla drama to modern theatre and popularised it.

The body was then taken to Selim's residence on the campus. At the department, teachers and students observed silence for

five minutes as a respect to Selim. Then in a procession they carried the dead body to the amphitheatre ground for people to pay homage

After burial, students brought out a candle procession from the grave at 7:00pm and paraded the streets on the campus.

What makes Selim different from any other dramatist is that he felt the presence of other life forces, such as the rivers that makes Bangladesh a delta, and everything appears in its own characteristics in Selim's works," said Bachchu.

"In the structure of work, theme and intellect, all the works of Selim themselves are distinct and different from each other. As he had a different new thought about everything, many found it difficult to understand his works," said Dr Biplab Bala.

Eminent actor Asaduzzaman Noor said Selim died at an age when he began to think more critically on the basis of his vast experience.

Selim endeavoured to show the power of Bangla theatre. He spent his life showing both in theory and practice that beyond the colonial structure of drama the East has its own thousandsyear-old powerful structure and form of drama

Selim's plays such as Kittonkhola, Keramatmangal, Hat Hadai, Chaka, Joiboti Konyar Mon, Banpangshul and Nimojjan have left an indelible impression on the minds of his audience.

TRIBUTES Selim's body was kept on the National Museum premises around 9:15am. Then a procession carried the coffin to the Central Shaheed Minar at

10:00am. Later, his body taken to DU central mosque for janaza. Primary and Mass Education

Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury, Awami League leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzaq and Syed Ashraful Islam, poet Syed Shamsul Haq and Syed Anwara Haq, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon and placed wreaths at Shaheed

Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof SMA Faiz, artist Qayyum Chowdhury, Shahriar Kabir, Prof Muntasir Mamoon and Prof Mansur Musa also paid tribute to Selim at the Shaheed Minar.

Dhaka Theatre, people from Selim's village Shenerkhil, Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Islami University, Chhatra Maitree, Bangabandhu Parishad, Udichi, music and theatre department of Dhaka University, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangaldesher Samajtantrik Dal, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Gono Forum, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Chhatra Front, Dhaka Padatik, Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Mirmul Committee, Kanthoshilon, DU Teacher-Student Centre, Mohila Awami League, Bangladesh Pathonatya Parishad, Bangladesh Abritti Samonnoy Parishad and Prajonmo paid tribute to Selim.

WB for cuts

FROM PAGE 16

budget, the government is faced with three policy choices. It, however, observed that each of them would prove to be unpleasant to certain sections of the population.

In the absence of domestic price adjustments, the FY08 budget faces an extra \$80 million pressure arising from subsidies to energy and fertiliser not provided for in the original budget, it said.

Besides, the floods added roughly \$500 million of unforeseen expenditure and now the cyclone will likely to add another \$520 million this fiscal

"The total flood and cyclone induced expenditure shock constitutes 8.9 percent of the original FY08 budget of about \$11.5 billion," the report said.

Suggesting on other policy options, the report said the government can raise domestic energy and fertiliser prices sufficiently to create fiscal space for desired levels of developmental and natural disasterrelated expenditure. "This, of course, is a very sensitive issue politically," it

The other option is to allow the flood and cyclone related expenditures without administered price and other adjustments and face heightened inflationary pressures on top of the already tense inflation situation, being mindful that inflation particularly hurts the poor. "Or, crowd out productive private investment owing to increased government borrowing," the report said.

during days of East Pakistan who were in politics to serve people. We need to bring back those sorts of

politicians. The CEC said that political parties would be consulted regarding changes to constituency boundaries once the draft to changes is completed.

He also added that these changes

are completely constitutional. Huda said there are constituencies with five to six lakh voters compared to other constituencies with only one-lakh voters. This creates an obvious discrepancy between elec-

"We started the initiative to redraw the constituency boundaries to end these discrepancies," he said adding that there is no reason why the roadmap to polls would be delayed as a result of these changes.

tion costs for both electorates, he said.

"No one would have any reason to oppose it either," Huda said, adding that whatever the size of the constit uency, those elected enjoy the same parliamentary facilities.

The CEC also reiterated that voter lists would be updated every year instead of once every five years.

