Earth Award 2008

FROM PAGE 1

Helen Clark, prime minister of New Zealand, Balgis Osman-Elasha, a senior researcher at Sudan's Higher Council for Environment & Natural Resources, Henrietta Elizabeth Congress of Yemen.

observed that Dr Atiq is one of the leading specialists in the field through his national and international experience in sustainable

Dr Atiq's publications on the subjects of environment and development in Bangladesh can be a reference for peers, he said adding that the post-graduate course that Dr Atiq had designed on "Sustainable Development Challenges and North South Dialogue" is innova-

Lauding Dr Atiq's contribution, Achim Steiner noted that as a citizen of Bangladesh, a country extremely vulnerable to climate change and flooding, his expertise remains vital throughout the region.

The United Nations

The annual prize rewards individuals from around the globe who ally and beyond, to the protection and sustainable management of the Earth's environment and natural resources. the reasons of malfunctioning of

Past Champions of the Earth winners include, among others, Ms Massoudeh Ebtekar, former vice president of Iran, Mikhail Gorbachev of the Russian

Born in 1950, Dr Atiq Rahman is a lead author of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He

Nizami, Mojahid

on those mass graves, the IO said that he would collect evidence

with several accused in the case as well, but refused to disclose the names for the sake of investigation.

Mohammad Amir Hossain Mollah, a freedom fighter and resident of Pallabi's Duaripara, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, have to exercise a sort of mutual

A day later, Pallabi police registered a case following the court procedures in the South Asian order. The court also asked the police to submit a report in this connection after investigation.

played a leading role in UNCED, Rio, 1992, Intergovernmental

Negotiations on Climate Change

(INC) session and all the

Conferences of Parties and Climate

Summits in Kyoto, 1997 leading to

University, Boston, USA where he

designed and teaches a multi-

disciplinary post-graduate course

on "Southern Perspectives on

structure similar to a public or

national security council that

would be comprised of civil society

members, military officials and

continuation of democratic pro-

cess if political parties fail to settle

political issues and prevent similar

violent situations that preceded

Though the caretaker govern-

ment has made some significant

changes by separating the judiciary

from the executive, appointing

some good individuals in the

Election Commission, the Public

Service Commission and the Anti-

Corruption Commission, it did not

succeed as much in impressing the

political parties, Prof Ahmed

the political parties should be

identified and their conduct

improved to meet the expectation

transition period, but democracy is

the ultimate goal of the people, he

said putting the emphasis on seri-

ous studies and discourses on

democracy and its development in

this region, particularly in

Hossain Zillur Rahman, the com-

merce and education adviser, said

the caretaker government is work-

ing persistently to meet the peo-

ple's desire for the restoration of

step further and witness a qualita-

tive transformation in politics," he

said adding that the present govern-

ment has broken the culture of

ensured for a sustainable democ-

A system of check and balance

Professor Rounag Jahan said

lack of concern about democratic

region is a setback for institutional-

ising democracy and ensuring

faced a severe crisis following the

second election in 1990 when

Ershad stepped down in the face of

power in 1991 and dissolved the

upazila system. The Supreme

Court in a judgment in 1992

directed the government to hold

elections to upazila parishads

within six months, but the BNP

government did not hold the polls

1996 general elections, Awami

League passed the Upazila

Assuming power through the

The immediate past BNP-led

alliance government, which came

to power through the 2001 general

election, moved for holding

upazila parishad elections this

time and formed a cabinet com-

mittee for the purpose. But the

committee members failed to

reach a consensus on holding the

All those governments mean-

while sought extension of time on

many occasions from the Supreme

Court to comply with its directives

The current caretaker govern-

ment now moved for holding the

upazila parishad elections and

assured the EC of regaining its

power to announce the poll sched-

The EC in its electoral roadmap

announced on July 15 last year

declared that the long due polls to

the upazila parishads will be held

between November and December

caretaker government recently said

polls to the upazila parishads

should be held simultaneously

with the parliamentary election,

which is scheduled for December

and strengthening the local gov-

adviser including a recommenda-

A number of advisers to the

for holding the polls.

ules for over 450 of those.

A BNP government assumed

checks and balances.

a mass movement.

during its tenure.

Parishad Act in 1998.

polls.

impunity in the country.

