# HC stays extortion case

FROM PAGE 1 The attorney general said the government would file an appeal with

the Supreme Court (SC) Meanwhile, though the trial against Hasina was scheduled to begin yesterday Judge Azizul Huq of the trial court adjourned its function till next Monday following a time prayer submitted by Hasina's coun-

The court also fixed January 21, 22 and 23 for trial of the case. The stay came a couple of hours after the date

The trial court on January 13 framed charges against Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana and cousin former health minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim in the Tk 2.99 crore extortion case filed by Managing Director of Eastcoast Trading Pvt Ltd

Police Station on June 13 last year. Azam charged Hasina and Selim with extorting the sum from him for the work of Siddhirganj Power Plant

in Narayangani. On July 24, Gulshan police indicted her together with Rehana and Selim as the prime accused.

The joint forces held Hasina on July 16 and later that day a magistrate's court sent her to a sub-jail on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex.

The same day the home ministry issued an approval for the case to be taken under the EPR, 2007. The order was signed by Mohammad Mohsin, an additional secretary of the home

Hasina filed a writ challenging the inclusion of EPR in the case and the , HC issued a rule on the secretary and the additional secretary (law section-1) of the home ministry and the deputy inspector general of prison (Dhaka range) asking them to reply why the approval won't be declared illegal.

Hasina and Selim appeared in the dock yesterday morning and their counsels sought time from the court for consultation with their clients.

The counsels of Hasina argued that they need to have an effective consultation with Hasina and Selim for making preparation to defend the case. They petitioned for adjourning the trial for a day.

Hasina also told the court she cannot talk freely with her counsels in the courtroom as the court gives her time for it on completion of the daily proceedings.

Complaining about "bugging" the discussions with her lawyers in the courtroom, Hasina sought necessary directives so that she can have the consultation in prison.

She also alleged what she says could be heard or learned even from outside as her speeches are being recorded by recording devices and later sent outside.

She also alleged a major part of them her speeches was leaked out of the courtroom till now. She mentioned detectives and intelligence officials keeping an eye on the attendants in the courtroom and also leaking out whatshesays.

"As I was involved in the way the government works, I know how all these work. I might have had many things or secret words to say that should not be leaked out or heard by

She said when she talks with authorities remain present and take note of her speech.

#### Boro on track

higher authorities for quick resolu-

tion, they added. The government will also look to cut through bureaucratic red tape to speed up the supply to farmers. Each of the 30 officials will oversee

field-level operations in around two districts. They will work in consultation with the deputy commissioners and report back to the taskforce.

The steps come after low rice production and a rise in international market price have raised the spectre of food crisis in the coming months.

Agriculture ministry data show 1.55 crore metric tons of Boro was produced last fiscal year (FY07) while this year's (FY08) target has been set at 1.75 crore metric tons, revised up

from 1.60 crore. Aman production target for FY08

According to preliminary data of

the ministry, only 1.1 crore tonnes have been produced compared to 1.28 crore tonnes in FY07. However, sources say the figure could be much

The ministry had estimated that Aman production losses to back-toback floods and Cyclone Sidr would be around 14 lakh tonnes while the preliminary figures show the shortfall to be around 20 lakh tonnes.

There is however always a discrepancy between figures given by the agriculture ministry and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

According to BBS data, Aus production in FY07 was 16 lakh tonnes, by the agriculture ministry. BBS put wholesale rice agency at the Aman production at 1.08 crore Babubazar, one of the largest tonnes while the ministry put it at 1.28 crore tonnes.

Our district correspondents report that the year-long fertiliser and diesel crises too have contributed to lower production in FY07.

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh yesterday said the price of rice has gone up by Tk 11-16 per kilogram from that in January last year. The rate of inflation exceeded 11 percent in November with food inflation in urban areas hovering around 16 percent.

Low- and fixed-income groups have been the ones bearing the brunt

of the soaring prices. Balance of payments has also

been hithard by an se in imports. Around \$2 billion will have to be spent in the first six months of FY08 on import to meet the domestic food shortages that have taken the balance of payments from having a healthy surplus to a deficit last December.

