and the globe," said Nazrul adding, it is up to the students to confront

"The quality of Bangla being taught in English medium schools and the quality of English in Bangla Nazrul said, who also distributed the awards among the top achiev-

He said the widening disparity between the rich and the poor is a daily reality for Bangladeshis and the young students should fight

be addressed now," Nazrul said adding, this generation of students must stand up for the future of Bangladesh and address the political, economic, and social problems

David Davies, global relationship manager of Edexcel UK, one of the sponsors of the programme, asked the young outstanding achievers to seize the day by taking the opportunities now to have successful futures.

He said Edexcel is in the process of revising their A level exams to make them more demanding, but he expressed confidence in the abilities of Bangladeshi students to overcome any challenge thrown

Kaiser Tanvir Amin, acting managing director and CEO of Brac Bank, and Rubaba Dowla, director of Grameen Phone's marketing division, also spoke.

Calling upon the students to contribute to the process of nation building. The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said their talent and commitment can surely overcome the challenges Bangladesh will face in the 21st century.

Anam said personal achievements of the students will not be truly realised, if broader national achievements are not attained.

Urging the students to be tolerant towards the views and ideologies of others, Mahfuz Anam said, "Different people will have different opinions, but those must be based

He said many of the awardees will go abroad while others will study at home, but those who do not go abroad should not feel deprived. because, "I know many men and women who excelled globally, but had studied in Bangladesh."

The time has come for the English medium schools to make significant contributions to the

misconception that those schools are disconnected from the mainstream of education, Anam added.

Tanjim Efaz, from Sunnydale who received 8 As in his 'O' levels, and Mushfegur Rahman, who attained 9As in his 'O' level exams, spoke on behalf of their batch of students.

Sarah Fouzia Chowdhury from Mastermind, who ranked among the top scorers of the world in physics and mathematics while bagging 6 As in her 'A' levels, spoke on behalf of the 'A' level students.

A LEVEL

ACCOUNTING Navid Kasem Asifa Zaman Khushboo Kabra Nusrat Tamanna Prianka Rezaul Karim CHEMISTRY **FURTHER MATHEMATICS** Maruf Amin Bhuiyan

PHYSICS (jan' '07) M Rasin Bhuiyan MATHEMATICS PURE MATHEMATICS PHYSICS (may/June 07)

Sarah Fouzia Choudhury CHEMISTRY (May/June'07) Fahad Ibn Azam

0 LEVEL

ECONOMICS AHM Golam Sarwar Rehnuma Jahan Islam **ENGLISH LANGUAGE** Yusuff Reffaie Deeni Fatiha MATHEMATICS B

Jonathan Dhrubo Rozario Refaya Rashmin Tanjim Efaz Tashfia Mosharraf Mohona Tazkia Labeeba Karim

PHYSICS Samir Muhammad Korban Tanjim Efaz Mushfegur Rahman

BANGLADESH STUDIES (May/June '07) Anika Tabassum Sanjida Sultana

COMMERCE Bushra Sameeha Anwar **MATHEMATICS A** Pratik Al Islam

public universities."

PURE MATHEMATICS Tanjim Efaz growth of the country, despite the Sreedev Das

they have cancelled the meeting," a former lawmaker who is also a top leader of a front organisation of BNP told The Daily Staryesterday.

When asked about the proposed meeting, Mohammad Shahjahan, the organising secretary of the party who is now a close aide of Hannan Shah, told this correspondent yesterday evening that they would not organise any such meeting.

Replying a question, he claimed that there is no conflict between Delwar and Hannan as both the leaders are working for the party under the leadership of the detained

chairperson. While speaking with journalists, Hannan, an adviser to the chairperson, also said that there was no misunderstanding between them. "After my release from jail, I had a long discussion with him [Delwar]," he said adding that no one has the right

of secretary general of the party. Hannan alleged that certain quarters are trying to create confusion in the party by taking advantage

Party leaders said a group of leaders backed by Hannan were planning to hold a joint meeting of the executive committee members and the front organisation leaders of the party to plan out a programme for observing the Independence Day.

Leaders loyal to Delwar anticipated further division in the party if the pro-Hannan leaders organised the meeting at a time when Delwar was out of the country.

As Delwar came to know of the proposed meeting, he asked his aides to send a representative to Hannan.

