FROM PAGE 16

Bangladeshi restaurants in serious trouble and facing irreparable damage, IAS Chief Executive Keith Best said.

The issue has worried restaurant owners and workers in East London's Brick Lane, famous for its inexpensive curry houses, sweet shops and stores selling everything from fresh fruit and vegetables to traditional Asian clothes.

"It seems the Asian people, not just Bangladeshi but also Chinese and Indian, have been targeted. This is wrong," said Abdul Noor, who runs a small family-owned curry house on Brick Lane, also known as London's Bangla Town.

"When people go to Chinatown, they expect Chinese food served by Chinese people," added the 35-year-old restaurateur whose family came to Britain over 30 years ago.

"When they come to Brick Lane, they expect to have curry. How will they feel if they are cultural origins who probably do Bangladesh. not eat curry?"

have left many Bangladeshis life".

acknowledge the problem, saying

that many police stations have four

SIs at the most and so it was not

completely possible to run a sepa-

The officer in the police head-

quarters observed that once some

30,500 police officers, who are

supposed to be recruited in five

years since 2006, are employed, the

situation of acute shortage of

investigation officers (IOs) will

To make the initiative success-

ful, police high-ups arranged an

evaluation test for all 6,850 SIs

across the country in November,

2007, the results of which are yet to

basing on the results and according

to it, selected SIs will be tasked with

case investigation, the officer told

Metropolitan Police authorities

have asked officers-in-charge

(OCs) of different police stations in

DMP area not to assign any SI to

Sources said, only Mirpur divi-

in the capital said they have 14 SIs punishment.

sion could manage to achieve the

target, but other divisions could

more than 10 cases at a time.

not, due to lack of workforce.

As part of the initiative, Dhaka

A merit list will be prepared

rate case investigation unit.

improve.

be published.

The Daily Star.

struggling to find work in Britain. Limits have been tightened since eastern Europeans were given employment rights.

Migrant worker A Mannan Rana said many of his friends and relatives hoping to join him in search of better living are already feeling the pinch.

"It was not that difficult to come here two years ago. But it is getting harder and harder now, Rana said, adding, "I hope the government will continue to give | Bangladeshauthorities. them a chance."

Best said attempts to get eastern Europeans to work in curry restaurant kitchens have failed because they "have no cultural sensitivity towards or understanding of the curry industry".

"The lack of appreciation of the crisis facing the industry could do it irreparable damage, he said in a statement.

He has written to the immigration minister Liam Byrne asking for the rules to be relaxed for served by people of different catering workers from

He has also called on the Restrictions on lower-skilled British public "to save what has migrants from outside the EU become an integral part of British

In the past, probes into various

sensational cases had run into

snags, as the IOs at different police

stations, particularly in DMP area,

were assigned cases seven times

the number of their officially rec-

a British-era law-enforcement

guideline, recommends a maxi-

mum of eight cases for a sub-

SIs at large police stations and in

the crime-prone areas in the capi-

tal faced the workload of as many

as 50 cases, officials concerned

burdened with more cases than

they can properly handle, also

required to take part in crime

control activities and other addi-

cases, the time-strapped IOs need

as much as three years of time to

complete investigations and sub-

This situation ultimately denies

mit charge sheets.

Due to this, even in murder

To top it all, the IOs, who are

However, it was found that the

The Police Regulation of Bengal,

probe at a time.

ommended quota.

inspector (SI) at a time.

Plan fails to take off and none has less than 12 cases to

The dead was identified as Rubel, 25, while the injured are Rashed, 25, Shaker, 24, and Sumon, 25. The victim of the mugging, Shihab Uddin, was also injured

during the robbery. Sources said the muggers intercepted Shihab, a third year student of history at Chittagong University, near MA Aziz Stadium around 1:00pm as he was travelling on a

They opened fire on Shihab when he tried to resist the mugging attempt. Shihab fell down from his rickshaw after receiving bullets in

Habilder Abdul Mannan of Enayet Bazar Police Camp noticed the incident and chased the muggers who were trying to flee on an auto-rickshaw.

Mannan sent wireless message to authorities concerned and Sergeant Shariful stopped the auto-rickshaw at GEC intersection. Angry locals gave the muggers a beating leaving them seriously injured, sources said. They also

Police recovered a gun, a machete and two bullets from their procession.