Advisers making

Matin yesterday sought a few days more from the agitating DU teachers and students to find a respectable solution, and said the government is 'probably not' waiting for the court His statement was in sharp con-

trast with Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman's statement on Sunday that the detainees would be freed regardless of the court verdict. Meanwhile, the two-week time

limit, as sought by the then educa-

tion adviser Ayub Quadri on December 9 for release of all the detained teachers and students, also expired on December 23 without any Seeking a few days more from the

agitating teachers and students for Hassan Ariff said on Tuesday the working out a respectable solution, education adviser spoke about Matin requested them not to go for government steps to be taken after any hard line. He made the call when the court verdict. The government reporters pointed out the January 18 deadline announced by the agitating

are not met by January 18.

They're our brothers and children. I would humbly request them not to ditional release with dignity'. announce any tough programme and to give us a few days to find a respectable solution," Matin said, terming the January 18 deadline 'too

was given charge of the home ministry, he declined to set any timetable for a 'respectable solution', saying unrest in the garment sector, he there is a legal process.

Asked to comment on reported torture on DU students during their detention, the home adviser said, This is unfortunate, this is not right, If it happened. I would request the patience and tolerance.

persons concerned to stop recur rence of such torture."

Talking to reporters at the city's LabAid Hospital on Sunday night, Hossain Zillur said whatever court verdict is given in the cases, detained DU teachers and students will be released in the next few days.

"Detained teachers and students of Dhaka University will be released as soon as the legal process ends. We have taken certain measures to end the legal process quickly. Taking depositions of witnesses will end tomorrow. Don't worry, the teachers and students will be freed," he said that day, adding that the advisers unanimously decided to solve the DU issue in the next few days.

On Zillur's remarks, Law Adviser has jurisdiction to free any accused,

Four teachers and 15 students of Earlier, Students Against the DU are facing cases for violation Repression had announced a of emergency powers rules during tougher agitation if their demands last year's August 20-22 protest. DU teachers and students have been "We've respect and sympathy for observing token boycott of classes both the teachers and students. and staging silent processions since January 9 demanding their 'uncon-CHALLENGINGJOB

Terming the new portfolio as sensitive and very important, Matin, also adviser for the ministries of shipping, land and liberation war affairs, said Talking to reporters a day after he he has got a challenging job.

His priority as the home adviser would be solving the DU issue and added.

Asked whether the DU crisis and garment sector unrest might worsen. Matin said problems would be there and those have to be solved with | with Gulshan Police Station on

DU teachers

FROM PAGE 16 (Duta) President Prof Sadrul Amin, General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain, Science Faculty Dean Prof Harun-ar-Rashid, Applied Physics Department Chairman Prof Neem Chandra Bhowmik and a student Moniruzzaman Sardar. In the first case, after completion

of self-defence of the accused, the magistrate fixed today as the date for hearing closing arguments from the prosecution and the defence.

Reading out from his 10-page written statement, Prof Anwar broke down in tears as he denied any involvement in any movement against the government. He said that he and his colleagues were found at the place of occurrence while they were trying to help the students injured during a scuffle between an army man and a student at the DU playground on August 20 last year. Prof Harun in his statement said

that no proof had been found against him or his colleagues from the witnesses' statements before the court taken on different dates in connection with the case.

Prof Amin, Prof Neem and Monir also pleaded not guilty and

demanded justice from the court. In the second case in another court, defence lawyers completed cross-examining the IO of the case, Sub-inspector (SI) Babul Bhuiyan. The court also recorded statements of 15 prosecution witnesses including the complainant of the case.

The Metropolitan Magistrate Habibur Rahman Siddiqui then fixed today for recording the testi-

mony of the accused in custody. The cases were filed against 5,000 to 6,000 unnamed students and teachers of Dhaka University and outsiders. The police pressed charges against only four teachers and 15 students on September 9. Of them four teachers and a student

are in jail custody now. Advocates Syed Rezaur Rahman Masud Ahmed Talukder, Abdul Mannan Khan, Shafiul Basar Bhandari and Mosleuddin Jasim defended the accused in both cases.

Deals signed

from the plants for the national

grid for next three years. Electricity tariffs for the proposed plants will be between Tk 2.50 and 3.60 per unit for the gasfired and Tk 13-14 per unit for diesel-fired plants against the PDB's average production cost of Tk 1.98 per unit.

The government will pay the bills to the power producers in foreign currency-in US dollar-as the tariffs were determined in terms of foreign currency in the contracts.

Later on, the producers can convert the payments to local currency as well.