Hasina added that the people taking notes do not stop even though

she tells them about the jail code. Hasina sought a court order directing the jail authorities that she should be allowed to talk with her lawyers privately and that they should keep watch on her movement within sight limit but stay beyond

Hasina also added that people from different agencies always keep their ear on the door. As she suspects the people of eavesdropping, she has started to write down instead of talking to her counsels, she added. "But at this point they have for-

bidden me to write anything." The court allowed both Hasina and Selim to meet five lawyers each on next Saturday and Sunday in jail.

The judge also said he would give Azam J Chowdhury with Gulshan an observation on the matter of eavesdropping in the order passed to jail authorities regarding the accused meeting with lawyers.

UNBADDS Hasina yesterday asked her party men to prepare for the next general elections to restore democracy.

Hasina, who appeared in the court in connection with an extortion case, passed on the advice through acting Awami League President Zillur Rahman who was present at the court during consultations with her lawyers.

During her appearance in the trial court a few days ago, Hasina had demanded election to parliament by March-April.

Without mentioning any name, Hasina said she did not whiten any black money but she has information that an eminent lawyer who whitened several crore taka has now waged war against black money.

Hasina also expressed concern over soaring prices of essentials as she said during her rule prices of essentials were within the reach of the common people.

#### DU violence

FROM PAGE 1

lawyers of the four detained DU teachers and a student told the court that the prosecution failed to prove the charges brought against their clients in the first information report (FIR), the charge sheet and statements of the witnesses.

The court had recorded state ments of 16 prosecution witnesses including the complainant and investigation officer (IO) of the case.

The defence lawyers said although the names of their clients were not included in the FIR, the IO included their names in the charge sheet to harass

Moreover, the witnesses who had given statements during trial could not identify any of the detained four teachers and the student.

The lawyers said the prosecution did not produce any independent witnesses and the witnesses who appeared before the court were influenced by the law

enforcement agencies. On the other hand, the proselawyers in jail, people from jail cution told the court that the charges brought against the accused were proved beyond

> The accused are Dhaka University Teachers' Association (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.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani fixed January 21 for the hearing on arguments from the prosecution and the defence of another case against the same accused.

Earlier, the court had recorded statements of 12 prosecution witnesses including complainant and the IO of the

The cases were filed against 5,000 to 6,000 unnamed DU students and teachers along with outsiders. However, the police pressed charges against only four DU teachers and 15 students on September 9.

Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman, Masud Ahmed Talukder, Abdul Mannan Khan, Shafiul Basar Bhandari and Mosleuddin Jasim defended the accused in both the cases.

### Rice prices

FROM PAGE 20

yesterday, causing storage space shortage, said the wholesalers.

"We are worried over the raids of the joint forces and the shrinking compared to 21 lakh tonnes shown demands," said manager of a wholesale markets in old part of the

> He said they are now trying to sell the rice at reduced prices to small wholesalers and retailers without even taking any advance payment. "As a result, we, the wholesalers, are running the risk of incurring losses."

Abdur Rahman, of Rahman Traders, a wholesaler at Karwan Bazar, said three wholesalers of Badamtoli called him several times over phone, offering a few truckloads of rice at a price that is Tk 30 lower than the usual price of each maund. They even offered taking off the transport fare, he added.

Tangail General Hospital where on-Sale of rice at Open Market Sales duty doctor declared one dead. Of (OMS) shops and BDR outlets continued at Tk 25 per kg. Retailers said the sale of coarse rice came down while the sale of fine rice remained unchanged. morgue for autopsy.

### Dhaka-Kolkata

FROM PAGE 20

days ago, said the government has already sent documents of a treaty to New Delhi. "The service will start immediately after India signs it and sends it back to us," he said.

On the barbed-wire fencing Quader, also the adviser of housing and public works ministry, said "We have objected to the barbedwire fencing. They have their reasons, we have ours. The new proposal we sent does not have this barbed-wire fencing provision. The matter will be discussed at the state level, he said.

Another major point of disagreement, how many days a week the trains will run, has also been solved, claimed the adviser.

"We had earlier said five to six days a week but they said only one day for administrative reasons. Now they are saying they do not have any objection. The service can be three to four days a week or as many days needed," Quader said.

During the meeting, held at the housing and public works ministry, the adviser drew the attention of the Indian high commissioner to negative news regarding Bangladesh propagated in Indian

Pinak Ranjan assured Quader of looking into the matter so that the negative propaganda comes to ar end, government sources said.