The injured were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors on duty declared Rubel dead.

the victims' right to speedy justice The OC of a busy police station and helps the criminals evade treatment at the hospital. CMCH sources said, the condition of Shaker was grave.

Shihab was also having treat-

# Rice prices mark fall

FROM PAGE 1

30 to Tk 33 a kg on retail markets yesterday which had been sold for Tk 28 to Tk 30 last week, while prices of fine rice leapt to Tk 35 to Tk45akgfromTk34toTk44aweek

Retailers said they were not being able to sell rice at lower prices in line with the decrease in prices on wholesale markets yesterday, because they had bought the rice they were selling at higher prices from the wholesalers two days ago.

Nizam Uddin, general secretary of Badamtoli and Babubazar Rice Wholesalers Association, said prices of coarse rice have been fluctuating for the last month and a half without any interference from the traders.

He also said the last two days' fall in wholesale prices of coarse rice is bound to be temporary. "I think the price fall will not sustain, because prices of Indian rice have gone up again."

Wishing anonymity an importer said there is no chance of rice prices coming down in the near future since the Indian government is insisting on opening of new Letters of Credit (LC) with higher

Halt in rice export for three days by India resulted in a price hike of

# Khaleda's letter

FROM PAGE 1

appointed M Saifur Rahman and Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed as acting chairman and secretary general.

In her letter, the BNP chief urged the CEC to hold electoral reforms talks only with Khandaker Delwar Hossain, the secretary general nominated by her. "As the chairperson I did not

convene any standing committee meeting for October 29. Six members of the committee were present list. at that meeting and made some decisions that were not appropriate. They even failed to make a quorum," Nawshad quoted Khaleda as having said in the letter.

About reconciliation of the warring factions, she told her lawyers, "Except those expelled, I consider all as my partymen and I try house around 80,000 prisoners don't see any split in BNP."

BNP chairperson's lawyers for theEC. speaking to the press about her political decisions.

the capital last week. Meanwhile, prices of various kinds of fish have also been shooting up in the city over the past two weeks in the wake of bird flu outbreak across the country. Prices of fish went up by Tk 20 to Tk 100 a kg on several kitchen markets during

coarse rice by Tk 50 to Tk 100 a

maund on wholesale markets in

the period. Fish traders at Karwan Bazar said fish prices went up since the panic of bird flu had gripped the city residents, and because most of them are now buying fish rather

than poultry. Prices of beef and mutton also have been shooting up over the same period. Price hike of fodder for livestock also contributed to the price hike of meat.

Price of sugar also jumped to Tk 33 to Tk 35 a kg last week from Tk 29 to Tk 30 of the previous week on retail markets.

Soybean oil was being sold for Tk 98 to Tk 108 a litre on retail markets yesterday which had been sold for Tk 94 to Tk 100 a week ago. Keeping up with the pace, prices of palm oil and super palm oil also went up. In Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) set up fair price markets, prices of soybean oil rose by Tk 6 a

## Dhaka Jail

litre over the past week.

FROM PAGE 1

were put on the roll while the numberwas 1,052 on the second day.

Talking to The Daily Star, Deputy Inspector General of Police (prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique said, "In the first phase, those from Dhaka district would be listed and gradually the others."

Detained former prime ministers Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina who have been detained in sub-jails on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises would also be included in the voter

He said, "Currently, there are around 5,500 prisoners from Dhaka district and around 2,000 of them were listed before they came to jail." Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Shakhawat Hossain would visit

the jail today. Sixty-seven jails across the counand around 72,000 of them would be The DIG prisons criticised the voters according to an estimate by

The prisoners would cast their votes through postal ballots.

SIDR VICTIMS

# West Bengal minister to hand over relieftoday

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

West Bengal's Transport Minister Subhas Chakraborty is to reach Benapole Land Port today to handover 111 truckloads of relief materials for Sidr-affected people to

Food and Disaster Management Secretary Mohammad Ayub Miah is expected to receive the relief materials at a ceremony at Benapole Customs House at 2:00pm.

