Losing mother tongue

done so far.

FROM PAGE 16 children would not forget their

mother tongues. "We have our own alphabet but most Chakma people cannot enjoy our literature as they did not learn to write and read Chakma letters. They can, however, speak in it," said Trijinad Chakma, a student of Dhaka University.

Trijinad is one of the indigenous students who have published posters of Chakma alphabet to promote their language on the occasion of the International Mother Language Day

The Marma people also have their own alphabet. The Monipuris once had their own alphabet but now they use Bangla letters for writing. Other communities including the Bom, Garo, Hajong and Mro use the Roman or Bangla alphabet for writ-

A recent research shows that four indigenous languages -- Bangli, Kurmi, Rajbangshi and Bhojpuriout of 68 are forgotten now because of negligence and lack of practice. Nobody now speaks in these languages although people from these communities are present in the

Mohammed Rafi, a teacher of BRAC University, shows that 51 indigenous languages including Bede, Pahari, Bagdi and Sardi are threatened with

extinction. Sohel Hajong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad, said most people of their village in Sherpur do not speak in Hajong language.

"Each of our villages has around 10 families. Being a small community, we are becoming the victim of the majority of Bangla language," he The indigenous people have long

been demanding primary education

of their children in their mother

languages, but not much has been

general of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, adding. "We run the school on dona-According to the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord signed between the Janasanghati Samity and the government in 1997, three hill dis-

trict councils were given authorities to arrange primary education for indigenous students in their own The Rangamati District Council arranged teachers' training on the Chakma alphabet. The Bandarban District Council translated textbooks up to class III in Marma and Bom languages but the students have not got those books as the council is yet

to get the approval from the National

Only two non-government pri-

A total of 475 Santal students are

mary schools in Godagari upazila of

Rajshahi are teaching in Santal

studying in these two schools," said

Rabindranath Soren, secretary

language was opened in 1999.

Curriculum and Text Book Board. With the help of Tripura Welfare Society, the Khagrachhari District Council published a book for chil-The research conducted by dren in Tripura language but that is also not being used at schools mainly because of lack of government initia-

Mohammed Rafi in his book titled "Household Census of Small Ethnic Groups in Bangladesh" showed that 52.3 percent indigenous people want to teach their children in their own languages along with Bangla.

Many indigenous people are anxious about their next genera-

"Both of my sons speak in Bangla as all my neighbours are Bangalee and the medium of education is also Bangla. They did not learn Tripura...They are not even interested in it," said Dipol Tripura living

station on October 13 last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate

Mohammad Emran Hossain

Chowdhury directed OC of Demra

police to take action against former

agriculture minister MK Anwar and

five others, and also start an inves-

spondent of The Daily Inqilab

vesterday filed the case against

them with the CMM's Court for

assaulting him and extorting Tk

son Kaizar Anwar, former SP of

Comilla Awranga Mahbub, former

OC of Daudkandi police Jalaluddin

Ahmed, OC of Meghna police

Nirmalendu Chakrabarty and SI

together to make all their

Presidium member Syeda

Sajeda Chowdhury urged the party

members to remain alert as a

delay the holding of the election.'

vested quarter is on the move to

has to announce the date for hold-

ing the election immediately," she

Hossain Amu demanded that the

government must ensure proper

Tofail Ahmed urged the govern-

AL yesterday received a letter

Another Presidium member

ment to hold the next election as

early as possible after holding

from the Election Commission

which invited it to hold dialogue

with the commission for the sec-

Suranjit Sengupta said the govern-

ment must announce the specific

date and schedule for the next

election without making any delay.

He also called upon the chief

adviser to lift the state of emer-

"If the state of emergency is

'unconstitutional and illegal,' then

the caretaker government is also

unconstitutional and illegal," said

the AL leader asking the chief

adviser to prove which law allows

them to keep the state of emer-

of the party chief, Presidium mem-

ber Motia Chowdhury said they

election under the leadership of

Ashraful Islam said they are united

and neither reformist nor any pro-

Hasina faction exists in the party.