"We want to take the country one

Terming 2008 a critical year, Dr

Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is going through a

Professor Rehman Sobhan said

The council would ensure the

Sustainable Development.

Emergency

non-partisan citizens.

FROM PAGE 16

1/11, he added.

The Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge made the decision as the Supreme Court on January 24 cleared obstacles in holding the trial under the Emergency Powers Rules by vacating the HC stay.

On January 17, the HC stayed proceedings of the case until disposal of a rule pending in an HC bench following an application filed by Hasina to that end.

HC stay came, the court dealing with the extortion case fixed January 21, 22 and 23 for trial. The SC vacated the HC stay following an appeal by the government.

The trial court on January 13 framed charges against Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana and cousin former health minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim in connection with the case.

Earlier on July 30 last year, Hasina filed a writ with the HC challenging bringing the case under the EPR when the HC issued a rule on the government to explain why bringing it under the EPR should not be declared illegal. The

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,

Azam filed the case against former cabinet minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim and Hasina accusing them of taking about Tk 3 crore in return for allowing him to set up a power plant during the AL rule in 1996-2001

London.

Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday filed a petition with the HC for quashing the extortion case.

next week.

documents and records against Hasina. The lawyer said the case was filed with "political motiva-

Djokovic

became the first Serb to win a tennis Grand Slam, coming from behind to register a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 victory over the tournament

in the executive, legislative and Djokovic's victory was the first local governments should be Grand Slam final since the 2005 racy, said Adviser Rahman. "We Australian Open not won by Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal with the top-ranked pair dominating the game, claiming the last 11 majors between them

Melbourne Park.

"I think it will be a crazy house back in Serbia in my country, I love you guys.

"I know the crowd wanted him to

established order by dumping Federer and Nadal out in the semifinals to set up a decider unimaginable at the start of the tournament.

The Serb went on to claim his first major title in his 13th Grand Slam after losing to Federer in last year's US Open final and also reaching the semifinals at the French Open and Wimbledon.

The victory stretched his winning streak to 11 matches, beating his previous best unbeaten run.

Tsonga, bidding to become France's first Grand Slam winner in 25 years, started well and took the only set off Djokovic in the tournament but could not go the distance with him.

I'll be back," said Tsonga, who blasted Nadal out of the tournament in straight sets. But he could not reproduce his blistering semifinal form on Sunday, although he still played well with his

winners outnumbering his errors. Djokovic appeared to tweak his left hamstring in stretching for a volley at 0-30 on Tsonga's service in

sought treatment from the trainer at the next changeover. But he held on to take the cham-

pionship in the fourth-set tiebreaker.

High Court asks

clear and direct constitutional obligation which must be followed by the Election Commission and the commissioners who owe their very existence to the constitutional provisions."

In its electoral roadmap, the commission has announced that it would hold polls by December this year after preparing a fresh voter list and identity cards for the voters, and having discussions with all

The petitioner said the EC has already started a media campaign to establish that it would need "considerable amount of time" to complete the jobs mentioned, The council of advisers are | though it has no right to delay the scheduled to meet again tomorrow. | election for preparing ID cards.

Bird flu spreads

corporations were directed to

improve their waste management to contain the spread of the virus, Manik Lal said.

Some 3,26,844 chickens were culled since March 2007 while the country has around 21 crore poultry. A total of 93 farms were infected in 84 upazilas and six metropolitan cities, government sources confirmed.

Asking the people not to panic, government officials said they should be more aware of the disease and should take cautionary measures like refraining from buying sick chickens or other sick fowls, washing their hands properly with detergent after touching fowls and eggs, and putting a stop to mixed fowls farming as ducks are sometimes the carriers of the virus, spreading it to other

Although no human being has been infected with bird flu virus yet, the government is nonetheless prepared to face any such infection, flu. said the officials.

Samples from 803 patients in 12 hospitals across the country were tested recently, but no H5N1virus was found in them, they said.

Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Mahmudur Rahman said a bird flu ward has been set up in the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDC&H). A laboratory has also been set up to diagnose infected

Sequestration facilities have been prepared in 64 districts to treat infected persons in isolation. Civil surgeons also have been trained in treatment of bird flu and the government has already procured adequate amount of antiviral, masks, and gloves as part of its beefed up security measures," he said.