The adviser and the Indian high commissioner expressed hope that trade and commerce and tourism industry would benefit once the train service starts on a regular

Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mukta D Tomar and Indian Railway Adviser Jaya Varma Sinha were also present during the meeting.

#### Home adviser

FROM PAGE 1

Normally proceedings of such cases need to be completed within 120 days of filing them.

Asked whether the graft cases filed under the emergency power rules will have acceptability once the emergency is lifted, Matin said that a crime remains a crime whether or not under a period of emergency. He said, "The cases filed have depth and I hope trial of these cases will be held no matter which government comes to power

Matin, also the chairman of National Coordination Committee on Serious Crimes and Corruption (NCC), said that the NCC has no plan to publish any more lists of corrupt suspects though it will take into cognisance serious crimes. He added that the NCC is overloaded at present with investigations and trial of cases filed against the 197

When asked about allegations of abuse of emergency power rules to detain some people, the adviser replied that the law ministry would look into any such incident if it had indeed taken place.

On the current controversy surrounding the Dhaka University cases, Matin said that the government was aware of the situation and they are trying to work out a

respectable solution for both sides. Asked what kind of a time frame was needed to find a "respectable solution", he said that he was unable to put a time frame on it as

the case was still under trial. When asked whether the government might withdraw the cases, Matin said he was unable to comment on the matter.

The home advisor said a total of 45 persons have been convicted in the graft cases supervised by the NCC so far. Of them 19 were in cases moved by the ACC, 12 by National Board of Revenue and 14

by the police. He added that at present 78 cases are still under trial, investigation of 247 cases is in progress, inquiry of 31 cases, and preliminary inquiry of 54 cases are also in

### Road crashes

FROM PAGE 1

head-on collision happened when both the bus drivers lost control over the steering while crossing each other."

He said most of the victims were passengers of the bus of DM Paribahan. Both the buses were seized.

Six bodies were sent to the Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, At least five people were killed and 25 others injured yesterday as a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Bil Gharinda in Tangail, reports our Tangail Correspondent.

Of the deceased, two were identified as Abdus Sattar, 45, and Shahidul, 35, of Sirajganj while the identity of the others could not be known immediately.

Police said a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Sirajganj fell into a roadside ditch at about 12:00 noon when its driver tried to make way for another bus coming from the opposite direction at Bil Gharinda leaving four passengers dead on the spot and 26 others wounded. The injured were rushed to the

the wounded, seven were in critical condition. On information, police recovered the bodies and sent those to People urged

FROM PAGE 20 city's Zia Hall

Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandakar, deputy chief of the liberation forces, was the chief guest of the meeting. It was organised by Greater Khulna Freedom Fighters' Forum and presided over by its convenor Gazi Rahmatullah Dadu Bir Pratik.

Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah Bir Uttam, commander of sector-11, Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta Bir Uttam, commander of sector-4, Lt General (retd) M Masudur Rahman Bir Pratik, Lt Colonel (retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, commander of sector-8, and office secretary of Sector Commanders' Forum Akku Chowdhury were present at the meeting as special guests.

On January 10, Sector Commanders' Forum decided to go to five divisions of the country for mobilising public support against war criminals and yesterday's visit to Khulna was the first in the series. Soon after their arrival in Khulna

they laid floral wreaths at the martyred freedom fighters' memorial at Gallamari in the city. Over 2,000 freedom fighters from 10 districts of Khulna division participated in the view exchange meeting that began at 10:30am with recita-

at 6:00 in the morning from Dhaka,

Bible and Tripitak. Sheikh Kamruzzaman Tuku, who was the commander of Khulna district unit of Mukti Bahini during Liberation War, conducted the

tions from the Holy Quran, Geeta,

programme. Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandakar said that the freedom fighters as well the people in general should be united against the antiliberation forces and drum up support for the trial of war criminals.

He urged the government not to spare the war criminals from being punished in order to show due state of emergency in the country.

respect to the freedom fighters, who had laid down their lives for the

independence of the country. Special guests and leaders of the Khulna Freedom Fighters' Forum also demanded exemplary punishment of the war criminals expressing solidarity with the programmes of the Sector Commanders' Forum for launching movement in this regard.