Acting General Secretary Syed

Organising Secretary Saber

Hossain Chowdhury said Hsina

should be regarded as the only

person to help overcome the exist-

ing crisis rather than the cause of

Mannan, Mahmudur Rahman

Manna, Akhtaruzzaman, Abdur

Rahman, Col (retd) Faruk Khan,

Habibur Rahman Siraj, Dr Abdur

Razzak, Dr Mostafa Jalal

Mohiuddin, Dr Dipu Moni,

Shahara Khatun, Nazma Rahman,

Capt (retd) ABM Tajul Islam, MA

Aziz and Qamrul Islam and former

AL leaders Mukul Bose, Abdul

would participate in the upcoming

Demanding immediate release

dialogue with political parties.

ond time on February 25.

gency immediately.

gency in force.

Hasina.

AL asks govt

programmes successful.

The accused are MK Anwar, his

AKM Salahuddin, a staff corre-

CASEAGAINSTANWAR

tigation into the case.

1.80,000 from him.

Mizanur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 16

* Corruption cases

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's

(CMM) Court, Dhaka showing 56 people as prosecution witnesses. The couple was charged with

concealing Tk 17,83,55,341 from their wealth statements and amassing Tk 60,61,91,279 through illegal means.

The IO appealed for an arrest warrant against Mahbuba and an order to attach her properties. She has been absconding since the case was filed against her with Motijheel Police Station on July 8 last year.

ACC Assistant Director Rahilee Khatun filed the case against Falu and his wife.

The case was filed against them under sections 26(2)/27(1) of the Anti- Corruption Commission Act-2004, section 15(Kha)(5) of the Emergency Power Rules and section 109 of the Bangladesh Penal Code.

Two more cases have been filed against Falu with Tejgaon and Ashulia police stations on different dates this year for misuse of gov-

ernment property. Mahbuba Sultana was earlier convicted in a tax evasion case. CASE AGAINST OMAR

Deputy Assistant Director Aftab Uddin of the ACC, who is also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Shahjahan Omar, his wife Mehjabin Farzana Omar and their son Adnan Omar, to the same court, showing 28 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against the three and orders to attach their properties. They have been absconding since the case was filed against

ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Mesbahuddin filed the case against them on September 27 last year with Gulshan Police Station on charges of concealing Tk 2,64,15,803 in their wealth statements and amassing Tk 46,18,502 beyond their known means of

income LOTUS KAMAL CASE ACC Deputy Assistant Director Taposh Sarkar, the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Lotus Kamal and two others for accumulating Tk 2 crore illegally in various accounts in their names under different banks and conceal-

wealth statements. The two others accused are Orion Group Chairman Obaidul Karim and his accomplice ABM

ing this information from their

Selim. The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against Obaidul and Selim and orders to attach their properties as they have been absconding since the case was

ACC Assistant Director Syed Iqbal Hossain filed the case against the three with Gulshan police

BB warns

FROM PAGE 16 circular to the banks next week on whether poultry businessmen could also be given working capital

to restart their businesses. Syed Abu Siddique, secretary general of Bangladesh Poultry Industry Association (BPIA), told The Daily Star that they want banks to waive interests for a year and reschedule their loan repayments

by another three years. BPIA sources said, out of Tk 10,000 crore investment in the

sector, Tk 3,000 is loans. The BB also drew ABB's attention to a complaint filed by the France Federation of Textile Associations for document irregularities and asked the banks to look

CNG seized

15 substandard cylinders were seized in the last two days.

However, it could not be known if Sarmano Engineering Services was authorised by Rupantorita Prakritik Gas Company Limited The first school to teach in Santal (RPGCL), the authority to issue licenses for CNG filling stations and conversion workshops, as the workshop was closed at the time of the drive.

> Led by Savar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mohammad Rabbi Mia, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Savar Police Station Abul Khair, Explosives Department official AHM Nuruzzaman, RPGCL official Rakibul Islam, Bangladesh CNG Filling Station and Conversion Workshop Owners' Association leader Abdullah Al Mamun took

> part in the drive. The team seized two carbon dioxide cylinders when the workers of a truck at Amin Bazar were taking those out from the vehicle. They told the team that the CNG filling stations were unwilling to fill those

> cylinders. On Tuesday, the officials of Department of Explosives and Bangladesh CNG Filling Station and Conversion Workshop Owners' Association seized 10 carbon dioxide cylinders from an unauthorised conversion workshop and another truck in Amin

UNO Mohammad Rabbi Mia said cases will be filed against the workshops, as they found clear evidence that the cylinders seized were used in motor vehicles ille-

The workshop owners will be tried as per the Explosives Act, he said, adding "Maximum punish ment for the offence is 20 years' jail and Tk 50,000 fine."