Real income

FROM PAGE 1

Nazrul, a construction worker in New Market area, said the number of day labourers in the city has increased significantly due to lack of work in

"Since the number of day labour ers has increased, now it's very difficult to find work. It's becoming really hard for me to maintain my family as the prices of essentials are always on

Arman, a salesman of a grocery shop, said buying capacity of general people has decreased due to price

observed that many of them are buying less than what they used to aboutfewmonths back," he said.

"Team Tk 125 to 150 a day now. But

ent thinkers and good human

It has become very difficult for him with the money left.

Fertiliser

FROM PAGE 16

ised the event.

boro production.

problem.

large-scale.

space in private universities and upgrading the standards of those to make studying in the country his income has increased.

Farhan Ahmed, who got 8 As in O level exams from Dhanmondi Tutorial, said middle class families nowadays are trying to educate their children in English medium schools, because English is preferred in all good jobs.

Qaiser Educational Academy Founder Sarwar Hussain Chowdhury, however, said there are many discouraging factors, like high tuition fees, for middle class families to refrain from sending their children to English medium schools. "So, they are in a dilemma," he said.

age to the forest, endangering the habitat of diverse wildlife and vegetation.

Various organisations during the past weeks have formed three human chains to protest the survey bid by Chevron.

Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) Sylhet unit said as per international rule, participation of the local community is necessary in the process of issuing any clearance for conducting any such survey at a location like the Lawachhara Reserve Forest.

why and how the clearance was issued as Lawachhara is a public property, Bela leaders said adding that they have sent a memorandum to the ministry in this regard.

According to the US oil and gas exploration company Chevron Bangladesh, the 3D seismic survey will help explore new gas reservoir at Moulvibazar Gas Field.

gas per day.

to drop Delwar's name from the post

of the secretary general's illness.

Meanwhile, leaders of BNP's front organisations have decided not to side with any faction within the pro-Khaleda faction of BNP. They also decided to discuss party affairs with Delwar once he returns home.

"We will discuss with both the leaders [Delwar and Hannan] and request them to clear up sorts of misunderstandings among senior leaders of the party," a front organisation leader told The Daily Star.

Rickshaw-puller Manik, a resident of Gorhanga in Rajshahi city, said now he earns about Tk 90-110 daily while heusedtogetTk70-80ayearback.But it didn't have any positive impact on his living standard as the prices of essentials have gone sky-high.

"It'struethat I earn more now. But I have to spend bulk of the money buying essential commodities includingrice," he said.

rural areas.

the rise," said Nazrul, the lone breadwinner of a five-member family.

"I have some regular customers. I

it's impossible for me to run my family with the spiked prices of rice and other food items" said Mohammad Montu an elderly rickshaw-puller of Dapunia village in Pabna.

Middle-class people are also affected badly due to price spiral of food items. A government employee of Pabna, requesting anonymity said he gets a monthly salary of Tk 9,000 and spends Tk 4,000 on house rent.

to maintain his six-member family Hossain Ali, a day labourer of

Kurigram, said it was possible for him to save Tk 5-8 per day a year back. But now he can't save anything although [Our correspondents Abu Kalam

Ratan from Rajshahi, Ahmed Humayun Kabir from Pabna and Abdul Wahed from Kurigram contributed for the news item]

Shykh Seraj, director of Channel i

moderated the event. The BBC

Bangla Service in conjunction with

the BBC World Service Trust organ-

will be better in the next season.

Mentioning that production of

IRRI was badly hampered by the

gas crisis, the adviser said the

government is expecting higher

said the fertiliser crisis deteriorated

since the government did not take

proper measurers to resolve the

Maj Gen (retd) Amzad sug-

gested the government give the

private sector a free hand in distrib-

uting fertiliser and brings in large

Responding to a query, the

adviser said the government is also

trying to formulate specific policy

on organic fertiliser to make its use

Mentioning that undeveloped

companies in the process.

BEA President Kholiquzzaman

Zillur said fertiliser distribution

FROM PAGE 1

and no electricity bill.

Many former lawmakers

ernment handed over the total responsibility of the flats to the housing ministry for renting them to government officials on a temporary basis and the ministry asked the Parliament Secretariat to ensure that the flats are vacated.

pied by former lawmakers and their families, said sources.