Last year avian influenza (AI) had been confirmed in 68 poultry farms in 20 districts, following which some 2,85,224 poultry including free range poultry like ducks, pigeons and other domestic birds were culled.

This year the first outbreak of bird flu was recorded at Kurigram on January 3. Later the outbreak was recorded at Savar, Bonosree, Moulvibazar, Barisal, Barguna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Natore, Narayanganj and in some other

A presentation on bird flu was made at a cabinet meeting yesterday informing it the situation is not very alarming. The meeting was also informed about government measures to check the spread of avian influenza. The chief adviser asked the

authorities concerned to follow the measures that had been adopted by preceding governments to check such outbreaks. He also asked the authorities to take further steps to raise awareness among the people about the pestilence.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that the authorities concerned were put on highest alert in the entire division following an outbreak of bird flu there affecting 13 out of 16 districts in the northern region so far, posing threats to some

The district administration and border security forces were asked to strictly prevent entry of Indian poultry, a practice that is reportedly quite rampant despite a ban on poultry import, said officials adding that out of 124 upazilas in 11 districts, 35 are near the border.

The authorities were also directed to stop transportation of poultry from the affected districts after veterinarians and scientists had claimed that infected birds could have been smuggled out of the dis-

The steps were taken after Manik Lal Samaddar, special assistant to the chief adviser on livestock affairs, had rushed to the north following the

Indian rice Import FROM PAGE 16

In India private sector exporters have a minimum price bar of US\$500 per tonne of rice. However the Indian government

has not included its private sector rice exporters in the governmentto-government deal between the two countries, Pinak explained. He said details of price, dates

and other terms and conditions remain to be worked out.

FROM PAGE 16

AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue.

radius of the 18 infected farms in organised the discussion.

Owners of poultry farms there who had already been hit hard by high prices of poultry feeds, are feeling distressed following the could make elections uncertain. "Prices of farm chickens already

government has said preparations for holding the election are more or less complete. Now the government should declare specific date for the the discussion. Tofail said AL will attend bilateral

Rahman Swapan, owner of Bird dialogue with the government. "We Corner Farm in Rajshahi. Our Correspondent from Netrakona reported that the district livestock officer (DLO) and the disnotbegood. trict administration admitted that there has been an outbreak of bird

After a confirmed report of the outbreak in Ananda Bazar area, the DLO and district administration culled 2,500 ducks and chickens of a farm and of different households in the town on Saturday night.

In Dinajpur, at least 1,304 free range fowls including 109 ducks were culled, and 377 eggs were destroyed on Saturday night in Biral upazila

Some 17,381 fowls were culled in Dinajpur since bird flu had been first detected there in March last year, according to district livestock offi-

Our Nilphamari correspondent reported that around 4,000 poultry were culled in Jaldhaka upazila there.

AL, BNP, JP want FROM PAGE 1

He said although the government considers the political parties as its opponents, the parties are not so. "We want to help the government hold a free and fair election in the country," Anisul said.

Education and Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman meanwhile told journalists yesterday that the preparation for holding the dialogue with the political parties is going on. ALBRIEFING

The AL acting president said the positive environment required for holding a free and fair election will be created if the government sits with the political parties.

"It is the Awami League that first told the government that there is no alternative to holding dialogue with the political parties to find out a solution to the current crises. But any condition for holding the dialogue is unacceptable," said Zillur. Replying to a query on carrying

out intra-party reforms, Zillur said, "It is a matter of the political parties. The Awami League will not carry out any reform at anyone's dictation.

He demanded holding of early election and said if the next election is held within March-April, it would be good for the nation.

It is a good signal that the government has been reiterating that the elections would be held within the time stipulated in the announced electoral roadmap, Zillur said, adding that the AI would take part in the polls with its

Asked for comments on Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain's statement asking the AL to seek apology publicly for breaking the coalition's commitment, Zillur said, "It is an unfair and unjust statement. The words do not fit the stature of an educated person like him."