The officials said that the drive would go on.

When used as CNG cylinders with motor vehicles, substandard cylinders run high risks of blast that may claim innocent lives. According to Society for Urban

Environmental Protection (SUEP), an NGO, 18 accidents related to substandard CNG cylinders left at least 17 people killed since January The conversion rules say that CNG cylinders have to have the capacity to contain 3,000 pounds

per square inch (PSI), while locally

made cylinders or those meant for oxygen and carbon dioxide can hold only 1,000 PSI. "Therefore, during filling CNG, such cylinders may blow up, explosives expert Nuruzzaman

Businesses and officials concerned said many motor vehicles fitted with substandard cylinders run the risks of explosion as well.

Bangladesh CNG Filling Station and Conversion Workshop Owners' Association leader Abdullah Al Mamun said that they believe over 100 unauthorised CNG conversion workshops are

operative across the country. There are 210 licensed CNG filling stations and 110 CNG conversion workshops in the country, mainly on the peripheries of the cities and towns, he added.

War criminals

"The government must hold the parliamentary political party. The election as soon as possible and lift issue will be discussed at the secthe state of emergency by March. It ond round of talks.

Sources noted that the EC is facing difficulties finalising its proposals since it could not yet Presidium member Amir hold first round of talks with BNP due to its leadership disputes. And it has excluded the party from the treatment for Hasina within 72 second round of talks.

"The tasks will not be completed until holding talks with BNP. We have to see the ground reality. It is not possible for us to finalise the proposals without seeking opinion of a major political party," the CEC

"We are waiting for court's decision regarding talks with BNP," headded

On election expenditures, the EC's revised proposals say expenditure of a parliamentary polls candidate will be fixed considering the number of voters of the constit-

"The expenditure of a candidate will not exceed Tk 15 lakh in a single constituency. Expenditure of the political party concerned will be added with the candidate's election expenses," the EC proposal

The EC has also proposed that none will be allowed to bring out procession or hold rally during filling of nominations.

Besides, it has decided that polls would be held on one day, rejecting proposals for some political parties to hold polls on more than one day.

The EC has scrapped an earlier proposal saying that candidates contesting for more than one seat have to deposit Tk 5 lakh each, and in case of their wining all these seats, deposits for two will be for-

But none will be allowed to contest from more than three constituencies at a time, it now proposes.

The EC has retained its proposals for imposing restriction on retired military or civil servants, loan and utility bill defaulters, NGO officials and independent candidates regarding participation in national polls.

A retired civil or military bureaucrat will not be allowed to contest parliamentary election within three years after retirement. Similar provision has been sug-

Amar Ekushey today

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1

Placing their wreaths, the president and the chief adviser stood together in solemn silence for some time to the tune of "Amar bhaiyer

rokte rangano Ekushey February" The advisory council and special assistants to the chief adviser led by Fakhruddin Ahmed then laid a

They were followed by Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, Dhaka city Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, foreign diplomats, Sector Commanders Forum, Dhaka University led by Vice-Chancellor SMA Faiz, and DU Teachers' Association led by its President Prof Sadrul Amin and General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain.

Different political parties and their front organisations also paid their homage to the Language Movement martyrs.

The Awami League (AL) led by Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Asaduzzaman Noor laid a floral wreath at the altar of the Shaheed Minar followed by Bangladesh Chhatra League and DU Journalists' Association.

The BNP led by chairpersonappointed Secretary General Delwar Hossain and chairperson's Adviser Hannan Shah paid their homage to the martyrs.

They were followed by Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Bangladesh National Cadet Corps and different socio-cultural organi-

Thousands of people from all walks of life also paid their homage to the Language Movement martyrs. People also thronged memorials across Bangladesh and other countries to pay their tributes. Paying homage will continue throughout the day.

Number of women and children significantly increased this year due to strict security measures around the Shaheed Minar.