As there was little possibility that the ninth parliamentary elections would be held soon, the Parliament Secretariat formed a committee last year headed by its additional secretary to determine what to do with the flats.

giving back the occupied flats to the government and renting those for a period until the next parliamentary elections. To implement the recommendations, we asked so that we could make fresh allotments. The ex-lawmakers could also rent those from the Directorate of Government Accommodation [DGA]," a top official of the housing ministry

In December, the government increased the rent for a 1,250 sqft flat to Tk 20,000 a month and 1,800 sqft flat to Tk 25,000 for the lawmakers with retrospective effect.

Following the request of Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, the government later decided to put January.

Getting no response to the parliament."

Incompatible with Islam, a religion

of moderation and peaceful coexis-

"It's in this vein that we support

the dialogue of civilisations, and we

believe that it's important to plan

along such lines a preparatory phase

by organising a major international

gathering on Islamic-Christian

dialogue that involves governments,

The declaration said terrorism is a

"global phenomenon that is not

related to any religion, race, colour or

country" and that the scourge should

be distinguished from "legitimate

resistance against foreign occupa-

tion that prevents one from shedding

It said, "Since we share the inter-

national community's major con-

cerns over terrorism, we would like to

confirm that the OIC always seeks to

make sure that it is not found want-

ing when it comes to joint actions

designed to overcome the major

challenges facing nations as a result

of globalisation. We, therefore, set a

great store by human rights and good

governance so that our respective

political will of the member states to

take or support any initiative to

combat natural disasters, overcome

the environmental problems and

It expressed the OIC members'

resolve to fully take part in the global

campaign to bridge the digital divide

through voluntary contributions so

as to address the energy problem and

note of poverty in African continent

The declaration reaffirmed the

countries would uphold."

eradicate poverty.

ment.

the blood of innocent civilians".

among other players," it said.

FROM PAGE 16 ministry's December 5 letter, officials started sending the same

every 15 days. "But no one has responded yet, DGA Director Shawkat Nabi told The Daily Star yesterday.

letter to the Parliament Secretariat

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar said the new rent is applicable to those who are getting fresh allocation from the government, not the former lawmakers.

Many former lawmakers who have been convicted or have other houses have left the flats, he told The Daily Star, adding that there are others who left the flats fearing arrest.

· "As soon as the flats fall vacant, we are handing over those to the Special Security Forces, Anti-Corruption Commission and the special courts on condition that they will leave the flats within a month of the publication of the next parliamentary election results," Sircar said.

Of the vacant flats, about 40 have been recently allotted to government officials at Tk 12,000 a the Parliament Secretariat in month for a 1,200 sqft flat and Tk December to cancel the allotments 15,000 for an 1,800 sqft flat, said officials.

The government is supervising the vacant houses as the Parliament Secretariat does not have the necessary manpower and fund, the speaker said, adding, "The flats belong to parliament."

The deputy speaker also said cancellation of the former lawmakers' allotments requires parliament's approval as the allocations were made on the decision of the

House Committee. On the letters from the housing ministry, Sircar said, "If they want to execute their decision, let them first take away the apartments from

CEC

FROM PAGE 16 UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis. **UNDP Resident Coordinator Reneta** Dessallien accompanied the delega-

held as per the Election Commission -announced roadmap.

"It shouldn't be, and elections should be done removing obstacle, if any," Kemal Dervis told the journalists when asked if he thinks election would be held as per the roadmap.

Asked about the UNDP listing, the UN agency administrator said a correct voter list is a precondition for an acceptable election and the current voter list, which is the one being prepared, is comparatively

more flawless than the past one. He pointed out that there are some specific and common problems with voter lists in different countries in the world, and he shared his experiences of other countries

Asked if discussion took place on national and local elections between them, Dervis said they discussed the issues of national elections.

He said the EC told them that preparation is going on regarding the national elections, such as holding dialogue with the political parties, and there are some technical problems that are commonly seen in

Election Commissioner M Sohul Hussain was present at the meeting.

was made at a meeting of prosecutors from the Special Operations Division, which deals exclusively with these cases. The NAB prosecutor general chaired the meeting.

Citing unidentified sources, Dawn News said it had been decided that NAB prosecutors would travel to Geneva and

plea that these cases fall under the ambit of the National Reconciliation Ordinance, the channel said. The cases in Switzerland and Britain were initiated in 1998.