In the afternoon, the sector commanders talked with family members of martyred freedom fighters as well as the leaders of different professional, socio-cultural and women organisations at Khulna Circuit

They also held separate meetings with leaders of teachers' association and student organisations urging them to stand united against the war criminals.

### Gen Moeen

FROM PAGE 1 After scrutiny, the voter list will be finalised, said the army chief whose force is also involved in the gigantic task of making the voter list with photographs and national

identity card. After completion of the voter list, the elections will be held as per announced roadmap of the Election Commission, General Moeen told the journalists, giving an outline of the transitional pro-

He called for cooperation of all, including the political parties, to hold the election in accordance with the Election Commission's roadmap

The general election was scheduled for January 22 last year but cancelled following the 1/11 changeover amid a serious political crisis over electoral issues, which also prompted the declaration of

# Pro-Khaleda BNP

The warring groups within BNP have been keeping quiet about the demand for trial of war criminals since both believe Jamaat's support is of paramount importance in the polls expected to be held by this December.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the former secretary general who was expelled by Chairperson Khaleda and later reinstated by the standing committee as a member, is the only senior BNP leader to have called for rial of the war criminals. "The chairperson's presence is a

must for us to take part in any dia-

logue with the government, and I hope all of four-party alliance will raise their voice for her release," Rizvi Ahmed, acting office secretary of Delwar-led BNP, yesterday told The Daily Star. Asked if they would discuss the former premier's release at the dia-

logue, Assistant Secretary General of Jamaat Muhammad Kamaruzzaman

said, "This is not our concern. Our alliance is only for election.' When his attention was drawn to for release of Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina, he said the issue is not important for Jamaat-e-Islami.

"In fact, we are not much interested in the dialogue as there seems to be nothing to discuss. However, we will attend the talks if invited," he said adding that caretaker government's only task is to hold election and hand over power to an elected government.

Some BNP leaders think after the

state of emergency was declared at

the start of last year Jamaat has

changed the way it used to view BNP. It did not even bother to come up with any statement protesting the arrest of Khaleda Zia. A Jamaat leader, however, said they issued a statement in this regard

after the interim government had

relaxed the ban on indoor politics. Queried about the current status of relations between the two parties, he said BNP is facing some internal problems and Jamaat hopes they would be able to overcome those soon. But at this moment, his party

### the BNP and Awami League's calls won't support any particular faction. Political dialogue

FROM PAGE 1

residence in the capital. Meanwhile, Dhaka City unit of the AL yesterday directed its 100 wards and all thana unit leaders to prepare resolution for constitutional movements demanding release of their

detained party chief. Party insiders said that Hasinahas strictly directed the party leaders not to go for any kind of movement so that no 'unwanted' forces could assume power through an undemocratic way or the current interim government could stay in power for a

long time with this excuse. The issues on which the 14-party is likely to take common position are holding a free, fair and credible election, restoring democracy as soon as possible, bringing the war criminals to justice and barring them from contesting any polls and lifting

of state of emergency. After reaching a decision in the presidium meeting, the AL will seek government's position and the agenda of the talks formally.

On Tuesday, Health Adviser MM Shawkat Ali made a phone call to AL leader Motia Chowdhury asking for AL's position over the proposed dialogue. Today's meeting might assign a

senior leader for maintaining con-

tact with the leaders of the 14-party

coalition and to reach a consensus over different issues to be discussed with the government in the dialogue. Talking to The Daily Star, AL presidium member Motia Chowdhury and acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam said that they want to have an integrated approach towards the dialogue and so they would talk with their allies on

the issues to be discussed. Ashraf also said that they would have a collective speech over the Election Commission's redrawing of the parliamentary constituencies from today's meeting.

Workers' Party President Rashed meeting. Khan Menon and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu told The Daily Star that they would discuss the matter with each other in ing. the alliance as soon as they get formal proposals from government and take a common stance. DHAKA CITYAL'S MEETING

thana units to prepare the resolution for movements demanding release of Sheikh Hasina.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, acting general secretary of AL city unit Advocate Qamrul Islam said they would hand over the resolution to the AL central committee after preparing it.