The relief materials include 1,010 tonnes of rice, 50 tonnes of wheat, 750 pieces of blankets, 10,000 pieces of saris and 6,000 pieces of mosquito

Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee during his visit to the cyclone-affected areas in Bangladesh made a pledge of assistance and the relief materials are part of that pledge.

# Mugger lynched in Chittagong

CU CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat a mugger to death and injured three other of the gang as they were trying to flee after robbing a student at Chittagong city's GEC intersection yesterday after-

rickshaw.

the abdomen and a hand

torched the auto-rickshaw.

ment at the hospital.

## Editor's note

FROM PAGE 1

a) Preparing for Climate Change; b) Enacting Right to Information Act; c) Combating Corruption; d) Investing for E-Governance; f) Implementing separation of Judiciary; g) Fighting Terrorism; and h) Establishing a Knowledge-based Society.

We express our appreciation to all the contributors for helping us to present our readers with such a well researched, fact based and visionary supplement.

On this occasion of our 17th Anniversary we express our heartfelt thanks to our patrons, advertisers, contributors and well-wishers. However the biggest debt of gratitude we owe is to our readers, who through their constant and enthusiastic support have made us the highest circulation and most trusted English language daily in the country. Please accept our sincerest thanks and gratitude. We promise to continue our "Journalism without Fear or Favour" and pledge to serve our readers with an expanded and improved paper in 2008.

## Moeen

FROM PAGE 16

products is produced in the country and the rest depends on import. Gen Moeen said India now exports milk products even though it used to import such products only a few years ago. "If it's possible for them, why not for us?"

Taking inspiration from this, the army has taken an initiative to implement small, integrated dairy projects with four cows, he said.

The army chief later distributed loan certificates among the owners of the farms while one power tiller, one "Guti" urea producing machine and one pump among the members of Modern Agriculture Cooperative Society.

FROM PAGE 1

worth about Tk 50.29 lakh sanc tioned for 96 schemes under Rural Infrastructure Development Programme in Ramganj upazila during 2004-05 fiscal year. The other accused are Ramganj

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abul Hashem, former project implementation officer (PIO) Paritosh Baroi, Delwar Hossain and businessman Akhter Hossain. The ACC head office in Dhaka

will investigate the case.

# 7 killed in Valentine's Day Bird watching at JU US campus massacre

AFP, Chicago

Authorities investigated Friday what drove a former student to coldly spray a university lecture hall with bullets, killing six people and wounding 15 before turning a gun

The death toll rose to seven early Friday after a sixth shooting victim died from injuries sustained in the incident, officials at Northern University Illinois, the scene of the carnage, said on its website.

Law enforcement sources tentatively identified the shooter as a 27year-old graduate student in social work at another area school, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, but did not release his

He graduated with honours from the Northern Illinois University in 2006 and began graduate work there before transferring to another institution last year, university president John Peters said. Armed with a shotgun and two

handguns, the man calmly stepped out from behind a curtain at the front of an auditorium Thursday afternoon just minutes before the end of a geology class, officials and witnesses said. Screams filled the hall as he

filled with dozens of students at the campus in DeKalb, a Chicago sub-"It started and ended within a matter of seconds," university police chief Donald Grady said at a

sprayed bullets into the auditorium

press conference. Police were in the room within two minutes of getting a call but did not have time to fire a single shot as the gunman was already dead on

"We have no apparent motive at this time," Grady added. Four people including the gunman died at the scene, while two

Sixteen others were wounded one of whom died overnight. All of the victims were students, including an instructor who is a

others died in hospital, officials said

graduate student, Peters said. Witnesses described the shooter as a white male dressed in black around six-foot (1.8 meters) tall.

"He just fired directly into the audience," said John Giovanni, a student in the class. "He didn't say a word. It didn't look like he was aiming directly at someone. I think he was trying to hit as many people

ashecould Screaming students ducked for cover, some crawling on their bellies, others cowering behind seats while others made for the doors. "After he fired the first shot,

everybody got down. A lot of people were screaming. Everybody started running for the door," another witness, Zach Seward, told CNN. "I turned and I ran for the door. On my way out, I heard a couple more shots go off. I wasn't sure if one was going to hit me in the back. I ran

as fast as I could to my dormitory. So it was just complete chaos, really." After spraying students with a shotgun, the gunman "pulled out a handgun and began shooting at me," instructor Joseph Peterson told the Chicago Sun-Times from his hospital bed.