On this day in 1952, students and people from all walks of life took to the streets in Dhaka to protest the then Pakistan government's refusal to recognise Bangla as one of the state languages and imposing of Urdu as the only official language of Pakistan The Pakistan government was

ultimately compelled to include an article in the country's constitution on February 29, 1956 that declared, "The state language of Pakistan shall be Urdu and Bengali. The Language Movement is

indeed the most important turning

point in the history of Bangalees as its spirit led to the independence of

Bangladesh. On November 17, 1999, the Unesco declared February 21 as the International Mother Language Day. Countries across the globe have since been observing the day to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education and raise awareness of cultural traditions based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

In his message, President Iajuddin Ahmed said the spirit of Ekushey would consolidate the nation's democratic advancement along with overall economic development and progress. The glaring spirit of the Language Movement inspires people to stand against all injustices and unfairness and helps attain the overall progress of the country, he added. "The fortitude of the Language

Movement is now inspiring not only the advancement of our own language, literature, culture and heritage but also for the preservation and promotion of languages and cultures of other nations around the world," the president said.

In his message, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed asked all citizens of Bangladesh irrespective of religion, class or political affiliation to forge a national unity to unleash the infinite potential of the land, improve the lot of the people and establish a democratic state.

Calling upon all to make the independence of the country meaningful by drawing on the spirit of Ekushey, he said, "We shall have to work hard for the flourishing of our language, literature, culture and education."

The Central Shaheed Minar and its adjacent areas have had a facelift on the occasion, and roads and medians have been festooned with Bangla alphabets and national flags.

Strict security measures have been taken at and around the Shaheed Minar to ensure smooth observance of the day. Members of law enforcement agencies were deployed and closed-circuit television cameras and archways were set up. Besides, bomb squads and dog squads are also patrolling the Shaheed Minar area.

The day is a public holiday. The national flag will be hoisted at halfmast atop all government, autonomous and private buildings.

The government and different socio-political and cultural organisations have taken up separate programmes to observe the Language Martyrs' Day.

Ekushey Padak

Memorial Auditorium.

Terming the Amar Ekushey a visible symbol of 'our patriotism, national spirit and united effort' the chief adviser called for intensifying the momentum of combined efforts and fostering determination for country's development and progress imbued with the sprit of Amar Ekushev.

He reminded that 1971, the year of Liberation War, came treading the bloodstained path of 1952, the year of Language Movement, and the nation got the recognition of an independent national identity, but the nation's dreams and aspirations were dashed for various reasons.

Fakhruddin handed over the prestigious award to the recipients and family members of those awarded posthumously.

Nine persons, five of them posthumously, were adjudged for the Ekushey Padak 2008 for their extraordinary contribution to respective

The award recipients are Dr Nazma Chowdhury (Research), Khandokar Nurul Alam (Music) Wahidul Huq (Music, posthumous) Shamsundar Boishnob (Music posthumous), Shefali Ghosh (Music posthumous), Professor Dr Mozaffai Ahmad (Education), Khaleque Nowaz Khan (Language Veteran, posthumous), Professor Dr Zohra Begum Kazi (Social Work, posthumous) and Kabi Dilwar Khan (Literature).

The award carries a gold medal, a

citation of honors and a cheque for Tk40,000 each.

Professor Mozaffar Ahmad spoke | provided for the campaign, with at the function on behalf of the recip-Cultural Affairs Adviser Rasheda K

Chowdhury chaired the function conducted by Cabinet Secretary Al Imam Majumder. The deputy speaker, advisers,

special assistants to the chief adviser, distinguished personalities, aca demics, poets, writers, singers and cultural activists were present. The chief adviser said his govern-

ment is going ahead towards holding a free, fair and acceptable election alongside keeping the country's economic activities in motion. He noted that they had already

embarked upon the journey on the path towards good governance through necessary reforms in various areas but said it needs coopera tion, overall participation and aware ness of all for further advances. "And honest, competent, benign

and dedicated persons will lead the nation and grace various seats as real representatives of the people." The chief adviser urged all irre-

spective of party and opinion to work together to establish a progressive and democratic society. Prof Mozaffar said economic

emancipation has not been attained as participatory democracy is yet to be established.

Article 70

FROM PAGE 1

these," said ATM Shamsul Huda, the chief election commissioner (CEC), while speaking with reporters at the EC Secretariat conference room yesterday during the launching ceremony of website of the EC Secretariat.

Anyone can view the website (www.ecs.gov.bd) and access information about the activities of the EC, the CEC said. Apart from article 70 of the

Constitution, the EC will also give its opinion on the demands for increasing parliamentary seats and introducing a bicameral parliamentary system. "The chief adviser has wished to

see our report on electoral reform talks. The caretaker government will open its national dialogue with the political parties after our talks are completed," said the CEC. Participating in the EC's electoral reform talks held in September through November last year, some

repealing of the article 70 that gags the lawmakers' voice. The issue of amending or repealing the article 70 of the Constitution

political parties strongly demanded

states that a person elected as a member of parliament at an election at which he/ she was nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate his/her seat if he/ she resigns from that party or votes in parliament against the party.