The city unit in last month took a resolution seeking their right from the central committee to go for movement to free Hasina, but the AL central committee did not respond

"We think that we should go for

constitutional movements besides continuing legal battle to free our leader," Qamrul said. The meeting also decided to hold

special prayers at every mosque in the city after Juma prayers today for Hasina's release. NORMAN MEETS ALLEADERS British Deputy High Commissioner

to Bangladesh Duncan Norman held a meeting with senior AL leaders at AL Acting President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan home yesterday. The overall political situation, proposed dialogue between the

caretaker government and the politi-

cal parties, electoral roadmap,

release of detained political leaders including AL chief Sheikh Hasina, and the human rights situation were among the issues that came up in the one-and-half-hour meeting from Norman headed the political wing of British high commission in Dhaka for a long time and was promoted to deputy high commissioner a couple of months ago. He also met

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and BNP standing committee member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman this week. AL leaders Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Abul Mal Abdul Muhit, Abdus Shaheed and Dr Hasan Mahmud were present during the

AL sources told The Daily Star that Norman contacted them a couple of days ago in order to have the meet-

"We clarified our position regard ing the holding of the next parliamentary election to the British deputy high commissioner. We told him An extended meeting of AL city unit that it would be possible to hold the held at the party's central office on elections much earlier than the Bangabandhu Avenue fixed seven scheduled time," said an AL leader days for ward units and 20 days for preferring anonymity.

# Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 1

how "untouchable" they might have appeared or pretended to be

OURREPLY

On May 24, 2007, the BTRC in a letter asked six mobile phone operators to sign Interconnection contract with World Communications Investment (WCI) of WorldTel minority share holder Nayeem Mehtab Chowdhury. This was done many months after WorldTel Bangladesh Limited (WTBL) MD Todd M Kirnan in a letter informed the BTRC on Oct 29, 2006, of transfer of the company's control. Kirnan had said the WTBL is the majority shareholder and that Nayeem's company WCI is the minority shareholder. Kirnan had also sought BTRC's approval for transfer of control. Despite dozens of reminders, the approval was not given till date. Side by side, the WTBL also lodged complaints about Nayeem's scams but no action was taken.

These facts speak for them selves.

### Taimur

FROM PAGE 20 newspersons about the ACC deci-

The ACC will submit separate charge sheets against Taimur for takingTk 16 lakh andTk 22.5 lakh in

Deputy Director Golam Mostofa filed four cases with Paltan Police Station against the former BRTC

boss on August 14 last year. Of the cases, the Tk 16 lakh bribery case states that Taimur made a deal for buying 135 buses and trucks with the SR Tractors, allegedly taking the sum in bribe.

approved submission of charge sheet in another case against him for realising Tk 25 lakh in bribe. Taimur, also general secretary of Narayanganj district BNP, was

arrested by the joint forces on April

The ACC on January 14

18 last year on charges of corrup-Meanwhile, former director general of Bangladesh Livestock and Research Institute Dr Kazi Imdadul Haque yesterday submitted wealth statement to the com-

mission. He claimed he has wealth

His wealth includes 92 decimals

worth Tk 65.23 lakh.

of land worth Tk 5.2 lakh in Savar and Bogra jointly owned by him and his wife, a 3-katha plot worth Tk 3.2 lakh in Uttara, Tk 2.2 lakh bank balance, a car worth Tk 4.25 lakh, and his wife's flat in Lalmatia worth Tk 27.38 lakh. Replying to a question over the

remark of an adviser about not

continuing with the anti-graft drive

anymore, Col Hanif said: "The commission will continue its work." He also said the commission would decide fates of 263 staffs.

who have not been absorbed in the commission. "The team formed to look into necessary papers of the nonabsorbed officials has already completed its job and another committee headed by the ACC chairman will interview them

# EC launches

FROM PAGE 20 any mistake there, he or she can leave some remarks and the

authorities will later correct it. Inaugurating the website, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda said the EC would gradually spread the system in divisional and district headquarters to provide voters with the facility.