Peterson, 26, fled but the gunman chased him, firing and hitting him in the left shoulder before a bleeding Peterson made it out an auditorium door.

He said he had no idea what had prompted the shooter. "I never saw him before," Peterson said.

"The information we have right now indicates he did not have any record of police contact or a prior arrest record," university president Peters told a press conference Thursday.

The massacre follows school shootings in Ohio, Louisiana, Tennessee and California that left a total of five dead.

It comes 10 months after 32 students and faculty were shot down by a mentally disturbed student at Virginia Tech University in the deadliest massacre ever at a US school.

Northern Illinois University was placed on a security alert in December after police found threats on a bathroom wall laced with racial slurs, references to the Virginia Tech shooting and a warning that "things will change most hastily" in the final days of the semester. But Peters said he did not think

Thursday's shooting was related to the threats and said that while security has been heightened there was not much more officials could

"I don't know of any plan that can prevent this tragedy," he told reporters. "Unless we lock every door I don't know how we can keep people out."

## 46 grenades

FROM PAGE 1 Nazrul and reached there early yesterday. They dug up the bank of a pond owned by Nazrul and found

the grenades hidden in a bag. After the recovery of the grenades, members of the elite force raided several other places of the upazila, Rab sources said.

Police Superintendent Abdullahel Baki of Satkhira said the police were not informed about the drive conducted by the Rab. He said police, on receiving information, went to the spot and came to know about the operation.

Lt Col Mestaul Islam, commanding officer of Rab-6 told The Daily Star that the grenades were recovered from the village following confessions of Nazrul.

He said the Rab personnel also carried out drives at several other places taking the arrestee with them and recovered more grenades. But he declined to disclose the total number of the recovered grenades.

When asked, the commanding officer also declined to say whether Nazrul has any links with any mili tant or terrorist group. But sources said Rab arrested Nazrul suspecting his links with the militants. Commander SMAK Azad, direc-

tor of the Legal and Media Wing of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), said they will provide details of the grenade recovery to the media today. According to local sources, arrested Nazrul Islam's two sons

have shoe shops at Nalta Bazar and

Parulia Bazar. One of them, Hafizur

Rahman, took religious education. In recent months, the law enforcers recovered grenades from the city's Banani and Moghbazar, Nalitabari in Sherpur, Barobari village in Pirganj, Thakurgaon, Sirajganj, at Botiaghata upazila in Khulna, at Sonatila in Panchhari upazila of Khagrachhari, and at Shalipur in Savar.

## Math Olympiad Discord among AL men FROM PAGE 16

AL acting General Secretary Syed

FROM PAGE 1 strengthen ties with components of the 14-party. tacted Ties between the AL and other

components of the coalition have become fragile in the changed political situation since January 11 The rest three were having | last year and especially because the AL had signed a five-point deal with religion-based party, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish.

Gono Forum headed by Dr Kamal Hossain, a component of the 14-party combine, came down heavily on the AL and publicly said it no longer belonged to the coalition as the AL signed a deal with Although Zillur recently told

reporters that Gono Forum is no more in the 14-party, the AL is now trying to reunite the coalition ahead of the much-talked-about political dialogue with the caretaker government. The AL has already sat with Workers' Party of Bangladesh and

Samyabadi Dal to take a common stance on the dialogue but they did not discuss the issue of grand electoral alliance. The AL will sit with Ganotantri Party on Monday. "We will first hold bilateral meetings with our coalition allies to formulate a common stance

regarding dialogue with the care-

taker government and then we will

talk to other like-minded parties,"

Ashraful Islam said, when con-They plan to form a grand

electoral alliance keeping in view

the next parliamentary election. But the party central working acting president of Bangladesh

Ganotantri Party President Nurul Islam said the 14-party coalition itself is not functioning now. And a grand electoral alliance could be formed comprising secular, non-communal and democratic political parties

ahead of the next polls. "But we have reservations about bringing Jatiya Party in the grand alliance as it did not clear their position on secular politics," he told this correspondent.

Gono Forum Presidium Member Pankaj Bhattacharya however said they would never join any alliance which comprises autocratic ruler, war criminals and religion-based parties. They want a coalition based on principles and ideals, he said, adding they could even sit with BNP if it goes for secular and noncommunal politics.

