He said they don't want elections like

the previous ones. "We want such an

election that will bring qualitative change in the country in people's lives

We want a sustainable democration government after the election," said Dr

He said they sat with the JSD leaders

as part of the unification move and to

chalk out strategies to achieve the

purpose. "We will continue the dialogue

process as we want to have a unity based

on principles and ethics and involve

people with the process so that they

could play their due role in the future,"

Briefing the reporters, JSD President

Hasanul Haque Inu said they want not

only an election but also a sustainable

practice of dynasty, criminal activities

and fundamentalism and the elected

government will not turn into an auto-

and take a bold stance before the pro-

posed dialogue with the government,

then it will be possible to hold a desired

election," Inu said. Senior leaders of

both parties were present at the meet-

"If the political parties could unite

democracy where there will be no

said the Gono Forum chief.

Dr Kamal

not matter much.

Try war criminals to SQ method for establish justice

Speakers tell book launching ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial of war criminals must be held in order to establish justice in society, said speakers at a book launching ceremony yesterday.

criminals must not be spared as they committed the most heinous crimes.

The book titled '10 Killing Grounds of Mirpur' by Miraj Miju, a young organiser of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, was launched at Bilia auditorium in the city.

The investigative book is based on 10 killing grounds at Mirpur where the anti-liberation forces, including the Biharis, tortured and slaughtered innocent Bangalees and freedom development will not be ensured fighters.

Presided over by Shahriar Kabir, acting president of the Nirmul

Rabbani, Sector Commander Lt Col (retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, Prof Muntasir Mamun, vice-president of Nirmul Committee, Dr MA Hasan, They also added that the war convener of War Crimes Facts Hasan. Finding Committee, and Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, wife of martyred

> intellectual Dr Alim Chowdhury. killing -- Shariqul Islam Bablu and to justice." Sakhina Helal -- also shared their experiences at the programme.

"We will have to eliminate antiliberation elements from society," said Justice Rabbani.

Appreciating the book, Prof alive, "headded.

unless war criminals are brought to

Committee, the meeting was Muntasir Mamun urged all to mobiaddressed by Justice Ghulam lise public support for the trial of war

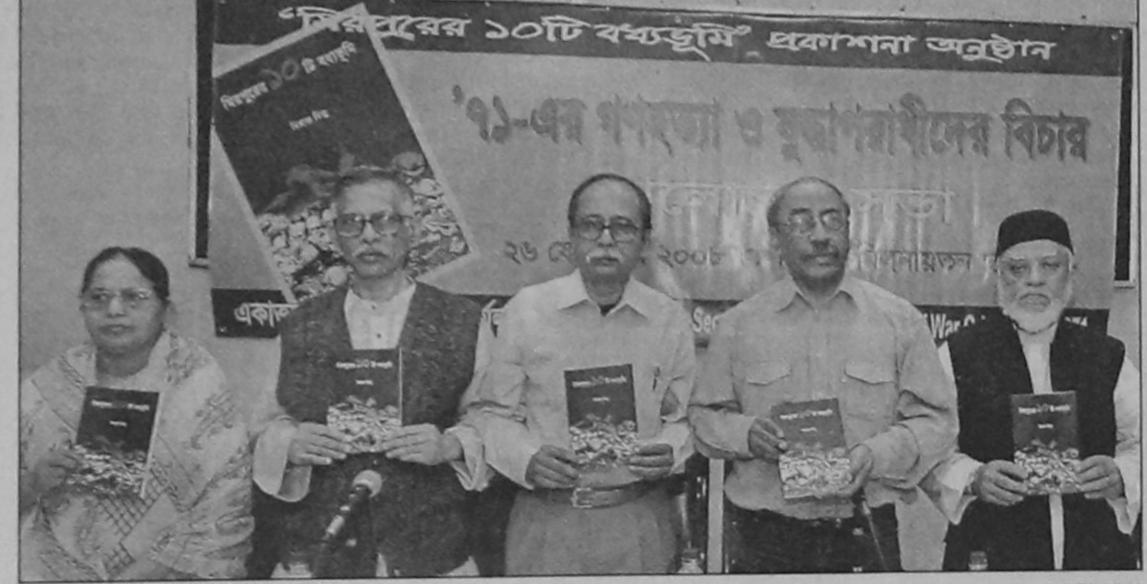
> criminals, not out of vengeance, but to establish justice in society," said Dr Shyamoli Nasrin said, "Our great-