"It is an additional step to cor-

rect mistakes in the voter list, if

there is any. It will be very helpful for us to correct the mistakes before we publish the draft voter list inviting voters to see if there were any mistakes," CEC Huda said. "At this stage, voters can themselves check their particulars recorded in the voter list. We hope

the city dwellers will take the opportunity," the CEC said, congratulating Bangladesh Army for developing the website. Bangladesh Army and Tiger ITBD.Com jointly developed the A delegation of Bangladesh

ence room yesterday demonstrated how a voter can check his or her particulars online. After registration, voters' particulars will be available on the website within 10 to 15 days and will remain there for 15 days. If a

voter made any mistake in giving

information during registration, he

Army at the EC Secretariat confer-

or she could have it corrected. Replying to a query, Major General Shafiqul Islam, military secretary at army headquarters, said they have opened a desk at the headquarters to see the remarks to be posted by voters. "It is a major task for us. We will send the remarks to the concerned registration centres to correct the voters' particulars," he said adding that the security of information will be ensured.

He said they assessed that the number of voters in DCC area might stand at 40 lakh.

list and national identity cards for the DCC area began in December and it is expected to be completed on January 31. As of January, 15, a total of 32.70 lakh voters have been registered.

The task for preparing the voter

# EC looks for ways

FROM PAGE 20

holding the next parliamentary election as per the announced electoral roadmap," Ashrafadded.

Saifur-led BNP leader Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman said the EC should invite the BNP immediately for talks as time is running out fast. "We have to complete a lot of tasks for reforms in the party...We are not sure whether we can participate dialogue with the government since we are yet to sit with the commission over electoral reforms," he

said when contacted. Jatiya Party (Ershad) acting chief Anisul Islam Mahmud said they would bring reforms in the light of reform proposals finalised by the EC.

"We discussed the issues with the commission, and its duty is to let the parties know its final reform proposals before sitting for a second round dialogue," he told this correspondent yesterday.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu said the EC should immediately resolve the existing crisis so that they can sit with the government over reform issues.

For the first time since its reconstitution on February 4 last year, the EC's action triggered controversy when it invited Saifur-led BNP faction for talks, ignoring objections from BNP faction led by detained Chairperson Khaleda Zia-appointed party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain. The latter claimed

itself as the main stream of the party. The High Court (HC) on November 18 last year stayed the operations of the EC's November 5 letter to BNP standing committeenominated Party Secretary General Hafizuddin Ahmed and issued a rule on the commission to explain in three weeks why the invitation

BIJOY TV SCAM

### HC stays case against Ctg mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

stayed proceedings of the Bijoy TV scam case against detained Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and chief executive officer (CEO) of the company. The HC also issued a rule upon

Chittagong deputy dommissioner

The High Court (HC) yesterday

asking him to explain why the charges framed against the accused would not be declared cancelled. A division bench comprising lustice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice MA Hye

and his co-accused Imtiaz Hossain Chowdhury. The case is at present pending with the Chittagong Divisional

passed the order upon a petition

filed by the CCC Mayor Mohiuddin

Special Judge's Court. According to the charge sheet in the case, Mohiuddin drew Tk 1.47 crore from the CCC without clear ance from the LGRD and information ministries and without any other required procedures needed to start a satellite channel. Bijoy TV went on air on December 16, 2006. The government stopped airing of the channel on March 15, 2007 after

issuing a show cause notice on CCC. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case against the accused on May 27 and

Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for

charge sheet was submitted on November 22 last year.

### the petitioners.

Ostrich dies

FROM PAGE 20 The source said that the zoo authorities suspected that a Rhea bird, held in the very next cage to the ostriches' one, was suffering from Bird Flu. In order to prevent spread of the disease, the authorities made an external bamboo fence boundary outside the Rhea's

cage, which took up space from the ostriches' one. According to the source, the female ostrich was about to lay an egg and panicked when her cage shrank. She ran havoc within the reduced space and injured herself

"The egg inside the bird's abdomen broke," said the source working with the zoo. Following this incident, the ostrich was suffering from dehy-

dration and was not taking food,

on the bamboo fence.

the source added.

Meanwhile zoo authorities have said that they had the Rhea bird had died due to cold and not of Bird Flu as they had initially suspected. The zoo authorities have carried

#### known immediately. Abdus Salam Pintu

out an autopsy of the ostrich but

details of report could not be

FROM PAGE 20 picked up but declined to confirm his arrest.

Bilkis was the headmistress of Motifheel Government Boys' High School and was transferred to Dhanmondi Government Kamrunnessa Girls' High School around 15 days ago. She still stays at her Motijheel Government Boys' High School residence.