Replying to a query on the state of emergency, the CEC said, "We hope we will know the government's decision on the fate of the state of emergency before the announcement of the schedule for city corporation polls."

The EC has planned to announce the polls schedule for four city corporations and seven municipalities by mid-March this year.

"We have already asked the government to create conducive atmosphere for holding elections to the local government bodies. The government will decide the fate of the state of emergency whether it will be lifted or be relaxed in the respective areas for the polls," the CEC said.

"We are very much clear that election campaigns can not be held amid the state of emergency. So, we

Musharraf

FROM PAGE 1 "Last night the situation was that they were trying to change the results," Asif Ali Zardari told the conference, two days after the polls in which his Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won the largest number of seats.

"They had not yet announced the

results... even last night there was an attempt to change the results," he President Pervez Musharraf's allies suffered a crushing defeat in

Monday's vote and he faces possible impeachment if an opposition government has a two-thirds major-The election commission has not yet released the official results, saying

that around half a dozen seats have vet to be confirmed. "They are trying to rig the results by holding the final results of several seats," PPP leader Taj Haider told

"They are trying to maximise seats of their loyalists although they have lost the elections." He said the results of five seats in

Karachi were changed in favour of a pro-Musharraf party. "We are going to appeal against

results of these seats and we will stop the announcement of these results.' In 2002 elections Musharraf formed a coalition government with a margin of just one parliamentary

Zardari reiterated he was seeking a "government of national consen sus" with other opposition parties, but did not say whether he would form an alliance with the party of former premier Nawaz Sharif, which won the second largest number of

"I am meeting with Nawaz Sharif tomorrow evening and we are going to find solutions to the problems of Pakistan," hesaid. Zardari added, however, that his party had decided he would not be

prime minister in any coalition gov-"I will not be a candidate for prime

ministership," Zardari said. He is not eligible to stand for the position as he is not a member o parliament, but he has the option of seeking to enter the legislature in a byelection.

The press conference followed a

meeting of the central executive committee of the party, whose leadership he took over after his wife's assassination in a suicide attack in December. US President George W Bush embraced the elections as "a signifi-

cant victory" for democracy and said

he hoped the new government would

"befriends of the United States." European Union election monitors said yesterday that conditions during Pakistan's election campaign favoured the ruling party, although the vote itself was "positive on the

Opposition parties swept to victory in Monday's parliamentary poll, ousting the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q) that supports key US ally President Pervez Musharraf. "A level playing field was not

public authorities primarily favouring the ruling party," the EU said in preliminary statement on the polls. "However, on election day, voting was assessed as positive on the whole, although some disorder and proce-

dural irregularities were noted," the

reportsaid Opposition parties, including slain former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's grouping, had alleged "massive" pre-poll rigging in favour of the PML-Q

has passed off better than had been anticipated," said chief EU observer Michael Gahler. "However, elections were held in an environment that provided signifi

"We are relieved that election day

cant challenges for the conduct of democratic elections," he said. Meanwhile, US senator and poll monitor John Kerry told reporters in India that Musharraf displayed " kind of grace in accepting" the defeat

ofhis allies.

Thursday for their first encounter since the election, said Farhatullah Babar, spokesman for Benazir's party A firebrand lawyer detained by Musharraf since November, Aitzaz Ahsan, called on Tuesday for the

Zardari might meet with Sharif on

president to resign Opinion polls before the election showed that up to three-quarters of Pakistanis questioned said it was time for him to go. With votes counted in 258 out of

272 constituencies, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Sharif's party had a combined total of 153 seats, the election commission said. The former ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Qand its allies together had 58. Results also showed a near total defeat for hardline Islamic parties that

under the previous administration ruled Pakistan's North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan. A hostile parliament threatens the political survival of Musharraf, who could theoretically face impeach-

ment if the opposition gets a two-

thirds majority. Analysts said Musharraf's most likely strategy would be to woo Benazir party and split it from Sharif's by preying on the one-time rift between the ex-prime ministers.