"We are demanding trial of war

est joy is that we won the liberation war; and our greatest tragedy is that Two eyewitnesses of the mass we are yet to bring the war criminals "A group of Biharis took me to a

killing ground and held a knife against my neck, but could not kill me as it was not sharp enough to cut my throat," said Bablu while sharing Abu Osman said democracy and his experience.

"Then they tortured me severely and left me behind on the killing ground. It is a miracle that I am still



(From left) Shyamoli Nasreen Chowdhury, Justice Ghulam Rabbani, Prof Muntasir Mamun, writer Shahriar Kabir and Abu Osman Chowdhury hold copies of a book titled 'Mirpurer Dashti Baddhyabhumi' (10 killing grounds in Mirpur) by Miraj Miju in the city yesterday.

Illegal structures at Duaripara waqf estate demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Housing Authority (NHA) demolished illegal structures on the land of a waqf estate at Duaripara in Mirpur yesterday, rendering over 15,000 families homeless.

The NHA officials with more than 200 workers led by a magistrate demolished the establishments with bulldozers. Over 100 policemen were also deployed during the drive to ward off any untoward incidents.

As the bulldozers knocked down the houses, family members burst into tears.

Shah Alam Miah, president of Duaripara Bohumukhi Samabaya Samity, who had been living in the area for 22 years, said, "We have been living here taking up a 99-year lease with the permission from the religious affairs ministry. But in 1993, the NHA claimed its ownership and since then a case has been pending."

NHA officials said the people of the area had been residing there illegally with fake documents.

Amitav Ghosh made scholarin-residence at IUB

Amitav Ghosh, the most widely known Indian novelist writing in English, has been made the first Scholar-in-Residence at IUB in recognition of his eminence in modern English Literature, particularly South Asian English Literature, says a press release. The Independent University,

Bangladesh (IUB) which has opened Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Spring this year, would include his novel titled 'Shadow Lines' in its syllabus.

Earlier this weekend, Amitav who did his Ph.D. in Anthropology and bases his novels on his research on forgotten and marginal peoples, gave an interesting talk on the life and language of 'lascars' of the Indian Ocean who used to brave the turbulent seas in sailships of the 19th century, titled 'Of Fanaas and Forecastles: The Indian Ocean and a lost Language of the Age of Sails" at IUB.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Zakir Hossain, an official of Concord Engineers and Construction Ltd and son of Dr Mozammel Hossain of Barisal, will be held after Maghrib prayers at his Shyamoli residence in the city

today, says a press release. Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the chehlum.

Discussion

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organises a discussion on Bottlenecks to FDI in Bangladesh: How best to improve the investment'. Venue: BEI conference room. Time: 3:30pm.

Seminar

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) will organise a seminar on 'Export integration and entrepreneur development'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 11:30am.

Trade show

The opening ceremony of the US trade show 2008 will be held. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable Energy & Power in cooperation with UNDP will organise a roundtable on

'Development of Bangladesh's coal:

Strategy and method'. Venue: Cirdap

auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities of Dhaka University will organise a seminar on 'Mother tongue:

for Advanced Research in Humanities.

It's inside and outside'. Venue: Centre

Time: 4:00pm.

Workshop Bangladesh Heritage Foundation organises a workshop on 'Transnational security challenges: Indo-Bangla border management and delimitation of maritime boundary'. Venue: Bilia

Unesco book fair

auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

The inaugural ceremony of the Unesco Academy. Time: 5:00pm.

book, fair, 2008 will be held. Venue: Public Library premises, Time:

Seminar

North South University (NSU) will organise a seminar on agro environment farming and return on investment. Venue: Room 300, Star tower, NSU. Time: 12:00am.