Jahan, Jalal and Baker have been

absconding while Rowshan was

killed in crossfire with police on

ment are Nuruzzaman Laltu of

Kairadanga of Chuadanga district,

Rofat, Asgar and Mohid of Talbaria,

Kalidaspur, Majid of Hridoypur,

Mahatab of Rajnagar, Oliar of

Pagla, Akubbar of Malihad, and

Akubbar are evading arrest while

Mohid was killed in crossfire with

other convicts who have been in

jail appealed in the High Court

and no hearing has been held so far

against the lower court verdict.

regarding the appeal.

Of them, Mahtab, Oliar and

On September 25, 2004, the

The case is still pending there

Many people including the JSD

Tikka of Kursha of Kushtia.

police on February 12, 2005.

The convicts with life imprison-

August 27, 2006.

FROM PAGE 16 convicted killers and execution of

An armed gang killed Aref, Faraz, Tashir and Garesh Sardar of Kushtia district JSD president Lokman Hossain, general secretary Yakub Ali, and local JSD leaders Shamsher Ali and Israil Hossain at a rally in Kalidaspur village of Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia on February 16, 1999.

time in the southwestern region of the country, the killers sprayed bullets on him. The local leaders died while trying to save Aref.

leaders have urged the High Court to take steps for quick verdict on 12 others to life imprisonment. the case considering its impor-The convicts with death penalty tance. JSD Kushtia President Abdul Alim Swapan has demanded immediate arrest of the absconding Anwar, Jhantu and Jahan of Kursha

Of them, Mannan Mollah, take steps in this regard.

committee or the presidium would take a formal decision in this regard, said Ashraf, son of

during the Liberation War Syed

Nazrul Islam.

# Kazi Aref's killers

the verdict. The JSD and its front organisations have chalked out programmes, including silent rally and discussion meetings, in the

As Aref completed his speech against the political violence and increasing outlaw activities of the

The verdict of the case in connection with the killings was announced on August 30, 2004, sentencing 10 persons to death and

are Ilias Hosain and Sahir Uddin of Talbaria, Baker of Kishorinagar, Mannan Mollah of Pachabhita, of Kushtia district, Jalal of Raliashisha, Safayat Hossain of Rajnagar and Rowshan of Bhabanipur of Meherpur.

killers and execution of the verdict. Kazi Rabiul Islam, close relative of Kazi Aref and convener of Kazi Aref Smriti Parishad Kushtia, also urged the caretaker government to

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee Chairman Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury said the students would surely achieve their goals as they have been really pursuing this through hard work Prothom Alo Editor Matiur

Rahman said the Bangalees established their mother tongue as the medium of education through a language movement 56 years ago and the country's independence 37 years ago, but all the dreams of the nation are not fulfilled yet. "You are the ones who will fulfil

students to practise mathematics and reasoning more. Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd Managing Director Mohammad Yeasin Ali said the participants are very talented and would surely succeed in the International Mathematics Olympiad and

those dreams," he said, urging the

He hoped that through exercise of mathematics the future generation would be able to develop the country's science and technology, thus bringing true welfare for the people.

brighten the image of Bangladesh.

The programme also featured cultural and other functions. Today's programme will include friendship debates, an open seminar titled "Our rice, our pride", mathematics parliament, and concluding and prize giving ceremonies.

# Shark

FROM PAGE 16 Pijush Kanti Hori, former chairman of geology department of Patuakhali Government College, said indiscriminate shark netting will seriously destabilise the marine eco system.

"Sharks live on a number of fast growing varieties of small fish They check over-population and

maintain balance," he added. They are predators and part of the food chain and if their numbers reduce other fish will rise in number and the marine eco-system will lose its balance. Moreover, as a natural phenomenon sharks will move away from Bangladesh waters if this menace continues, he said adding that it would also complicate matters.

Division recovered eight dead sharks of rare species on February 7 from four trawlers at Dublarchar in the Sundarbans. Each of the sharks is about eight feet long and weighs over 40 kg said Officer-in-charge of

Dublarchar Forest Station Tajul

Islam who had joined the recovery

The Coastguards and officials of

East Wing of Sundarbans Forest

Tajul said catching shark is forbidden under the Wildlife Act. The sharks were netted in the Bay of Bengal and concealed under the decks of trawlers. Local law enforcers including

forest officials are yet to conduct

any drive against shark catchers.

operations.