ACC moves

FROM PAGE 1

ACC lawyers filed the petition with the chamber judge's court of the SC and the court fixed the matter for hearing in the full court of the Appellate Division on March 27.

The two graft cases against Khaleda had been filed by the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption during Awami League's 1996-2001 rule. After Khaleda assumed power

in 2001, following her appeal the HC dismissed both the cases. However, the anti-graft body did not appeal against the HC judg-

The ACC has recently decided to appeal against the HC orders, but since it is too late to file the appeal it sought SC's permission through the delay condolence

9yr old

FROM PAGE 16 the report and editorial in two

newspapers. We therefore thank and express our gratitude to the newspapers." Singed by the ministry's senior

information officer, Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, the letter said they hoped that media would continue to cooperate with the ministry to protect the rights of children.

After the report was published on January 14, the local administration and joint forces took special measures for the girl's release. Special Public Prosecutor Advocate Zahirul Islam Manik applied to the Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression in this regard.

After the hearing at 10:30am on Tuesday, Judge GM Farid directed the jail super of Kishoreganj to transfer the child to the adolescent development centre at Konabari in Gazipur.

The Daily Star in its editorial on Tuesday said, " It really sounds ironical that the girl had to be kept in custody when she needed great care and psychological support from her family, after the highly traumatic experience, or a girl of that age should have been in a shelter home. Besides, one would expect only the rapist to end up in jail, not the victim.

Hasina

June 13 last year.

FROM PAGE 1 against the three for extorting

money, making threat of injury and committing the extortion in connivance with one another. Hasina and Selim pleaded

themselves as innocent on Sunday The former prime minister told the court, "False cases were filed against me after I had refused to strike a deal with the government." Azam J Chowdhury, managing director of Eastcoast Trading

Private Ltd, filed the extortion case

Govt may form bodies commission said.

FROM PAGE 1

number of advisers have been saying that the caretaker government will start the talks with political parties after the EC wraps up its electoral reform dialogues with the parties.

"Various things regarding the dialogues are being discussed. But nothing has been finalised. A committee might be formed comprising some advisers to prepare a detailed plan for it," a source in the chief adviser's office told The Daily Star.

The chief adviser however has yet to assign any adviser to maintain liaisons with the political parties regarding the much desired talks.

Meanwhile, Health Adviser MM Shawkat Ali on Tuesday made a phone call to AL Presidium Member Motia Chowdhury in his personal capacities since there is no bar on advisers in making such personal phone calls to political leaders, the sources said.

Talking to political parties, it was learnt that the issues of releasing the two detained former prime ministers, trials of war criminals, withdrawal of the state of emergency, and the skyrocketing prices of essentials are likely to be raised by the parties during the talks.

Some of them are also likely to demand that the caretaker government takes measures to hold the stalled 9th parliamentary election earlier than the December deadline set by the EC's electoral roadmap.

The Office of the Chief Adviser is also working hard to figure out a way to deal with the ultimatum given by a faction of BNP that they will not participate in the talks without party Chairperson Khaleda Zia's participation in it, who has been detained on charges of graft since September 3 of lastyear.

The other faction of BNP is how ever ready to join the dialogues,

where it intends to raise the issue of Khaleda's release. "We will join the dialogues and raise a number of issues including release of the party chairperson, prices of essentials, and the fertiliser crisis," Saifur-led BNP Standing Committee Member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily

Chairperson appointed Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain led faction of BNP has been demand

ing release of Khaleda Zia before the talks, so she may join it. AL, however, did not demand that its chief Sheikh Hasina must be

released for it to join the talks. "The government will have to deal with such conditions when it will start inviting the parties to dialogues," a source in the caretaker administration said. Besides, many political parties already said they will not sit in any dialogue with the government, with Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh or any anti-liberation force among their ranks, so the government will have to decide how to deal with the ultimatum, the source added.

Participating in the EC's electoral reform talks, all political parties except Jamaat and Islami Oikya Jote, asked the commission to bar war criminals from contesting in the polls, and not to register any anti liberation force as a political party.

They also declined to sit in a second round of talks with the EC with Jamaat among them, temporarily foiling the commission's plan for holding a day long talks with all the parties together on electoral reforms. The EC is now thinking about an alternative to avoid the complexity and it might sit with Jamaat separately, sources in the

ALTO RESPOND TO ADVISER'S CALL

"The party will take a decision at its presidium meeting on Friday and then we will respond to the adviser's call," AL Presidium Member Motia Chowdhury, who had received the phone call from Health Adviser MM Shawkat Ali, told The Daily Star last evening.