Roundtable

Unesco Dhaka in partnership with Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication, and Mass-line Media Centre (MMC) will organise a roundtable on community radio and access to communication. Venue: Biam auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Seminar

The Muslim Times will organise a seminar on corruption and today's perspective. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00am.

Roundtable

Unnayan Shamannay and WBB Trust will jointly organise a roundtable on women contribution in national economy. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

A national seminar on mangrove for sustainable livelihood and adaptation to climate change will be held. Venue: IDB Bhaban meeting room. Time: 9:30am.

Book launching

The launching ceremony of the book 'Bangabandhu and Muktijuddha' by journalist Amir Hossain will be held. Venue: Nazrul Manch, Bangla

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky

over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said, predicting slight fall

in night temperature over the country. Highest temperature 30.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sandwip and lowest 15.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal. The sun sets in the capital at 6:00pm today and rises at 6:22am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.6	20.3	91	52
Chittagong	27.3	18.4	84	67
Rajshahi	26.5	16.3	69	52
Khulna	28.6	21.6	89	56
Barisal	28.7	19.5	100	81
Sylhet	28.8	17.3	82	59
Cox's Bazar	28.7	17.8	80	55

2010 SSC exam

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of guardians yesterday called on the caretaker government to cancel the Structured Question (SQ) method for SSC examinations to be introduced in 2010, saying that most teachers and students are still in the dark about this new pattern of question.

They also suggested introducing the SQ method in class six instead of class nine so that students can be familiar with the new method at the early stage of education.

Only 10 percent of teachers received training on the SQ method and even the new pattern is not included in the new textbooks, said Utpala Bhattacharya, mother of a student of class nine at Ideal School and College, at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

Selina Akhtar, mother of another student of class nine at Dhanmondi Government Laboratory School, said students are now confused about the new system because they are not getting proper guidelines from teachers or textbooks.

Advocate Abed Raja, convenor of Guardians' Forum, read out a written speech at the press conference.

The SQ method was scheduled to be introduced in 2009, but the government put this back to 2010 in the wake of protests by teachers, students and guardians.

A structured question will ask for several bits of information on a single topic. There will be 60 marks for structured questions, instead of 50 marks as is now customary with essay-type questions.

There will be 40 marks for multi ple-choice questions, instead of 50. The new system will not be applicable to English first and second papers and Bangla second paper.

APPOINTMENT OF AWAL AS ACTING LAW SECY

HC verdict stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court judgment that declared illegal the appointment of Kazi Habibul Awal as acting law

A six-member full bench of the Appellate Division also asked Awal to file leave to appeal against the HC

The order came after Awal filed a petition seeking stay on the HC verdict.

HC division bench of Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Shahidul Islam delivered the judgment on February 18 following a public interest litigation filed by District and Sessions Judge Aftab Uddin Ahmed on July 5 last year challenging the appointment of Awal as acting law secretary.

The government appointed Awal on June 28 last year in consultation with the Supreme Court.

In its judgment, the HC bench said that it has found anomalies in the process of consultation with the Supreme Court regarding the appointment.

Dhaka Bar Assoc receives no permission for election

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government did not give permission for Dhaka Bar Association to hold its election for 2008-09 scheduled for today and tomorrow. Association General Secretary Golam Mostafa Khan received a letter from the office of Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner yesterday, which said it was not possible to give permission to hold the election because of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR). The decision has disappointed

all the candidates of the election and their supporters.

On February 11, the association submitted an application to the DMP commissioner seeking permission to hold the election.

Seven muggers held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested seven muggers from Purana Paltan and Motijheel areas in the city on Monday night.

Sources said a patrol team of Rab chased and arrested Shahjahan, 33, Foyez Islam Raju, 25, Badrul Alam, 27, and Rafiqul Islam, 40, from Paltan area when they were running away after committing a mugging at about 11:00pm.

Rab also seized a taxicab used in year." the mugging and some gold ornaments from their possession. In another drive, Rab arrested Kajol, 20, Mithu, 19, and Sabuj, 21, from Mothijheel for their alleged

involvement in a mugging.