Fazlul Kabir arrested Pintu in connection with his alleged involvement in the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League

should not be declared illegal and void. The EC in its reply on November 13 refused to cancel the invitation.

Since the scheduled dialogue was stalled, the EC says it wants quick disposal of the matter whatever the

court verdict is. In a recent development, an HC bench had dropped this case from the list since counsels for the BNP

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday asked the law cell of the EC Secretariat to make all efforts to overcome the difficulties, sources

Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain on Wednesday said the EC asked its lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain to take steps for an expeditious hearing and disposal of the writ petition to settle the issue.

reforms talks with political parties on 15 parties including the AL, both factions of Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-

said they would go for intra-party reforms in line with the electoral laws to be enacted by the government on receipt of the EC's proposals. Once these laws are made, most

their national councils.

including Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, a Chinese foreign ministry

nuclear issue," spokeswoman Jiang

Yu said. But she declined to offer support for Negroponte's call for a new UN resolution, instead reiterating further negotiations.

resolution and demonstrate flexibility and work with the international community," she said. "We also hope the international community will intensify diplomatic

was violating an existing UN resolution by carrying out uranium enrich-US Secretary of State

support for a new resolution when she meets Yang in Berlin next week, Negroponte said. Rice will join her counterparts from Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia to discuss new sanctions and other elements of a

Condoleezza Rice is to seek Beijing's

#### resolution, US officials announced in Washington on Wednesday.

FROM PAGE 20 screaming. Police have cordoned off the area. The walls were splattered

frequented by lower-income residents of the city. Police officer Intiaz Khan said that a man "apparently blew himself up at the gate of the Imambargha

elections on February 18, which were delayed by six weeks following the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto. The country has been on edge since the start of the holy month of

when a bomb fixed to a motorcycle exploded in Karachi as President Pervez Musharraf visited the south-There have now been four deadly

eastern city of Lahore a week ago that killed 16 policemen and four More than 800 people have been killed in attacks -- mainly suicide bombings targeting the security forces -- in Pakistan over the past

year, making 2007 the deadliest for

militant violence in the country's

Sariakandi Police Station to record the case and submit the investigation report by February 28.

Akhand, 50.

Sarkar, 65, of Narchi Fakirpara, his brother Khorsheduzzaman Sarkar, 60, Batu Fakir, 55, Fulu Fakir, 52, his brother Chandu Fakir, 50, Moklesur Rahman Mondol, 60, his brother Bhelu Mondol, Saheb Ali Mondol, 51,

ant said the accused were collaborators and terrorists. At 8:30pm on December 15, 1971 the accused interrupted his father's dinner and forced him to go with them at gun They took his father close to Fakirpara Canal where

Akhteruzzaman and

Khorsheduzzaman shot his father

Khoka Mondol, 53, and Abed Ali

In the case statement, the compli-

dead after the other accused stabbed The compliant also said the accused actively collaborated with the Pakistani forces, evicted locals

him, Amzad alleged.

from their homes and killed innocent people.

to get registration from the EC. And for this, the parties will have to hold

# US pushes China

spokeswoman told reporters. "The two countries will exchange views on bilateral relations and the

Beijing's oft-repeated preference for "On the Iranian nuclear issue, our position is consistent. We hope that Iran will abide by (an existing) UN

negotiations," she said. Although a recently issued US intelligence report said Iran has likely suspended research into designs of a nuclear warhead, Negroponte said it

efforts for an early resumption of

# Suicide attack

with blood and body parts," said Waqar Hussein, a worshipper. Residents said the mosque was under construction and mainly

(Shia mosque), killing at least five people and injuring over 20." The attack further heightens instability in Pakistan ahead of

Moharram, which has in previous years seen a surge in sectarian violence between the minority Shia and majority Sunni communities. At least 10 people were killed and about 50 wounded on Monday

bombings in Pakistan this year, including a suicide attack in the

## Liberation war

directed the officer-in-charge of

The accused are Akhtaruzzaman

Sources said a CID team led by Assistant Superintendent of Police

On January 3 this year, joint forces picked him up at Gulshan in the capital but released him on

January 5.

faction did not appear in the court.

The EC began its electoral September 12 last year and sat with At the talks, leaders of the parties

parties will have to bring reforms in them and amend their constitutions