The Italy chapter and the New Jersey unit of the US chapter of AL vesterday handed over donations to Zillur for the victims of cyclone

Chairman of the AL's committee for relief operation and party Presidium member Abdur Razzak and member secretary Prof Nazma Rahman, AL leaders Motia Chowdhury, Abul Mal Abdul Mutih, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Maj Gen (retd) Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, Dr Hasan Mahmud, Dr Dipu Moni, Advocate Shahara Khatun, Dr Abdur Razzak, among others, were present at the event.

Moudud, Mosharraf

Mahbubul Alam, an assistant director ACC, filed the case on December 9 with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda Zia and The case statement said

Khaleda Zia, despite being the custodian of the country's wealth as a prime minister, criminally awarded Niko the opportunity to extract Tk 10,000 crore worth of gas through violating her oath and abuse of power.

Two other accused in the case --Khandaker Shahidul Islam, former acting energy secretary, and Kashem Sharif, vice president (South Asia) of Niko Research Bangladesh Ltd. TAIMUR CASE

Deputy Assistant Director of ACC Mohammad Mahmud Hassan, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Taimur to the CMM's court, showing 25 people as prosecution witnesses.

On August 14 last year, Golam Mostofa, a deputy director of ACC, filed the case with Paltan Police Station against Taimur on charge of taking Tk 25 lakh in bribe from the owner of an automobile service

Nikunja Model Centre in 2006. The joint forces arrested Taimur,

also general secretary of Narayanganj district BNP, on April 18 on charges of corruption. ABBAS CASE Judge Mohammad Raseduzzaman

Raja of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court adjourned the proceeding of the money laundering case following a time petition by the defence

Complainant of the case, Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Islam, appeared before the court yesterday to give his statement.

On February 4, joint forces seized a huge cache of local and foreign currencies and other items from Mirza Abbas' South Shahjahanpur residence in the capital.

Motijheel police filed a case against Abbas under Special Powers Act, Money Laundering Act and Excise Act on February 24.

The seized items include sales slips for gold ornaments worth Tk 40 lakh, 4,600 US dollars, 17,000 Thai bahts, 418 Singapore dollars, 432 Malaysian ringgits, several cellular phone sets and five pass-

According to the case state- ports ment, Taimur received Tk 25 lakh in The IO pressed charges against bribe from Alim Talukder, owner of Abbas on July 5 last year.

Kibria murder

Abdul Mannan, son of Kibria Dr Reza Kibria, addressed the meeting among others with Jamaluddin Mohammad Akbar in the chair at the

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote

Razzak urged the caretaker government to declare specific date for parliamentary polls and to refrain from resorting to any action that

"People want the election. The long-awaited election," Razzak told

will not give any condition. We hope the government will also not set any condition. Otherwise, the result will Tofail said political parties and people are not the opponents of the

government. "We want to help the caretaker government make arrangements for the election so they can hand over power to elected representatives of the people." About the government-political

party dialogue, Tofail said AL wants to discuss not only the election with the government but also other political and economic problems prevailing in the country.

He said the government will have to take effective steps to arrest skyrocketing prices of essentials.

Tofail said investigations into the Kibria killing and the August 21 grenade attack should be done by the United Nations. "And for the UNsponsored investigation, the government will have to make the appeal," hesaid.

Reza Kibria said after the killing of his father, a strong public opinion grew for punishment of the killers due to their peaceful campaign.

"We wanted permission to continue the peaceful movement but the present caretaker government did not give it to us," he said. Reza alleged that cohorts of his

father's killers are still active within the administration and the government. He said holding elections will be risky without bringing his father's killers to justice. "The father's murder and the

August 21 grenade attack were not ordinary incidents. These are politically motivated crimes. So, if the masterminds of such terrorism go unpunished, then the election will not be free and fair," he said.

Maruf Nizam

Sources said Captain Habib and his wife in their wealth statements submitted on June 24 last year also failed to provide documents against earnings worth over Tk 2.14

Maruf, who is on the run now, is a key suspect in the sensational Chittagong business magnate and BNP leader Jamaluddin Ahmed kidnap and murder case.

Captain Habib is in custody while his wife is in hiding, sources

Dairy farmers FROM PAGE 16

enhance their participation in and profit from the dairy value chain in Bangladesh, where cattle are an inseparable part of the farming system.

"This generous grant will allow us, initially, to improve the lives of 35,000 families who earn their living from dairy farming. But, ultimately, this project has the capacity to benefit 2 million households," said CARE President Dr Helene Gayle.