Announce specific date for elections

BDB, Workers' Party urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The date for election should be announced immediately to dispel Workers Party, called on the confusion about holding of the Election Commission (EC) to bring take necessary steps to bar war election in time, said the leaders at reforms to the electoral laws with a criminals, black money holders a joint press briefing at KC view to holding a free and free and corrupt people from standing Memorial Clinic at Baridhara in the election.

The Public Service Commission

(PSC) has adopted new guidelines

examiners, questioners and mod-

erators to ensure neutrality and

Besides, renowned profession-

als, including journalists, bankers

and doctors from public and

private sectors, have also been

Hussain apprised President

Iajuddin Ahmed of the measures

while handing over the Annual

declared by the Appellate Division

shall be binding on the High Court

Division and the law declared by

either division of the Supreme

Court shall be binding on all courts

No case will continue in the lower court under the EPR accord-

ing to the article, barrister Rafique

said, adding that the proceedings

of all other cases under the EPR

now bringing any case under the

EPR and if they do so, they would

Salahuddin Ahmad, however, said

the SC stay on the HC judgment

would stall only the extortion case

He said the government is not

Additional Attorney General

examinations and PSC activities.

involved in the process of holding

PSC Chairman Dr Saadat ment.

UNB, Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

subordinate to it."

would also be stayed.

cause harm to themselves.

city after a two-hour meeting.

Bangladesh (BDB) and Workers' Akbar Khan Rono, Anisur Rahman, urged the government to and BDB leaders Maj (retd) Abdul date for election. announce specific date for the Mannan, Maj Gen (retd) MA Halim, general elections and start dia- Arshad-uz-Zaman and Mahi B dialogue between the governlogue with the political parties Chowdhury were present at the ment and the political parties

Menon, president of the country.

questioners for civil service exams

Service Commission for 2007 to

and principles for nominating sion and its secretary were also of a high-level study financed by

officers who qualified through the

qualified through different exami-

nations under the PSC have also

been recommended for appoint-

president of various activities of

ings of other cases under the EPR.

A large number of police, armed

police and Bangladesh Rifles per-

sonnel were deployed in the SC

On June 13 last year, Eastcoast

Trading Pvt Ltd Managing Director

Azam I Chowdhury charged

detained Hasina and her cousin

and former minister Sheikh Fazlul

Karim Selim with extorting Tk 2.99

crore from him in exchange for

awarding the contract of setting up

the Siddhirganj Power Plant in

directed the police to bring the case

On July 16, the home ministry

On July 24, investigation officer

of the case Obaidul Haque indicted

SC stays Hasina verdict

THECASE

Narayanganj

under the EPR.

against Hasina, not the proceed- Hasina along with her sister Sheikh ment.

23rd BCS examinations held six

Eight members of the commis-

Dr Saadat said PSC has already

him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

PSC REPORT SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT

transparency in the civil service recommended appointing 71

Maj (retd) Abdul Mannan, Workers Party leaders Rashed secretary general of BDB Leaders of Bikalpa Dhara Khan Menon, Bimal Biswas, Haider called on the EC to completely prepare the voter list as early as Party of Bangladesh yesterday Nurul Hasan and Kamrul Hasan possible and announce the

> He also stressed the need for on the present situation of the

Both the leaders urged the EC to

sion 'more efficient, transparent

He also informed the president

the World Bank on quota system in

the BSC examination and its rec-

ommendations to make it 'more

commission "above all contro-

examinations are held regularly to

Rehana and cousin Sheikh Selim,

Hasina filed a writ petition on

July 29 and the HC bench of Justice

Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur

Rahman and Justice Zubayer

Rahman Chowdhury issued the

rule on the caretaker government

asking it to reply why its approval

should not be declared illegal.

for bringing the case under the EPR

bench of Justice Nayeem and

Justice Shahidul Islam delivered its

After hearing on the rule, the HC

sections of the EPR.

and accountable'

rationalised'

Report of Bangladesh Public programme to make the commis-

Dr Saadat also apprised the versy and ensure that the BCS

the PSC and its ongoing reforms appoint public officials"

Charge-framing New rules for nominating examiners,

FROM PAGE 16 fixed the hearing date.

ing chaired by Dr Kamal.

