

IOJ reveals list

FROM PAGE 1
included in the list that the IOJ claimed to have prepared from documentary evidence and accounts of 651 witnesses.

The IOJ in a press conference at its Motijheel office unveiled the names of the war criminals claiming that all the necessary evidence are in their possession and the witnesses are available.

The IOJ leaders urged the government to form an inquiry commission comprising justices, sector commanders of the Liberation War, lawyers, educators and political scientists to investigate the crimes committed by the war criminals.

The IOJ within a few days will reveal another list of 30 organisers under whose leadership the mass killings were conducted.

On July 26, the IOJ will also organise an international conference in Dhaka to mobilise public support against the war criminals.

"We have collected necessary documents, papers and evidence in support of the crime they had committed during the liberation war," said Misbahur Rahman Chowdhury, chairman of IOJ.

Bird flu

FROM PAGE 1
the government Friday issued orders for culling all the poultry of the farm.

Set up on 9-acre land, the farm is run with machines "without any human involvement", Omega chairman Alif said.

Livestock officials started culling fowls at the farm yesterday evening after digging a 45x25x8 cubic feet pit on the farmland for dumping the fowls.

"We can say the whole culling would take three days," Dhaka District Livestock Officer (DLO) Shaikh Saïdur Rahman told The Daily Star from the spot, adding that 200 employees are working.

Since the infection is of grave nature, all the fowls in five sheds have to be culled and the eggs destroyed, he said.

Alif Ahmed put the number of eggs at over 4 lakh as he said that they did not collect eggs over the last three days.

Future of Musharraf

FROM PAGE 16
February 18, but many observers think it will be the mother of all riggings.

Why Musharraf will rig the elections despite his tall claims of fairness? Musharraf cannot survive if the PPP and Pakistan Muslim League of Nawaz Sharif get two-thirds majority in the next national assembly.

Rigging was started long before the election campaign when Musharraf announced a caretaker government in November last which was headed by a prime minister who belonged to the pro-Musharraf Pakistan Muslim League.

Close relatives of caretaker prime minister and information minister are contesting the election from Sindh. The support from the so-called caretakers for the pro-Musharraf Pakistan Muslim League is not a secret in Pakistan.

Election Commission of Pakistan received more than 1500 complaints of rigging in last two months, but not a single complaint was addressed properly.

Human Rights Watch has recently released a tape in which Attorney General of Pakistan Malik Qayyum, admitting to a friend on telephone, says that yes the election will be rigged.

is still in contact with the PPP leadership. He is trying to convince the PPP to forge a coalition with the PML-Q. The PPP is playing a clever game. Zardari is not pledging anything to Musharraf.

One PPP senator, Babar Awan, said on Saturday that the PPP will remove Musharraf after winning the election. Musharraf associates tried their level best to ensure that their level best to ensure that the PPP declined to do that.

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Indian relief

FROM PAGE 16
promised by Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee during his tour of Sadr-affected areas in December.

The relief materials, worth Tk 3 crore, consist of 1,010 metric tonnes of rice, 50 tonnes of wheat, 750 blankets, 10,000 sarees and 6,000 mosquito nets.

"We share the same sky and air and speak the same language, that is why we feel and cry for Bangladeshis and rush to their side every time they need help," Chakrabarty said at a large hand-over programme at Benapole on the Indo-Bangla border yesterday.

A cultural programme was hosted by Jessoro Deputy Commissioner Abuwal Hossain at the border area and attended by renowned Bengali writer Sunil Gangopadhyaya, Rabindra Sangeet exponent Sumitra Mitra, actor Biswajit Maitra and folk singer Amar Pal.

Hundreds of school students lined the streets to welcome the 60-member delegation led by Chakrabarty, who spoke as the chief guest at the cultural programme.

"Our links have never really been severed since the partition," said Chakrabarty adding that Bengalis from West Bengal always empathise with the Bengalis on this side of the border.

Suicide attack

FROM PAGE 1
It is a very unfortunate incident. Maximum security measures are in place for the 17th and 18th (of February) and the campaign is going to end tonight," he added.

Thirty-seven people were killed and 93 wounded in the blast, interior ministry spokesman Brigadier Javed Cheema said, adding: "It was a vehicle-borne suicide attack."

Security officials earlier told AFP that the suicide bomber attacked a Pakistan People's Party meeting outside the office of local candidate Riaz Shah. Shah's family said he was safe.

"A man with long hair drove a car into the crowd and blew himself up. There were bodies and blood everywhere," witness Laïq Hussain told AFP.

Parachinar is just across the border from Tora Bora, an Afghan mountain range where US-led forces were believed to have cornered al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden in late 2001 before he managed to escape.

In a separate incident in the nearby Bajaur tribal area militants blew up a polling station with a time bomb, police said.

hamper the voting or disrupt peace on election day.

In Washington, a senior US senator in a Congressional team travelling to monitor the polls said late Friday that the United States should "cut off aid to Pakistan, military aid" if the vote is not fair.

Democratic Senator Joseph Biden, who is head of the influential Senate foreign relations committee, also forecast riots throughout Pakistan if the elections were found to be "patently rigged."