# photography exhibition, an art

once. If an individual approaches them, the birds will definitely fly away and there is a very little chance of any direct contact," said Dr Mofizul Kabir, associate professor of the zoology department of JU who is also the convenor of the fair management committee.

"Although we suspect that migratory birds are the prime carriers of bird flu, no evidence has so far been found confirming the claim. There is however a possibility of bird flu spreading through the migratory birds," he added.

The fair titled 'Brac Bank Bird Fair 2008' was organised jointly by the department of zoology of JU, Wildlife Rescue Centre (WRC), Step Media Ltd, and Brac Bank, attracting a large crowd of nature-loving people from the capital and its adjacent areas including university students who were seen yesterday watching birds through telescopes or by roaming

around by the lakes on the campus. "We have heard that bird flu might spread through feathers of birds or through eggs or saliva, and it might become disastrous if people are infected with the virus through wild animals," said Inam-ul-Haq, a prominent bird watcher, adding however that none of the cases of bird flu transmission to human body was resulted from contact with wild birds. All cases of bird flu infection around the globe were resulted from direct contact with domestic birds,

Although migratory birds usually start to throng the evergreen JU campus by the end of October, this year the guest birds arrived a month later in November and since then more than six thousand migratory birds' arrival has been recorded.

Zoology department sources said around 130 to 150 species of migratory birds are usually found on the JU campus, 95 to 100 of which are local, while 35 to 40 species are foreign. The fair began early in the morn-

ing with visitors watching guest and

local birds through two telescopes and several binoculars available on the campus. The migratory birds enter Bangladesh mostly from the Himalayas as soon as winter snow starts to fall there in October, leaving the birds' usual habitat too cold to survive. They start to fly off again in March. Only seven to ten species of the guest birds usually settle on the lakes while others are known as

migratory tree birds.

Himalayas are know as local migrants, who usually come from Asam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland in India. Some birds also migrate internally from the hilly areas of Bangladesh while some do come secondary categories vesterday under from as far as Siberia and other places in Mid-Bast Asia. The migratory birds include 28 Bangladeshi species which come

Birds that come from the

wetlands and highlands south of the

Sylhet, and from Chittagong Hill Vice-chancellor of JU Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman inaugurated the fair.

A bird sketching competition, a

from places such as Hakaluki and

Hyle lakes, Nijhum Dwip, shoals in

the Jamuna River, Tangaor swamp in

competition for children, and a quiz competition on birds were also held on the sidelines. Besides, an interuniversity competition on bird identification was also held. public universities, and of schools

graphs, posters, calendars, teeshirts, and cards on birds were also set up on the path leading to the university auditorium.

pussince 2001. campus. The birds use the lakes

adjacent paddy fields near the river at night in search of food.

Zoology of JU shows that the rate of decline in the number of migratory birds to JU each year varies between 15 percent and 20 percent

last seen there in 2004. The species of migratory birds that are seen in JU lakes during winter include Lesser Whistling Duck or Chhoto Sharali, Fulvous Whistling Duck or Boro Sharali, Northern Pintail or Lanja Duck, Garganey or Giria Duck, Common Till, Yellow Wagtail or Halud Khanjana, Wagtail or Khanjana, Common Sandpiper or Kada Khocha, Wood Sandpiper, Painted Snipe or Rongila Chaga, Asian Quail, another type of Painted Snipe or Badami Kashai, Comb Duck, Moor Hen, Jolpipi, Water Hen

too weak to move properly due to illness. She is also suffering from allergy. He said that as her personal physician, he suggested her to go for treatment. But she said how she could believe that there would be no

her under observation," said the doctor. Abdullah said Hasina is having severe hearing problems as both of her hearing aids have been damaged.