The court directed the jail authorities to produce Hasina, now detained in a sub-jail at Sangsad Bhaban complex, on the scheduled date. The judge also served summons on the six other accused, now on bail, to show up on the

The six other accused are former air force chief Jamaluddin Ahmed, former army chief Mustafizur Rahman, former defence secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain, Air Commodore (retd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Mohammad Hossain Semiabat and Unique Group managing director Nur Ali.

President Iajuddain expressed On September 6 last year, the High his satisfaction at the present Court (HC) vacated the stay order that A total of 464 persons who activities and ongoing reforms at another HC bench passed following seven separate writ petitions for quashing the case. He asked the chairman and The HC order removed the legal bar to start members of the PSC to keep the the proceedings of the case.

According to the case filed with Tejgaon Police Station against Hasina and four top defence officials, the purchase of eight MiG-29 fighter jets during the Awami League government caused a Tk 700 crore loss to the public exchequer The names of Brig Gen (reta) Iftekhar-

Ul-Bashar and former deputy secretary Hasan Mahmood Delwar were dropped from the case due to poor evidence while the former army chief Mustafizur Rahman, Air Commodore (retd) Mirza but did not include the relevant | Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Hossain Semiabat and businessman Nur Ali were implicated in the case after investigators found their involvement in On December 11 in 2001, Inspector

Abdullah Al Zahid of now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption submitted charge sheet to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's-Court of Dhaka, showing 40 persons as prosecution witnesses. Following the charge sheet, all the

accused, including Hasina, filed petitions with the HC on different dates for quashing the case. Following their petitions, the HCstayed the case proceedings. Hasina was arrested on July 16 last

landmark judgment on February 6. year following an extortion case filed by The government filed the leave Azam J Chowdhury: The HC threw out the to appeal with the SC within an case earlier this month, but the Supreme hour of the delivery of the judg-Court vesterday stayed the HC order on ment, seeking stay on the HC judgthe case. Four other cases were also filed against her on different dates.

Hasina's bail prayer rejected

FROM PAGE 16 appeal to the High Court regarding

Special Court-1, set up at MP hostel on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, deferred the hearing on charge framing for three working days as the defence counsel submitted a time petition saying their senior lawyers failed to appear

before the court. The court of Judge Firoz Alam the case within the time limit. started its proceedings at 9:45am with the prosecution lawyers making their submission on the charge framing. But defence lawyer advocate Kamrul Islam rose and sought time from the court.

lawyers were busy at the Supreme Court with the leave to appeal filed in connection with another graft case against Hasina. The appeal was filed in connection with the bringing of a graft case filed by Azam J Chowdhury under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

The defence counsel also mentioned that since the barge-mount graft case was brought under the EPR, they wanted to wait and see

the High Court verdict that declared the bringing of the Tk 2.99 extortion case against Hasina illegal and quashed it.

Chief Public Prosecutor (CPP) ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul said, "If we [the defence, prosecution and the court) do not help each other and continue to have hearing deferred on different issues, it Supreme Court upholds the High would not be possible to dispose

Mukul said the proceedings should not be delayed due to reasons that can be ignored. He proposed to complete the prosecution submission on charge framing and fix another date for submission of The defence said their senior the defence since they wanted

> The defence argued that hearing on charge framing in this case should not be held until the Supreme Court gave its order regarding the High Court verdict of the Tk 2.99 crore graft case as both the cases are similar in nature and both of them were under the EPR.

Defence lawyer Kamrul also submitted a petition seeking permission to examine the documents the Supreme Court order regarding seized in connection with the Tk 3 The prosecution lawyers said

the defence can see the seized pieces of evidence and it should not waste another day to examine them as half the time allocated for this trial has already been spent. The judge said at this stage the case proceedings must go on as there is a time limit and if the

Court verdict and stays the case, it would be done after the delivery of higher court verdict. The court also solicited cooperation from both sides and said it expects hearing on charge framing

on the scheduled day. It permitted the defence lawyers to examine the seized documents at 10:45am in presence of law

Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, another accused in the case, was produced before the court at 9:35am while Hasina arrived at the court five minutes later. Both the accused remained seated in the orders like this, I knew it beforedock during the proceedings.

Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday told her lawyers and relatives that taking her to Square Hospital for petition.

treatment recently was an eyewash and she did not receive any treatment from the hospital the day she was taken there.

Hasina urged leaders and activists of Awami League to continue their work and remain united to overcome the crisis. She also requested people to pray for her. "The medical board was

formed not for treatment but just for show. Even though the board sat together, I was not allowed to talk about my physical problems before the board," said Assistant Personal Secretary to Hasina Dr Aolad Hossain quoting her as

"She urged the Awami League activists and leaders to work together and requested the people to pray for her as her physical condition is deteriorating," said advocate Sahara Khatun after meeting Hasina.

"I knew that the court will give hand what the verdict would be," Sahara said quoting Hasina as saying on the rejection of her bail

British, EU MPs for lifting emergency

FROM PAGE 16

It was attended by British MPs, MEPs, Peers, Councilors and representatives of human rights organi-Watch, Global Human Rights Defence, Jumma Peoples Network, Nirmul Committee and Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad.

The speakers at the seminar said human rights violation and lifting of emergency rule must be placed on the reform agenda as a top priority and the government must respect human rights of its citizens.

Lord Avebury in his opening remarks said: "We're concentrating on the conditions that will enable free and fair elections to be held as MP, chairman, Conservative scheduled before the end of this

sations including Amnesty various reforms the government International, Human Rights has already implemented including separation of the judiciary, formation of an independent election commission, anticorruption commission and an independent national human rights commission.

Tasneem called for continued the seminar. support from international partners to successful completion of followed contributors from the the cases against the war criminals. the caretaker government's roadmap and reforms. Baroness Pola Uddin, chairman,

Britain-Bangladesh All Party Parliamentary Group; Anne Main Friends of Bangladesh; Jeremy Corbyn MP, Britain-Bangladesh Saida Muna Tasneem, All-Party Parliamentary Group; Counselor at Bangladesh High Robert Evans MEP, chair of the Commission in London, gave a European Parliament's South Asia presentation and an overview of Delegation; Dr Charles Tannock the caretaker government's com- MEP, vice-president, European mitment to the roadmap to parlia- Parliament's Human Rights Sub-

director, Asia Programme of the of emergency. Some speakers She informed the seminar of the Amnesty International; Brad raised the issue of the trial of war progress in voter registration and Adams, Asia director, Human criminals and the failure to bring Rights Watch; and Sultan Shariff, the perpetrators that has led to Awami League, also spoke at the culture of impunity.

Joshna Miah, BNP; MA Rauf, ated the various steps taken by the Gano Forum, and Dr Ahmed present caretaker government Ziauddin, Bangladesh Centre for against corruption, terrorism and Genocide Studies, Belgium, and welcomed Fakhruddin Ahmed's Ms Sally Kebble MP also attended recent comments against the war

In the general discussion that duty of the government to initiate floor included Cllr Ayub Korom Ali, former Cllr MA Rohim, BNP leader remarks said: "There has to be Kamar Uddin, CPB representative freedom of expression and of Rafiqul Hasan Khan, Westminster assembly if elections are to be free Clir Mustaq Qureshi, Jenny andfair." Lundstrom of Global Human

"deep concern at human rights paign."

mentary elections by December Committee; Tim Parritt, deputy abuses" under the country's state However, the speakers appreci-

> criminals but stated that it is the Lord Avebury in his concluding

He added: "Elections aren't only

Rights Defence, Lord Bew, Koysor about having the right laws, an Syed of Mukti Joddha Sangsad, accurate register and impartial Murad Qureshi, member, London officials. They depend on the pre-Assembly, Sally Keeble MP and conditions in the months before Simon Lever from the Foreign polling day, and crucially, on the maintenance of a peaceful envi-The speakers expressed their ronment during election cam-