A Pakistani court on Friday quashed the last remaining graft ing for prime minister.

by the anti-corruption court in Rawalpindi, in the last of seven cases that has been haunting his political future. The cases have been with-

drawn as part of an amnesty given

by President Pervez Musharraflast

October, which allowed Bhutto to return from exile in an apparent prelude to a power-sharing deal between the two.

Quoting close aides of Zardari, the BBC said as he had not been elected to the National Assembly, Zardari could not become premier himself. They said he might nominate his sister as temporary prime

30 dead in Tibet unrest Square Hospitals

FROM PAGE 16

"Right now we are hearing that

agency earlier said 10 people died in the unrest, citing government officials from Tibet who blamed 'mobs' for the violence.

"The victims are all innocent

Tibetan Buddhism's most important monasteries, two activist groups and a local resident said.

leader the Dalai Lama that authorities would not allow to succeed.

no-one has been barred from

parliamentary session. "This is very clear: This is a separatist Dalai Lama clique,

inside and outside the country.' Authorities warned that those involved in the riots should turn

joint notice issued by the Tibetan police and judicial authorities. The Dalai Lama called on

China to 'stop using force' and rejected allegations that he and his government-in-exile were

brute force is at best a temporary solution. Earlier, Xinhua said many

police officers had been badly injured in clashes and that rioters had wielded "backpacks filled with stones and bottles of inflambars, wooden sticks and long knives.'

other people in Lhasa contacted by AFP said tanks and armoured personnel carriers patrolled the city yesterday, and remained in place as darkness fell.

"There are tanks and armed Yongzhe, the tour organiser, said

by phone. Wu, other tour operators and travellers said Tibet had been closed to foreign tourists.

Tibet, a mountainous region that includes Mount Everest and is more than twice the size of France, has been a flashpoint issue for China's Communist leadership ever since it came to power in

Communist forces were sent into Tibet in 1950 to 'liberate' the region, with China's official rule beginning a year later.

Tibet has taken on greater importance in the run-up to the Olympics in August, which the

Tibetan rights groups have vowed to pile intense pressure on Beijing over its rule of the region ahead of the Games, and any perceived rights abuses now would prove unwelcome news for the Chinese leadership.

The protests are the biggest since 1989, when Chinese President Hu Jintao -- who was given a second five-year term yesterday -- was the Communist Party chief of Tibet.

Hollywood star Richard Gere,

Workers Party

development policy amid emer-

gency power rules Friday thanks to the government's supportive role. It said the way the administration dealt with the situation in fact bordered on encouraging funda-

women have been left unmet in the national women policy, it is still a significant development towards women rights.

They added that the changes brought to the national women policy in 1997 under the influence of Jamaat-e-Islami and other religion-based outfits have been more or less retained in the one declared by this caretaker government.

commanders to hold a national convention seeking trial of the war criminals the government has in fact unmasked itself," they observed.

one of many Western celebrities who have been vocal in their support for the Tibetan cause, called for a boycott of the

we continued as if things are hunky dory and everyone's happy," he told BBC radio.

Chinese censors blacked out Western media reports about the developments in Tibet on Chinese television on Friday, and independent verification of the news

But even official Chinese accounts have indicated the protests began Monday, when Tibetans around the world marked the anniversary of a 1959 uprising that was put down with force and led the Dalai Lama to

refused to execute an order from the then home minister, sources in the DB quoted Emon as saying to the interrogators.

The sources however refused to disclose which particular order from Babar was being referred to by

Emon and another top criminal Ishaq Ali were deported to Bangladesh from India on March 7.

Meanwhile, Emon's mother Prof Sultana Jahan told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday that she did not have any contact with Emon during the last 10

in 1997 when I tried to persuade him to return to normal life. As he did not listen, I did not make any contact with him," said Prof Jahan. Asked about newspaper reports that quoted her as saying

that Babar, Nasiruddin Pintu and

Abul Hasnat Abdullah turned her

reports without talking with her. giving to interrogators under

Emon and Ishaq will be produced before a Dhaka court tomorrow following completion of their eight-day remand.

DB sources said they would file a prayer to the court seeking to take Emon on remand.