There is no alternative but to go to US

fluctuating, and it is alarming, he

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

said that in the audio recording

Malik Qayyum appeared to be

advising an unidentified voice on

what party the person should

approach to become a candidate

their own people to win. If you can

get a ticket from these guys, take

it," the voice on the recording says

in Urdu, without identifying who

President Pervez Musharraf, said

however that the allegation was

"ridiculous... a conspiracy against

Pakistan" and denied making the

totally baseless. I have never

uttered these words," Qayyum

commission is holding free and

fair elections and I support free

made during a phone interview

between the attorney general and

Qayyum took a call on another

telephone and his side of that

conversation was recorded, it said.

In Comilla, official sources said

some chickens at Miah Bhai

Poultry Farm, owned by Tofazzal

Hossain, died at Jhakunipara vil-

lage of the upazila on Tuesday. The

officials with the help of law enforc-

ers culled 25,000 domestic and

poultry chickens and other fouls

and destroyed 8,216 eggs at seven

dead chickens were sent to Dhaka

After detection of H5N1 virus in

"It is a ridiculous allegation,

"Why should I? The election

HRW said the recording was

Qayyum, a close ally of

"They will massively rig to get

in the parliamentary poll.

would do the rigging.

told AFP.

and fair elections."

Bird flu

avian influenza virus.

FROM PAGE 16

# Pakistanis fear

FROM PAGE 16 traditional areas bordering Afghanistan in the volatile northwest. Another will be to ensure the country's nuclear arsenal does not fall into the wrong hands. President Pervez Musharraf, who seized power in a 1999 coup and went on to become a key US ally in the war on terror, says Monday's vote is a crucial step in the country's transition to democracy. He is not contesting the ballot, but recent opinion polls predicting a landslide opposition win could

but critics claim he is only trying

to secure his grip on power.

and please his foreign masters, Many people believe that, if a reporter in November 2007.

"Musharraf wants a govern-

ment of puppets, so he can serve

"They will also be held on time." For some, the main concern is a for laboratory test. major outbreak of political violence if the opposition believes the chickens, district livestock the election results have been manipulated. Highlighting those fears, a gunfight between Benazir Bhutto and Musharraf's supporters on Thursday in the south wounded seven people. "I know it's bad, but I might not vote," said Naeem Akhtar, a 35-year-old electronics appliances dealer in Quetta. "Losing your life or a limb is even worse.

ney-general yesterday rejected a statement by a US-based rights group that said it had obtained a recording of him predicting next week's elections will be "mas-

Students of different private and and colleges took part in the compe-Ten kiosks displaying photo-

The fair closed in the afternoon by

holding of a seminar following which

competition winners were awarded

with different prizes. The yearly fair has been being held on the JU cam-Meanwhile, as conditions of most of the lakes on the campus have become unfriendly to the birds due to the university authority's reluctance to protect the habitat of birds, the campus is attracting lesser numbers of migratory birds every year. Now migratory birds can be seen floating only on three lakes on the

Study revealed that the number of migratory birds dropped due to drying up of the lakes, cultivation of napier grass in the lakes, water pollution, and lack of measures to preserve their habitat.

A survey by the Department of

during daytime and wander into the

Moreover, some species even completely stopped coming to the campus including Harial, which was

or Jolkukkut, Shuichora, and Kampakhi.

# Hasina refuses

FROM PAGE 1

foul play in treatment. "It would be good if she is admitted to a hospital. Then we could keep

fortreatment of herears since it is not possible in the country." Hasina's blood pressure has been

sively rigged."

make him vulnerable to impeach-But steps taken in the run-up to the election, from purging the judiciary to restricting press freedoms, have sapped enthusiasm from voters and activists. Musharraf has said the moves were necessary to fight terrorism,

said Zaheer Taj of Multan, 37 and unemployed. Musharraf's party is trounced by opponents as opinion polls predict, he will rig or delay the vote\_ as has been commonplace in the past Pakistani elections. The 64year-old leader promised on Thursday that would not happen. "Despite all rumors, insinuations and every type of apprehension, these elections will be free, fair, transparent and peaceful," he

insisted in a televised address.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's attor-

villages under the upazila. Our Khagrachhari correspondent reported that police yesterday seized over 17 thousand poultry eggs from Matiranga Bazar under Matiranga upazila of Khagrachhari They (police) arrested poultry

trader Mohammad Selim at the bazar for carrying the eggs from other districts defying ban on carrying poultry birds and eggs to and from the district.