Following the adviser's phone call, senior leaders of AL including its Acting President Zillur Rahman yesterday had an initial discussion on how they should respond to the caretaker government's initiative, and decided that the party should discuss the issue in its presidium, the highest policy making body, which is scheduled to meet tomorrow in Zillur's Gulshan residence in the capital.

From tomorrow's meeting, AL might ask the adviser to let the party know formally about the government's position and the agenda of the talks, hinted AL policymakers.

"We want the head of the caretaker government to send a formal letter stating the agenda of the dialogues," said AL Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta.

Suranjit said when the party wil sit in a dialogue with the government, it will raise a number of burning national issues including release of Sheikh Hasina, trials of war criminals, and skyrocketing prices of essentials.

PARTIES TO BE INVITED There are over a hundred politica parties in the country, but the policymakers of the caretaker government believe it will not be possible to invite all of them to the talks. The government will have to set criteria to select the parties to be invited.

The immediate past EC led by Justice MA Aziz got itself mired in controversies by inviting 116 political parties to talks on preparing a

voter list in 2005. But the current EC led by ATM Shamsul Huda had fixed criteria for inviting the parties to the recently held electoral reform talks, in line with which 16 political parties, that had been deemed eligible for regis tration with the commission, were invited.

The immediate past BNP-led elected government, which held dialogues on militancy following countrywide series of bomb blasts on August 17, 2005, invited no more than 20 political parties.

Sources in the Office of the Chie Adviser said considering the infor mation available, the government will decide how many parties will be invited to the dialogues.

TIMELINE FOR THE TALKS

If the caretaker government waits for the wrapping up of the EC' electoral reform talks to begin its own dialogues with political parties, it might get delayed for an indefinite period since the EC faces uncertainty in completing the electora reform talks due to a legal problem.

The EC had invited M Saifur Rahman-led BNP faction to the electoral reform talks on November 22 last year, but the other faction led by Khandaker Delwar Hossain challenged the invitation in the High Court. The court stayed the effectiveness of the invitation and the matter is still pending. As a result, the EC could not complete the reform talks by November, a promise that had been made in its electoral roadmap.

Delwar

FROM PAGE 16 Shamsul Haider Siddiqui told The Daily Star yesterday that "it is true that the court ordered the authorities to allow the three lawyers including Delwar Hossain in, but we did not permit him because he did not seek permission from the jail authorities"

He said the other two lawyers applied to the authorities according to the jail code.

Sanaullah Mian, however, told The Daily Star that they submitted an application to the jail authorities Tuesday on behalf of the three lawyers, including Khandaker Delwar Hossain, for permission to meet the BNP chief.

He said if necessary they would apply again for permission to meet the former prime minister because they need to talk to her about the cases against her.

Hundreds of BNP faithful, mean time, gathered in front of the subjail yesterday in the hope that party leaders and workers would get direction from Khaleda once Delwar meetsher. Delwar and other leaders and

lawyers stayed in the area for about forty minutes, but the secretary general did not agree to brief the waiting reporters there. "They can come to my house if necessary," he The reporters later rushed to

Delwar's flat but many of them could not enter the briefing room as it was crowded with party workers before hand. The leaders intervened to make way for the press, without The journalists left the room

protesting the mismanagement Delwar Hossain later talked to a few journalists where he complained that Khaleda Zia has been subject to mental torture.

He also feared that Khaleda and her family members would not get justice. "We could not meet her even after court order. The govern ment influenced the jail authorities,

No admission

January 23," Prof Samad, convener of Blue Panel, said. Demonstrating students had

already given a deadline of January 18 for the release of the detainees. Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique former president of the Duta, told the press briefing that the teachers' only demand is unconditional and digni fied release of all the detainees

against them. The teachers decided to observe three-hour token hunger strike at the foot of Aparayeo Bangla from 10:00am to 1:00pm on January 21.

through withdrawal of cases filed

The meeting attended by around 100 teachers took several other decisions, which include continuation of black-ribbon wearing programme and hoisting black flag atop Arts Building until the release of the detainees. The meeting decided to open a

tribute to moving the cases against the detainees and compensating the detained students' families. STUDENT DEMONSTRATION DU students yesterday threatened to violate the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) if the detained teachers and

bank account and urged all to con-

freed within January 18. The students, under the banner of Students Against Repression, a platform formed by left-leaning student organisations, gave the

students of the university are not

The demonstrating students observed a two-hour class boycott programme, brought out silent processions, continued signature campaign and staged street drama. They will observe a two-hour

class boycott programme and form a human chain today. WHITE PANEL TEACHERS DID NOTJOINMEETING BNP-Jamaat backed White Panel teachers did not join the meeting, saying that holding such a meeting is

On the other hand, the Blue Panel teachers, who called the meeting said they convened the requisitioned meeting complying with the association's constitution.