The project includes establish ing 21 chilling plants and house-tohouse milk collection systems around which farmers will organise; improving the transportation system linking chilling plants with processing facilities; and training and hiring para-veterinarians.

14 VIPs

FROM PAGE 16

The doctors have also allegedly been dillydallying with some notso-important tests and diagnosis,

Although, there are only 12 beds in the prison cells, 19 VIP prisoners have been staying there setting up six extra beds.

Dr Mohammad Tahir, vicechancellor of BSMMU, told The Daily Star, "We are considering whether it would be possible to treat them in jail." On the allegation of doctors

being involved with the inmates'

overstay, he said, "I cannot say for

sure... obviously every doctor concerned is not involved in such "We would look into the allegation and try to discharge the VIP prisoners who do not need to stay here," he said, adding, "We also

have the right to get better treatment facilities." He said, "I already asked the doctors concerned to discharge prisoners who do not need to stay here anymore.'

think that all prisoners who are sick

Former lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu, BNP Secretary General Hannan Shah, former lawmaker MA Hashem, Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, Amzad Hossain Sarkar, former minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Prof Rafiqul Islam, Lotus Kamal, advocate Sigma Huda, Janakantha Editor Atikullah Khan Masud, and ntv Managing Director Eneyatur Rahman Bappi are among the VIP prisoners staying at

the BSMMU prison cell.

Pak tribal belt

FROM PAGE 16

battlemilitants.

many of whom fled there from neighbouring Afghanistan after the U.S-led invasion in 2001.

The border region emerged as a front line in the war on extremist groups after Musharraf allied Pakistan with the US following the Sept. 11 terror attacks. Washington has given Pakistan billions of dollars Pakistanis. in aid to help government forces

Musharraf, who toured Europe last week seeking support for his embattled government, rejected claims that the violence was a sign of a resurgent Taliban. More than 150 rebels and soldiers are reported to have been killed in the region this

month alone. Musharraf in the past has credited cooperation between Pakistani intelligence services and the CIA, both of whom believe that Pakistani militant leader Baitullah Mehsud was the mastermind of the Dec. 27 gun and suicide bomb attack that killed former prime minister Benazir

But the State Department's counterterrorism chief, Dell Dailey, said Tuesday that the Bush administration was displeased with "gaps in intelligence" received from Pakistan about the activities of extremist groups in the tribal regions.

"We don't have enough information about what's going on there. Not stay in office.

Dailey, a retired Army lieutenant general with extensive background in special operations, said Pakistan needs to fix the problem. However, said the US wasn't likely to conduct military strikes inside Pakistan on its own, saying that would anger many

Rather than allow an increased US presence, the Times reported that Pakistan and the United States are discussing other joint efforts, such as increased use of armed Predator surveillance aircraft over the tribal areas, and identifying ways the US can speed intelligence information to Pakistani security forces.

The paper said the Jan. 9 trip by McConnell and Hayden came five days after senior administration officials debated new strategies for dealing with Pakistan. It had reported previously that no decisions were made at that meeting of the National Security Council, which included top administration offi-

The times quoted a senior officials as saying "the purpose of the mission (by McConnell and Hayden) was to convince Musharraf that time is ticking away" and that the increased attacks on Pakistan would ultimately undermine his effort to

Obama routs Hillary at Clinton in his remarks.

FROM PAGE 16

Bhutto.

according to polling place interviews, and four out of five of them supported Obama. Black women turned out in particularly large numbers. Obama, the first-term Illinois senator, got about a quarter of the white vote while Clinton and former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina split the rest.

Hillary Clinton flew to Nashville as the polls closed, and looked ahead. "Now the eyes of the country turn to Tennessee and the other states voting on Feb. 5," she said, adding "millions and millions of Americans are going to have their voices heard."

Edwards finished a distant third, a sharp setback in the state where he was born and scored a primary victory in his first presidential campaign four years ago. Even so, he vowed to remain in the race, his goal, he said, to "give voice to all those whose voices aren't being heard."