AG asked

FROM PAGE 16

As the court resumed, a sevenmember full court of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin, got surprised after examining the progress report submitted by Attorney General Fida M Kamal as asked for. Expressing dissatisfaction over

the non-compliance attitude of the bureaucracy, the apex court said it had earlier given the government time and again the deadline to implement its directives on separatexecuting its orders, it noted.

Bush wants Musharraf

FROM PAGE 1

relationship" with Musharraf but the PPP is reluctant to make any commitment yet. A source close to President Musharraf said the PPP have no other choice than to cooperate with them, otherwise the National Reconciliation Ordinance may go and Asif Ali Zardari could be

A top diplomat in Islamabad said, "The USA invested more than 10 billion dollars in Musharraf, they will not allow anyone to destroy this huge investment". It is learnt that the Bush administration needs Musharraf to stay in power not only for the war against terror but also for implementing a new Kashmir plan before the presidential election in the USA later this year.

A close aide of the president, Mr Tariq Aziz, completed his homework on this new Kashmir plan just few days before the election. He recently spent many days in Dubai where he met important Kashmiri leaders from Indian controlled Kashmir with the consent of New Delhi.

Musharraf planned to start a new initiative on Kashmir in April this year with the support of a new political government, but people's verdict on February 18 shattered all his plans. Musharraf is not ready to realise that February 18 verdict was not only against him but that verdict also rejected all those policies which were taken on the pressure of Bush.

The fact is that Musharraf is the most unpopular man in Pakistan but he is still the most popular Pakistani in the White House and the ruling elite of India. Top Indian officials gave many hints to international media before February 18 that they like Musharraf more than anyone else in Pakistan. The Bush administration is now

ready to oblige the PPP with a UN investigation into the assassination of Benazir Bhutto. In return, Washington needs the PPP to support Musharraf. The PPP leadership is still more inclined to make a coalition with the PML-N and the ANP, but the restoration of the deposed judges is becoming a problem between the

Many important PPP leaders like

Senator Raza Rabbani, Senator Babar

Awan and Sherry Rehman supported

the idea of forming a coalition with the

PML-N at the central executive com Abu Zandal

FROM PAGE 16

the Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) cell in Dhaka. CID sources said Zandal is a

hardcore militant and he is trying

to conceal information about the

source of grenades used in the here," said Obama, as he addressed attack that left 24 dead and scores Earlier, the investigators said Zandal was one of the planners of the attack. He collected the gre-

nades, coordinated the attackers and led the attacks from the front. The sources said arrested two other Huji militants who were involved in the August 21 attack -Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Bulbul and Tamim -- will be brought face

to face with Zandal to verify infor-

mation so far gleaned from him. The CID yesterday filed petitions before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka seeking five days remand for Bulbul and Tamim. The court is expected to hear the remand petitions on

Sunday, sources said. Bulbul has already made statement before a magistrate confessing that he took part in the grisly attacks while Tamim gave important information about Zandal when he was interrogated in

remand earlier. Khaleda

FROM PAGE 16 Detained former law minister Moudud Ahmed and former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain are also

accused in the Niko case. ACC Assistant Director Mahbubul Alam filed the Niko graft case against Khaleda Zia and four others on December 9 last year. The other accused are former energy secretary Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, former acting energy secretary Khandaker Shahidul Islam, and Kashem Sharif -- vicepresident (South Asia) of Niko

Research Bangladesh Ltd. Khaleda Zia was arrested on Sept 2 last year after Gatco graft

case was filed against her. Meanwhile, law enforcers have recovered a laptop computer, national level, he said, "If we could allegedly received by Joint work together at the time of natural Secretary of the law ministry Noren calamity like Sidr, why not work Das as a bribe, from his father-inlaw's residence at Shyampur in the city. The ACC quizzed Noren on Tuesday in connection with the Niko graft case.

UNB adds: Acting on the statement of Noren, ACC personnel raided the house of his father-inlaw early Wednesday, and seized the laptop as material evidence of the case filed against Khaleda Zia and four others, sources said. During the questioning, Noren,

who was a senior assistant secretary of the same ministry at the time of the incident, confessed to accepting the laptop in return for assisting Niko in getting the deal to explore gas. On December 9 last year, the

anti-graft body filed a case with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda and others. They were accused of signing the illegal deal with Niko through

corruption.

quizzed.