The White Panel teachers are against going for any kind of demon strations for the release of the detain ees, as they said they have the "gov ernment assurance" in this regard.

GP to offload

FROM PAGE 1

the meeting was also attended by BTRCVice-chairman AMM Reza-e Rabbi, commissioner SM Munir Ahmed, Senior Vice-president of Telenor Per Eric Hylland Managing Director of Grameen Telecom Ashraful Hasan, Deputy Managing Director of Grameen Bank Dipal Chadra Barua and head of South Asian Equity Capital Market of Citibank NA Ravi Kapoor.

Ancient temple | Pak militants

FROM PAGE 16 tions over the years as thieves have stolen bricks, terracotta plaques and other valuables from the temple. The aesthetic value of the tem-

ple has also been seriously damaged by lewd comments and engravings on its walls by unscrupulous visitors. Taking advantage of the lax vigilance of the local police station and the upazila administration,

drug addicts and gamblers have

made a den of the temple and conduct anti-social activities, locals alleged. Two representatives from the Hindu community in the area said locals including a few influential traders have occupied the land of the temple and built houses and

not have adequate fund.'

Jamuna bridge

police station arrested Marganet One employee Shahidul Islam, a signalman at the west end weigh station of JMB, a day later as he had let an overweight goods laden truck to get on the bridge taking Tk 1,400 as a

The weigh stations equipped with brand new machinery interestingly have been 'malfunctioning' quite often since the start of their opera-

Tangail Superindent of Police (SP)

Abdul Mannan on Monday directed

to close Manjur Morshed, the OC of

JMB East police station, and its SI Shahabuddin, to the Police Lines due to different allegations against them including negligence in duty. Wahiduzzaman, an assistant engineer of the bridge authority, has been responsible for monitoring the activities at the weigh stations oper-

according to sources. He was also involved with the malpractices at the weigh stations,

ated by Marganet One, a duty he has

not been carrying out properly,

the sources alleged. Refuting the allegations, engineer Wahiduzzaman told The Daily Star that the responsibility is of the law enforcement agencies to check the malpractices at the weigh stations.

Rampant ascent on the bridge of overweight vehicles has been causing development of cracks on it. The cracks on the bridge which are between 0.1mm and 0.5mm in width have been widening by the day, sources in the bridge authority said.

The cracks on JMB, which was constructed in 1998 at a cost of Tk 4,000 crore, came in discussion in March, 2006 when several long cracks were found on its north lanes.

A probe committee, led by Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury to find out the reasons behind the cracks, said in its report that a flawed design of the bridge, rampant ascent of overweight vehicles on it, and lack of regular and proper maintenance are

Coalition

FROM PAGE 16 issues of the Middle East conflict, including Jerusalem, refugees and

settlements. The negotiations followed US President George W. Bush visit to the region last week during which he predicted that the two sides would sign a peace treaty before he left office in January 2009.

Lieberman, who joined Olmert's government in October 2006, just two months after the end of Israel's month-long war against the Shiite Hezbollah militia in Lebanon, said the peace talks were futile.

Prot Anwar

FROM PAGE 16 impulsive, on August 21 the acts were simultaneous and some external forces may have been involved in what happened on August 22. "We want to know why and at

whose direction the report has not

been published because the fates of the four detained Dhaka University teachers are tied to it," Anwar said. "We all know that some militants openly held processions and rallies during the state of emergency. But, no one was arrested. On the other

hand, everyone knows about the

prejudiced and vindictive measures taken against us," he added. He said the government and security forces representatives had come to resolve the matter on August 23 and agreed with the teachers that the crisis should end. But, the joint forces came and arrested the teachers that very night and took them to an

unknown destination blindfolded. He said students were angry after being manhandled by the army and scores of students were seriously injured in the attacks of the law enforcement agencies.