The victory was Obama's first since he won the kickoff Iowa caucuses on Jan. 3. Clinton, a New York senator and former first lady, scored an upset in the New Hampshire primary a few days later. They split the Nevada caucuses, she winning the turnout race, he gaining a onedelegate margin. In an historic race, she hopes to become the first woman to occupy the White House, and Obama is the strongest black con-

tenderinhistory. The South Carolina primary marked the end of the first phase of the campaign for the Democratic nomination, a series of single-state contests that winnowed the field, conferred co-front-runner status on Hillary Clinton and Obama but had

relatively few delegates at stake. That all changes in 10 days' time, when New York, Illinois and California are among the 15 states holding primaries in a virtual nationwide primary. Another seven states and American Samoa will hold Democratic caucuses on the same

Obama took a thinly veiled swipe

ZIA in blackout

FROM PAGE 1 over an hour after landing. It was

pitch dark, we couldn't see a thing. Everything they tried failed and it seemed they had no idea how to handle an emergency situation, said a passenger stuck on board a flight of Malaysian Airlines that could not disembark its passen-

Even after they got off the plane, all passengers grew restless as they saw no security around the dark corridors of the airport and later on at the baggage carousel, the passenger added.

"In my 32 years of working at Dhaka airports, I have never seen such an incident. It was truly frightening," said an airport official to The Daily Star. Airport, Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco), and ZIA offi-

cials scrambled to get the power supply restored and managed to get the generators operating after two hours around 11.30pm. A probe committee was formed to look into the incident, especially the reasons behind the failure to operate the alternative power

generators, said Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairman Air Commodore Sakeb Khan Majlish. The CAAB chairman said due to a power failure in a grid of the power supply authority the outage occurred, but did not explain the

failure of the alternative genera-

by Desco.

Desco Managing Director Saleh Ahmed told UNB that there was no problem in Desco's power lines.

system," he said.

in the airport's internal power

on al-Qaeda. Not on foreign fighters. Noton the Taliban," he said.

cials, but not President Bush.

About half the voters were black, "We are up against conventional

thinking that says your ability to lead as president comes from longevity in Washington or proximity to the White House. But we know that real leadership is about candour, and judgment, and the ability to rally Americans from all walks of life around a common purpose a higher purpose," Obama said. Looking ahead to Feb. 5, he added

are tired of business-as-usual in Washington, we are hungry for change, and we are ready to believe Nearly complete returns showed Obama winning 55 percent of the vote, Clinton gaining 27 percent.

that "nearly half the nation will have

the chance to join us in saying that we

Edwards had 18 percent and won only his home county of Oconee. Obama also gained 25 convention delegates, Clinton won 12 and Edwards eight. manamit .

Overall, Hillary Clinton has 249 delegates, followed by Obama with 167 and Edwards with 58. Obama also gained an endorsement from Caroline Kennedy, who

likened the Illinois senator to her late father, President John F. Kennedy. "I have never had a president who inspired me the way people tell me that my father inspired them," she wrote on The New York Times op-ed page. "But for the first time, I believe I have found a man who could be that president and not just for me, but for

anewgeneration of Americans." Suharto dies

FROM PAGE 16 whose success presiding over huge economic progress was overshadowed by a legacy of bloodshed, human rights abuses and corruption on a colossal scale.

Suharto's tenure was marked by repression, from the killings of at least half a million communists and their sympathisers after the abortive coup that saw him seize power in 1966, to invading East Timor and quelling separatist movements in Aceh and Papua.

Although he steered this sprawl-

ing archipelago nation through an

economic boom, making it notably

self-sufficient in rice, billions of dollars ended up in the hands of friends and relatives as cronyism and corruption ran riot. He eventually stepped down in in 1998 amid deadly riots and mass pro-

democracy protests that were sparked by the 1997 Asian economic Opinion on his rule remains

divided in Indonesia. After leaving office he dropped out of public view and avoided criminal trial for massive corruption allegations by citing poor health. Doctors have said two strokes left him with some permanent brain

Attempts to bring him to justice for alleged human rights atrocities in East Timor, which he invaded in 1975, as well as Aceh and Papua, have also been stymied by a lack of evi-"We could not have expected a

Suharto. But he was no Pol Pot," said Asmara Nababan, head of the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights in A doctor who treated Suharto, Munawar, said: "We have worked our

leader for Indonesia worse than

best... God has decided otherwise." "At around nine or ten, the condition of the heart and blood pressure remained up and down and we, to be

truthful, were already begining to give up, because the condition of his Power to the airport is supplied brain, was already very serious...," he told ElShintaradio. "At 11, we already told the family," that Suharto was dying, he said.