A fresh roar erupted over the fairness of the polls on Friday after Human Rights Watch said it had obtained a recording of Pakistan's attorney-general predicting the vote will be "massively rigged."

But Malik Qayyum, a close ally of Musharraf, denied making the comment.

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Satkhira grenades

FROM PAGE 1
attack, Director General (DG) of Rab Hassan Mahmood Khandkar told a press briefing at Rab headquarters in Uttara.

The elite crime busters made the seizure at Simulia village of Debhata upazila following up leads obtained from Huji leader Mufi Moin Uddin alias Abu Jandal alias Masum Billah.

"The arrests will provide important leads in investigation of August 21 grenade attacks," the Rab DG said.

from Huji, he opted to side with him and became an influential member of the Hannan-led Huji. He had led Huji after Hannan's arrest in 2005.

He was the one who collected grenades for the attack from Mohammadpur house of Moulana Tajuddin.

Local sources said he was involved in arms smuggling. He might have met Mufi Hannan when the militant kingpin visited Satkhira in 2002 or 2003 and since then he maintained a link with Huji.

Pro-Saifur faction

FROM PAGE 1
election, following which they also intend to form a national unity government.

Ferdous Ahmed Quarishi, president of PDP, and Maj (ret) Abdul Mannan of Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, however told The Daily Star last night that they had not been in any such meeting.

"We don't want to go back to the days of an imperial prime minister's rule, neither do we want any elected autocracy," the meeting sources said.

Huda, Altaf Chy

FROM PAGE 16
political ally to former prime minister Khaleeda Zia; former state minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Sigma Huda, wife of Nazmul Huda -- is in process, said Deputy Inspector General (DIG-Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique.

Of the three, Salaudun Quader and Alamgir are in Kishinpur jail in Gazipur and Sigma in prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital in the capital.

Shamsul said court has already ordered filing cases against the three for violating the jail code.

Meanwhile, the jail authorities are not allowing their relatives to meet them.

In reply to a question, he said division of these prisoners in jail might be reviewed for this offence.

Human rights lawyer Sloan will also observe the human rights situation in Bangladesh.

3 killed

FROM PAGE 16
about 1:45pm, killing three truck labourers on the spot and injuring five others.

Two of the dead were identified as Rafiq, 23, of Bhola district, and Shaiful, 25, of Sherpur district. Identity of the other could not be known.

On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the bodies to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

The injured -- Sohag and Sushanto, employees of the CNG station, one taxi driver and two laborers of the truck -- were admitted to a local hospital. Of them, Sushanto was released after first aid.

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Dr Yunus

FROM PAGE 16
The FT said that the bank had already lent 50,000 dollars (34,000 euros) in the last month to groups of immigrant women in the New York borough of Queens. It plans to offer 176 million dollars of loans within New York City over the next five years and then expand across the United States.

"Now is a good time because of the subprime crisis and that highlights the issue that the financial system is not perfect," said Yunus, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Grameen Bank in 2006, in comments quoted by the paper.

The bank's entry into the US market is its first into a developed market.

Hamid Mir, Executive Editor, Geo TV, Pakistan
E-mail: hamid.mir@geo.tv

Hamid Mir, Executive Editor, Geo TV, Pakistan
E-mail: hamid.mir@geo.tv

Hamid Mir, Executive Editor, Geo TV, Pakistan
E-mail: hamid.mir@geo.tv

CA's first meet

FROM PAGE 16
last six months. It's widely expected that he will reveal important guidelines in the matter.

Sources say that there is possibility of discussions on possible reshuffle at top and field-level administration, which is needed to hold the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Fakhruddin Ahmed will also launch a website of the establishment ministry before the meeting.

Establishment Secretary Md Abdus Salam Khan told The Daily Star yesterday that people will be able to access government information through the website.

Besides all notifications of appointments, postings, promotions and transfer of government officials, all government gazette notifications -- including those on different laws -- will be posted on the website.

Abdus Salam added that the objective of creating the website is ensuring free flow of information.

All 10 advisers and senior bureaucrats will attend the meeting to be held at the Cabinet Room at the Secretariat on Wednesday morning.

Kosovo inches closer

FROM PAGE 16
idea of unilateral independence for Kosovo, expressed its "surprise" at Putin's remarks to Moscow's ambassador and called for an explanation, said the ministry source.

The armed separatist group ETA is blamed for the deaths of 819 people in Spain during almost four decades of fighting for independence for the Basque region.

Meanwhile, the European Union gave the final approval Saturday for the deployment of a 1,800-strong policing and administration mission for Kosovo.

The decision comes just before the province's ethnic Albanian leadership is expected to declare independence from Serbia, possibly on Sunday.

No EU nations objected to the mission, which will take four months to put in place, and is designed to help build a police, justice and customs system for Kosovo free of political interference.

The force will include 700 police officers for patrols and who are trained in crowd and riot control. Judges, prosecutors and other legal experts would be sent to offer training and for administrative work.

Although Kosovo is technically part of Serbia, the impoverished province of two million people has been administered by the United Nations since a brief war in 1999. The EU force will replace the UN mission now in Kosovo.