"Many teachers, including

myself, rushed to the hospital as we felt it was our duty to stand by the students," said Anwar. "Some teachers were also injured during the attacks, such as Yusuf Haider, which shows the

desperation of the attacks by the

security forces," he added. Anwar said the teachers' association tried its best to diffuse the situation by making certain proposals, which were not anti-state, and did not join the students in their protests.

"We only wanted the state of emergency to be lifted," he said. The DU Biology Faculty dean also said he had apologised on behalf of the students for the violent nature of the protest, but they

were not heeded Anwar said they have been kept in detention for four months and that poor shopkeepers and university employees were forced to give statements for framing charges against the DU teachers.

FROM PAGE 16 The capture of the fort came two days after the army said seven troops and 23 militants were killed in a clash in

seven semi-autonomous tribal regions bordering Afghanistan. Last week the military said it said peace is only possible when they repulsed a further attack in South Waziristan involving around 300 militants, killing around 50 of them.

Mohmand, another of Pakistan's

militancy has intensified in the tribal areas since Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf ordered troops to crush an uprising at a radical mosque in Islamabad in July. Insurgent leader Mehsud is ing was reported Wednesday in the

accused by the government of ordering most of those attacks from his hideout in South Waziristan, including Benazir's killing at an election rally on December 27.

the reasons behind the cracks, the bridge authority sources said. Overweight trains running over

the bridge also played a role in development of the cracks since there was no plan of train tracks running over it in the original design, according to

A South African company, Jomac, had the initial responsibility of operating and maintaining the bridge, later, Marganet One, a joint company of Bangladesh and Indonesia, was given the responsibility in 2004.

Marganet One officials could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts. However, an official of the company said in condition of anonymity that the arrest of one of their staff proves some of them were involved in the alleged malpractices.

Saying that ascent of overweight vehicles onto a bridge is very harmful for it and contributes to development of cracks, an engineer of Bangladesh Bridge Authority told The Daily Star that overweight vehicles should not even be allowed on the ramps of a bridge.

Only three assistant engineers are currently responsible to monitor toll collection, maintenance, ramps, and the adjacent land, he said.

how expert they are, can't carry out such a huge task. Although they pay surprise visits, it is not possible for them to continuously monitor the activities of about 400 staff of Marganet One. Saying that it is in no way acceptable that overweight vehicles get on

"Only three people, no matter

the bridge, Director (Admin) Masud Elahi of Bangladesh Bridge Authority told The Daily Star over the phone on Tuesday that he did not receive any complaint of letting overweight vehicles onto the bridge in exchange for bribes. He, however, said he heard that such allegations are there.

Gen Moeen

in my life even killing of an animal

that way. Asked if there is any possibility of army takeover of power, "I think no such situation has arisen in the country that warrants army take-

correct to do it. In modern world, none will accept martial law. Regarding the demand for the trial of war criminals, Moeen said, "We have to see why the trial could not take place in the last 36 years, why previous governments did not do it,

why people did not speak on it, why

the freedom fighters did not raise it."

over of power. Moreover, it is not

In reply to a question, Gen Moeen said he has no plan to become the president or chief executive of the country. "Since 1/11, you have seen all were thinking as if I were going to-

be the president, chief adviser or

the chief executive. But nothing

like that has happened as of now,' the army chief said. Asked how much respectful the government is towards rule of law since it has been said that whatever the verdict, the detained teachers and a student would be released, Moeen said the court will give judgment but the government has

the right to pardon anyone or abide by the court verdict. Govt preparing

Bangladesh became a full participant of the ARF in its 13th Ministerial meeting held in July 2006 in Malaysia, according to an official.

During the meeting, trade,

Referring to the Philippines'

commerce and prospect in various

well-developed aquaculture, the chief adviser sought Manila's cooperation in the development of aquaculture in Bangladesh. The ambassador appreciated Bangladesh's pharmaceutical

potential areas also featured.

industry and the good quality medicines produced here at competitive cost. Agreeing with him, the chief adviser said Bangladesh pharmaceuticals manufacture high quality and international standard medicines and the coun-

try is trying to further expand and

He said the Philippines can import medicines from Bangladesh in a bigger way. Secretary to the Chief Adviser's Office Kazi M Aminul Islam was

develop this promising sector.

present during the meeting 26 killed

FROM PAGE 16 was in practice dead anyway, was set to officially end at midnight Wednesday.

to keep an eye on the truce, was closing up and set to pull out later Wednesday. The government withdrew from the ceasefire two weeks ago, arguing that

smuggle in more weapons. Sri Lankan defence officials are convinced they have the upper hand in the long-running conflict, and have kill the LTTE's leaders and capture

Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked tens of thousands of people dead.