All of Suharto's six children had "There might have been glitches gathered on Sunday at his bedside,

the former president's close aide, Moerdiono earlier said.

Kyoto Protocol. Dr Atiq has Thompson, former energy and designed, developed and taught a environment minister of Barbados, multi-disciplinary post-graduate Prince Albert II of Monaco, former course on "Sustainable US Senator Timothy E Wirth and Development Challenges and Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, secretary North South Dialogue" at the general of the People's General Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Department of The winners will be presented Urban Studies and Planning, with their awards at a special cere-Cambridge, USA. He is a visiting mony in Singapore on April 22, 2008. In the award letter, Achim professor of International Diplomacy and Sustainable Steiner, UN under-secretary general Development at Fletcher School of and UNEP executive director, Law and Diplomacy, Tufts

development, and environment and resource management.

Environment Programme (UNEP) set up the award in 2004. have made a significant and recognised contribution globally, region-

Federation, Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, Jacques Rogge and the International Olympic Committee, and Al Gore, former vice president of the United States. PROFILE OF DR ATTQ RAHMAN:

from the graves at Alokdi and at the western side of Botanical Garden in Pallabi. The IO said that he had talked

Dhaka on January 24 against trust so that we can move forward Nizami, Mojaheed, five of their despite our differences... we want party men and three non- to continue a vibrant dialogue Bangalees for the massacre during process." the Liberation War in 1971.

MP influence

law is amended," Adviser MM Shawkat Ali told The Daily Star last night. In the wake of a long standing demand for repealing the authorities of lawmakers over local government institutions, the caretaker government took the decision in a bid to strengthen the local govern-

ment system, making it free of

interference from the central gov-

At the meeting, Chief Adviser

ernment.

Fakhruddin Ahmed said the caretaker government wants to implement soon the recommendations of a committee on strengthening the local government system. The LGRD and cooperatives ministry moved the proposals for brining amendments to the Upazila Parishads Act 1998. Although the law was introduced in

upazila parishads as senior ministers and lawmakers vehemently opposed the move. The last Awami League (AL) government passed the Upazila Parishad Act empowering the EC to announce schedules for the

parishad elections.

1998, no government since then

initiated steps to hold polls to

hold the polls and later the government amended the upazila law and took away the authority from the EC. Section 25 of the current law empowers lawmakers to become advisers to upazila parishads

However, amid a volatile politi-

cal situation, the then EC could not

which are bound to accept their suggestions. Once the amendments are brought to the current laws, lawmakers will have no power over upazila parishads and the EC will have the power to announce schedules for parishad polls through discussions with the central government, instead of taking approval from it. The first election to upazila ernment recently placed a set of

parishads was held in 1985 after its recommendations to the chief introduction in the local government system during the regime of tion to form upazila parishads. military ruler HM Ershad. But the very existence of upazila parishads

Hasina FROM PAGE 1

Just couple of hours before the

rule is still pending with the HC.

Sheikh Rehana was also charged with taking a portion of the extorted money in the supplementary charge sheet. Rehana is being tried in absentia as she lives in

The petition is likely to be heard Hasina's counsel filed the petition arguing that there are no allegations in the charge sheet, first information report and any other

bolter in three hours six minutes.

"I am so proud of myself and to be the first Serbian who won the Grand Slam title," said Djokovic, who eclipsed Jim Courier as the youngest men's winner at

win but I don't mind, no worries.' Djokovic and Tsonga rocked the

"I thank Novak for a good fight and for me it was a good moment.

the fourth game of the fourth set and

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The committee on restructuring | political parties.

outbreak on a two-day visit to the affected farms in Natore and Rajshahi, where he talked to farm owners and officials till Saturday. All poultry within a kilometre

fell on the market due to shoppers'

reluctance to buy poultry following

the outbreak of bird flu. Now I am

looking at a loss, because I had to

spend Tk 2,000 more than usual to

feed the chickens," said Mofizur

Rajshahi were culled.

outbreak of bird flu.