Albania FROM PAGE 16 The initial explosion was so loud it

Macedonia, 150 kilometres away. "The number of dead is considerable," Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha told reporters, as the

was heard in neighbouring

Ndoka told AFP that at least 170 people were hospitalised, of whom four were seriously injured. Rescuers found four bodies at the site, prime minister's spokes-

woman Juela Mecani said, without specifying the nationality of the victims. A US company contracted by NATO is helping Albanian troops dispose of surplus or obsolete munitions.

At least three units totalling some 60 Albanian soldiers were deployed at the time of the blasts,

Mecani said earlier. Most of the casualties were civilians being brought in by ambulances which followed each other in quick succession, while others came in private cars. Many were women and children covered with

A doctor at the hospital compared the flood of people with "a toll of war." "The situation is serious," he said, urging citizens to donate blood "which could run

Price hike

Australian pulses at Tk 96 a kg while other varieties at Tk 70 to Tk 90 per kg, adding that traders were mostly buying medium-quality pulses against the backdrop of a rise of Tk 12 to Tk 15 in just three weeks.

ket, battery-chicken prices jumped to Tk 75 per kg from Tk 68 a day before. But in the retail market the price ranged from Tk 80 to Tk 85. The price of free-range chickens rose by Tk 10 to Tk 15 per bird yesterday. Traders blamed the rise on poor

They, however, said chicken sales became normal in the capital and elsewhere in the country in last few days.

'hali' (four eggs) in the retail market last week. Battery eggs were selling at Tk 350 to Tk 360 per hundred yesterday which sold for Tk 330 to Tk 340 three days back. Fish prices also hiked in both

retail and wholesale markets. One trader at Karwan Bazar attributed the rise to shortage of supply due to the end of fishing season.

dropped a bit in both retail and wholesale markets. But the slight drop could not satisfy people on low incomes.

industrial area, said prices of essentials have almost doubled on last year. "Living costs have also increased but our income has got stuck in the same place," he said. "It's been difficult for me to run a

four-member family with my present salary. I have to buy on credit in the second half of the month," he

FROM PAGE 16

Service to your country, your region, the challenges of their time.

medium schools should be equal."

against the injustices in society. Poverty is something that must

of the country.

their way in the future.

on knowledge, not on prejudices."

FROM PAGE 16

Sarah Fouzia Choudhury of Mastermind School, who secured the world's highest A level marks in mathematics and physics, said the collective dream of developing the country will surely become a reality after a few generations of them. Expressing her deep commit-

ment to the nation building process,

she said small steps have already

been taken in the right direction for

making Bangladesh a prosperous country, generating hopes among all. Fouzia also got a special award for her performance in the school. Stating that The Daily Star's recognition of the students inspired him tremendously, Towfiq Hossain of Adroit International School said he wants to study electronics engineering, preferably in Bangladesh University of Engineering and

Technology (Buet), and wants to

contribute to the development of the discipline in the country. Towfiq, who achieved 6 As in 'O' level exams, said many bright students go abroad for studies, but do not return. They should come back and help build a prosperous Bangladesh, he added.

He thinks a lack of unity among

leaders of the country and corrup-

tion are two major problems of Bangladesh. "At our levels we should be determined that we shall not get involved in corruption," he asserted. Terming the English medium students' recognition by The Daily Star a milestone, Sunnydale Principal Tazeen Ahmed said the

medium schools teach only foreign cultures, will slowly get dispelled by such initiatives "We in our schools teach Bangla and regularly organise various

traditional cultural programmes,"

shesaid.

misconception that English

Hasina Case FROM PAGE 1 director of East Coast Trading Pvt Ltd, filed the extortion case against

The problem however is that the

Karim Selim on June 13 last year with Gulshan Police Station. Hasina was arrested at her Dhanmondi Residence a month after filing of the case. Later, her younger sister Sheikh Rehana was

also implicated in the case.

Grand rally

FROM PAGE 1

Hasina and her detained cousin

and former minister Sheikh Fazlul

ACC Chittagong Director Major Zulfigar Ali Majumder and representatives from different professional bodies were also present. Tailbacks were created at WASA Intersection, GEC Intersection, Probortok Intersection, Mehedibag

and Kazir Dewri due to the proces-

and Head of Operations Wasima Parveen said they prepare their students as good citizens to contribute to the nation building. "We want people of all strata to

Scholastica Deputy Chairperson

Sharing her thoughts with The Daily Star, South Breeze School Principal Zeenat Chowdhury said to upgrade the standard of education in the country salaries and other perks of the teachers must go up.

beings, "Wasima Parveen said.

will help them to stay here."