405 rebels since the start of the month against 20 soldiers killed. More fight-The island's military began the New Year with a vow to crush the

authorities routinely prevent journalists and diplomats from travelling to frontlines or the northern jungles controlled by the LITE.

Moudud bent rules against the Duta constitution.

However, following a deep investiga-

specific charges and proof, making it very difficult for his powerful lobbies to have him released HOW THE SCAM WAS ORCHESTRATED Under pressure from the top level of the government, Sonali Bank sanctioned a Bridge Finance loan of Tk 15 crore to World Tel Bangladesh in early 2005. As per sanction terms of the

tion into the allegations against him,

Rab arrested him on November 6 on

Bermuda has to execute the charge documents and provide corporate guarantee in favour of WorldTel Bangladesh as guarantor of the entire amount of loan. WorldTel Bermuda had its documents and its guarantee notarised by

notary public Bermuda and verified

by the attorney general's office of

Upon scrutinising these docu-

loan, WorldTel Holdings Ltd,

ments, Sonali Bank's legal adviser pointed out that these WorldTel Barmuda documents must bear the attestation of Bangladesh Consulate Office in Bermuda. Sonali Bank on February 15, 2005 in a letter to the foreign ministry inquired whether there was any embassy or consulate office of Bangladesh in Bermuda that could

attest WorldTel Bangladesh's loan

application which was being guaran-

teed by the company's Bermuda

The legal adviser was quoted in the letter as saying, "The charge documents and the corporate guarantee, on my vetting are not found to be in compliance with the legal requirements. To be effective in law, these documents must bear the attestation of the Bangladesh Consulate Office in Bermuda. After Consulate in Bermuda, these documents will have to be attested again by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh in Dhaka. Thereafter, the charge documents and the corporate guarantee Nayeem Mehtab Chowdhury.

will require revalidation under our law by affixing appropriate nonjudicial stamps through treasury challan. After affixing necessary stamps, these documents will have to be filed with the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act." In reply, the foreign ministrystrangely--on the same day on

or similar arrangement thereon." Then as part of an elaborate scheme, Dhaka's Deputy Commissioner Md Abdul Bari on April 28 sent a letter to the law ministry seeking its opinion on this guar antee. On May 14, 2005, the law ministry in a letter to the deputy commissioner said that since the rules of business do not allow the ministry to give opinions on private citizen's case, it can do so if such an opinion is sought by the finance

ministry. The deputy commissioner

acted on May 16 and the finance

ministry obliged on May 24 Then the law ministry in a two page legal advice okayed WorldTel Bermuda's guarantee. Using an unconvincing argument, the law ministry wrote that WorldTel Bermuda is affiliated with WorldTel Bangladesh, which is registered under the 1994 Company Act. "Therefore, WorldTel Bangladesh can be considered as a reliable organisation for attesting the signatures of the corporate guarantee and charge documents of WorldTel Holdings Bermuda." It mentioned that already the

deputy commissioner of Dhaka did not object to attest the signatures in question. Therefore, if it (WorldTel Bangladesh) takes the responsibility to answer any question in case of a problem related to the issue, the attestation by the Bangladesh authorities may affix appropriate non-judicial stamps through treasury challan to the relevant docu-Based on this legal opinion,

February 15, 2005 told the bank, "We have no consulate office in Bermuda

Sonali Bank released the loan to district administration but we do

When contacted, an official of the Archaeology Department told The Daily Star, "We have plans regarding protecting and preserving the temple with the help of the

trade centres. But, there is no one to resist these activities, they said.

He has denied any role in Benazir of the year. Bhutto's assassination. Militants also took over swathes of the Swat valley, also in northwest Pakistan, and proclaimed Islamic law before being chased into the mountains by troops.

The Norwegian-led Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), set up there was no point in attempting to negotiate with "terrorists" and that the Tigers had merely used the ceasefire to

their northern mini-state. The decades-old conflict has left The attack also came amid an escalation in fighting in the north, with Colombo claiming it has killed

Tigers by June, and set a target to kill 3,000 guerrillas in the first six months But casualty claims are almost

impossible to verify, as Sri Lankan