Since filing of the case, about 40 people, including two former ministers, have already been

mittee meeting of the party. Just few days before February 18, Asif Ali Zardari assured Nawaz Sharif that both of them will resolve the issue of judges after the election. It is no more a secret in the capital of Pakistan that the Bush administration forced the PPP to stay away from the support of Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry.

Top US officials conveyed their disliking for Justice Iftikhar to PPP leadership long before the election. PPP leaders were informed that Justice Iftikhar had sympathies for Islamic hardliners because he ordered the release of some alleged militants

Some visiting US senators of the Democratic Party recently demanded the release of the deposed judges but not their restoration. A top PPP leader informed Democratic Senator John Kerry in Islamabad that Musharraf have nothing to lose politically after February 18, but the PPP will be destroyed after supporting Musharraf. The PPP is also aware of bad relations between Musharraf and Pakistani independent media.

Party leadership knows that the media may put Asif Ali Zardari "in the line of fire" by quoting anti-PPP paragraphs from the autobiography of Musharraf. PPP sources are confident that an expected meeting between Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif will clear the uncertainty about the future of a PPP-PML-N coalition.

Nawaz Sharif has conveyed to the Bush administration that he is not against war on terror, but he will support a war against terror for Pakistan, not for America, and that the Bush administration should not interfere in the politics of Pakistan. It is most likely that the Bush administration will fail to save its most trusted friend because the PPP and the PML-N are determined to make a coalition and clip all those powers through which a president can dissolve the parliament.

Obama beats

FROM PAGE 16

Democratic White House race.

Presumptive Republican nominee John McCain meanwhile fired a pre-emptive strike on his increasingly likely Democratic general election foe, ripping Obama's "eloquent but empty" rhetoric, after his own easy win in Wisconsin. Obama's victories cemented his

front-runner status, and left Hillary needing an astonishing turnaround in must-win contests in her firewall states of Ohio and Texas on March 4 to keep her fading presidential hopes alive. "I think we've achieved liftoff

a delirious rally in Houston, Texas,

which hosts NASA's mission con-

trol for US space missions, as he set a rhetorical course the November 4 presidential vote. "The change we seek is still months and miles away," he said.

Though Obama and Hillary had been tightly matched going into the Wisconsin primary, which had 74 delegates on offer, he swept to a

comprehensive win.

With 97 percent of precincts reporting, Obama led 58 percent to 41 percent. Later Tuesday, Obama, who is vying to make history as America's first black president, secured

his birth state of Hawaii held its caucuses, US media reported. Hillary, stung by another grievous blow to her hopes of becoming America's history-making first woman president, pleaded with voters to pause to consider who was truly qualified to lead the

another comprehensive victory as

country.

Gen Moeen

been exercised in Bangladesh in the last 15 years, but without following the true essence of the Westminster form of parliament.

"In our democracy, prime min-

ister completely becomes one-

man show," he said, adding, "What

we actually follow here is not the Westminster form." Speaking at the launch of his book "Nirbachita Sankolon (selected compilation)" at Kurmitola Golf Club, General Moeen said votes are not sold and bought in that country (UK). "We should have such model of democracy as will

Stressing the need for unity at together on other issues of national importance."

suit us and that's why I stated about

our own brand of democracy.'

The army chief said his present book will inspire him to write another one, which will be named "Shantir Pathe (Road to Peace)".

TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, who unveiled the cover of the book, said it is important to compile fundamental documents of history and make it public. Otherwise, he observed, the people will be left with many unanswered questions. He said General Moeen's book

and people will evaluate that the army has worked for the country. The book will also remain as basic document for the army. The army chief's book was reviewed by Dr Mahbubullah and

will remain as historic document

Prof Salahuddin Ahmed. Asia

The function was attended. among others, by UNB Editor-in-Chief Enayetullah Khan, former FBCCI president Mir Nasir, jurist Dr Zahir and former BGMEA president Annisul Hug.

Publication published the book.

Rajshahi University vicechancellor Prof Saidur Rahman asked the government to create an is likely to be discussed at the diaing the judiciary from the executive. gested for officials of NGOs run on Khan, also spoke at the discussion environment for the elections. The logue between the government and Now the bureaucracy again started foreign grants, the EC proposals conducted by Asaduzzaman Noor the political parties as well. government has to assist us in conthe same dilly-dallying process of and Asim Kumar Ukil. Article 70 of the Constitution ducting the polls," the CEC added.