FROM PAGE 16

market system is the main obstacle Locals have the right to know to progress of rural economy, Zillur

schemes must be brought under a The Moulvibazar Gas Field proper system. currently produces about 80 The adviser, however, said mmcf (million cubic feet) natural microcredit has been contributing | ties. a lot to the rural economy.

Voices of the achievers graduates of these schools find it difficult to get admission to public universities because their syllabus is different. "They need to study for an additional year to get admissions to

study in schools like Scholastica. We also offer scholarships. We want to prepare our students as independ-

She suggested creating more

attractive for students. "After all, a positive environment in the country Mahfuza Ahmed, mother of

Chevron Survey in the Lawachhara Reserve Forest will cause substantial dam-

Leaders of Bangladesh

stressed the need for improving it.

Farida Akhtar said high interest rate of microcredit has been destroying the rural economy. Amzad Khan demanded that the interest rate be lowered while Kholiquzzaman said microcredit

Nam apartments

rent of Tk 400 for a 1,250 square feet flat and Tk 500 for a 1,800 sqft one

vacated the flats by June last year. On June 19, the caretaker gov-

However, 160 flats are still occu-

"The committee recommended

the new rents in effect from

Dakar declaration and decided to launch a solidarity drive among other sections of the Ummah on account of the huge economic resources and potentials

to address such livelihood difficul-

It said the leaders of the OIC member states have given utmost importance to the need to urgently implement the provisions of the Ten-Year Programme of Action on development assistance and the fight against poverty in Africa. The declaration said the summit leaders pledged that their governments would do whatever it takes to

make contributions amounting to

\$10 billion, as soon as possible, to the

Islamic Solidarity Fund for

Development, established within

the Islamic Development Bank The summit leaders stressed the need for mobilising Zakat funds in the OIC geographical area and allocate them rationally and efficiently for the needy so that such a pillar of Islam is made a vital aspect of Islamic solidarity.

importance to science and technology, among other educational disciplines, outlined as priorities under the Ten-Year Programme of Action. It urged the OIC member states to strive for high-level training, good quality education designed to promote creativity, research, innovation and development as outlined under

promote women, the family and children as a major social require-The declaration said intra-Islamic cooperation in the areas of competence of the OIC's standing committees is a duty dictated by the foregounify the Islamic calendar and thus ing lessons. It said the summit took boost Islam's image in the world,

the declaration said.

FROM PAGE 1 commission of meeting whatever it requires for the elections to be held. Since then, the council of advisers met on several occasions, with the High Court and hearing on

Contacted by The Daily Star recently, a number of advisers said they had no discussion on the EC's demands. Highly placed sources in the administration said possibility of decisions coming on the issues before the chief adviser's return from Senegal is slim. Fakhruddin

but nothing came out.

March 22.

The Daily Star.

return," he added.

"We have not received any directives from the government to relax or lift the restrictions on indoor politics countrywide. We also don't know if the state of emergency would go or be relaxed for the city corporation polls," a senior official of the home ministry told

Ahmed is scheduled to return on

On lifting of checks on indoor politics throughout the country, an election commissioner said he thinks the government might decide on it after dialogue with the political parties. If it is so, the possibility of any immediate resolution of the issue is

"There might be some develop-

The government wants the talks

OIC member states by giving special

The declaration called for

speedy human resource develop-

ment process of high quality in the

the Ten-Year Programme of Action particularly with the IDB's support under its scholarship programme. "Within the same drive of Islamic renewal, we call on the member states and their scholars to seek to

Relaxing emergency to begin after the EC's dialogue on electoral reforms that has long been stuck in the leadership dispute within BNP. The matter is still

it will not resume before Monday.

Ahmed in his address to the nation

in January said his government was

considering lifting the restrictions

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin

on indoor politics. This apart, the administration has yet to finalise the laws on formation and functions of the city corporations and municipalities as well as legislation to hold elections to those local government bodies.

The delay in this regard has

already forced the commission to

go slow with its plan for polls to

four city corporations and seven

municipalities.

The EC earlier announced that it would declare schedule for the polls at the end of March. But now it says it won't do so until the laws or local government bodies are finalments after the chief adviser's ised On April 4 last year, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM

Shamsul Huda at a meeting with

the then law adviser asked the

government to lift the restrictions

on indoor politics to allow a dia-

logue between EC and political

parties on the proposed electoral

reforms. as far-off as the caretaker govern-In reply, the government on ment's plan for talks with the par-September 10 last year partially lifted the curbs and that too in the capital only.

Square Hospitals authorities. But Prof Sanawar said she was committed to the hospital through certain

authorities, who are directing the treatment of Hasina. On Hasina's ear treatment not possible at Square Hospitals, Brig Gen Zakir said the hospital authorities did not make such a state-

ment. He also described Hasina's

personal physician's recommen-

dation for her treatment as his "personal". Prof Sanawar, also head of the medical team which had earlier said it is not possible to re-adjust function of her hearing aid here, said he could not say anything about the treatment. After examining her ear we could say whether the treatment is possible or not, he

The IG said as Hasina is undergoing treatment at the Square Hospitals, doctors of the hospital would take care of her. If necessary, her personal doctors would visit her again, he added. But the hospital director said

added.

coming to their hospital. "We didn't ask anyone not to come to the hospital." Although the AL chief was supposed to undergo ultra-sonogram

test yesterday, the hospital authori-

ties did not arrange the test. "There is no ultra-sonogram machine on the floor where Sheikh Hasina is receiving treatment. That's why we need to make preparations for conducting the test," said Prof Sanawar.

Emerging from the meeting, the visiting UNDP administrator, whose agency is assisting poll-preparatory works, observed that there is no reason for elections not going to be

supported ongoing project on voter

with the EC.

other countries also.

Pakistan FROM PAGE 16 television channel, the decision

London by Sunday. They will submit written applications in the courts by Monday or Tuesday seeking withdrawal of all the cases against Zardari. The prosecutors will take the

case against Zardari, removing the final possible hurdle to him stand-Asif Ali Zardari was acquitted

Meanwhile, PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari may nominate his sister, Dr Azra Fazal Pechooho, as the interim premier, according to a BBC Radio report on Friday.

minister instead.

there are many Chinese troops in Lhasa. There are pockets of people out in the streets right now, but there is great fear among the population.' The state-run Xinhua news

civilians, and they have been burnt to death," Xinhua said. It said no foreigners had been killed. While authorities appeared in control in Lhasa Saturday, monks led a second day of rallies in Xiahe, Gansu province, the site of one of

China's top official in Tibet, a vast region formally annexed by the country in 1951, said the protests were part of a "separatist" movement led by exiled spiritual

"The plot of the separatists will fail. We will challenge them firmly, according to law," the chairman of the Tibet government, Qiangba Puncog, told reporters in Beijing on the sidelines of China's annual

themselves in by midnight on Monday. "Violators who do not comply with the deadline will be severely punished under the law," said a

behind the uprising. "These protests are a manifestation of the deep-rooted resentment of the Tibetan people," he said. "Unity and stability under

mable liquids, some holding iron A Chinese tour operator and

soldiers on the streets. We have been told to stay in our rooms... the city is shut down," Wu

country's leaders hope will be a chance to show off China's rapid transformation into a modern economic power to the rest of the

mentalism and militancy. The workers party leaders said though many demands of the

"By not allowing the sector

Held at the party's central office on Topkhana Road, the meeting was addressed among others by Mosaddeq Hossein Labu, Hazi Bashirul Alam and Nazrul Islam.

Olympics if the Chinese leadership mishandled the situation.

"It would be unconscionable if

from the region has been difficult.

flee into exile.

Emon FROM PAGE 1

"The last time I saw Emon was

son into a criminal, Prof Jahan said the newspapers ran the She, however, said the newspapers might publish Emon's statements that he has been

blasts continued to shake the city. Albanian Health Minister Nard

At Kaptanbazar wholesale mar-

Egg prices spiked by Tk 1 per

After a sharp rise last week, edible oil, sugar and mutton prices

Hamid Ali, a worker at Tejgaon

FROM PAGE 16