# Niko graft case

On March 15, Hasina, now undergoing treatment at Square Hospital, refused to receive the ACC letter from the jail authorities

they made arrangements for the former prime minister's meeting with her lawyers as per her demand, but she did not agree to

Hasina's counsels complained that they were not allowed to visit

their client.

not. We have nothing to do here." Sabbir, however, said Hasina could submit her statement any

ities not allowing Hasina's lawyers to visit her, the IO said Hasina could have informed the ACC in writing that she needed to see her

The ACC filed the case against the AL chief on December 9 last year on charge of causing a loss of over Tk 13,630 crore to the public exchequer by initiating a gas exploration deal with Canadian company Niko Resources Ltd.

The other accused in the case are former state minister for energy Office Dr SA Samad, former energy

## **Bush vows** victory in Iraq

AFP, Washington

winning, and whether we can win t. The answers are clear to me," Bush said at the Pentagon.

"Removing Saddam Hussein from power was the right decision, and this is a fight America can and must win," he maintained, refer-

As he spoke scores of protestors gathered just a few blocks away in Washington calling for an end to

Bush launched "Operation Iraqi Freedom" at 21:30 pm on March 19, 2003 in the United States, when it was already 5:30 am in Baghdad on March 20, with a bombing blitz dubbed "shock and awe" by the

On May 8, 2006, the High Court had summarily rejected a Public Interest Litigation writ petition filed by five lawyers, saying that the contentions raised by the petition-

ers are "devoid of any substance" The High Court had viewed that

Jamaat's election symbol in no way undermines and tarnishes the image and dignity of the Supreme Court and its monogram--the scales, which is a symbol of justice.

symbol, if allocated by the Election Commission, only during the election time for the purpose of conducting election, it had further observed.

## Power outages

are currently able to supply around 1,700 million cubic feet of gas a day for the nation.

suffering heavily. The shortfall is also creating a crisis in the indus-

Meanwhile, Dhaka city dwellers are more worried about the situation to develop soon if things keep

going on in this way. "It's like a game... power was on and off. I am scared about what will happen in the coming days when the whole country experiences the

According to the Met office, Dhaka saw a high of 33.8 Celsius yesterday while the highest temperature of the country was recorded in Rangpur at 35.0 Celsius.

secretaries Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and M Akmal Hossain, former Petrobangla chairman Mosharraf Hossain, and Vicepresident (South Asia) of Niko Kashem Sharif.

Four of the accused have already submitted statements in their defence, the IO said adding that Rafigul Islam and Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury applied for time extension, but their pleas were rejected on ground of time limitations for submitting the investigation report.

Illegal billboards FROM PAGE 1

hour drive in different areas including Goran, Khilgaon and Rampura.

Kamruzzaman told The Daily Star that the main objective of the drive is to create awareness among people rather than giving punish-

He said since most of the guilty shopkeepers are poor they were not fined heavily.

cooperated with them willingly, he said adding that most of them don't know that it's a violation of law to install such signboards.

Quoting the shopkeepers, he said the tobacco companies give them such signboards for free.

Dr Harunur Rashid, health officer of the Directorate of Health, was also present.

## Tax evasion case

FROM PAGE 16 The trial court had also ordered about Tk 3 crore.

trial proceedings of two separate corruption cases against former minister and IP Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, his wife Tasmima Hossain and cousin Mohammad Hossain

The cases are now pending with the special court set up at parliament Bhaban complex.

A six-member bench headed by Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin passed the orders while granting the leave to appeal petition filed by one of the three accused, Mohammad Hossain.

On July 25 last year, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station. In the First Information Report (FIR), the complainant said Manju, during his days as communications minister, took Tk 1 crore in bribe from Al-Amin Construction Company Ltd between February 17 and February 20, 2000.

The same day, the ACC filed another case with Shahbagh Police Station accusing Manju of taking the war in which nearly 4,000 US Tk 75 lakh in bribe from China soldiers have died along with tens National Overseas Engineering Corporation between February 13 and February 18, 2001.

On June 26 last, Manju, now a fugitive, was sentenced to five years' simple imprisonment and fined Tk 10,000 for possessing 21 bottles of liquor at his Dhanmondi

## Wheat

FROM PAGE 16

set new timeline for it on its own, according to the meeting's deci-The meeting also approved

proposal of the BDR for selling 18,000 tonnes of rice at Tk 25 a kg though the Open Market Sale (OMS) programme that will continue till the end of April.

Food and Disaster Management Adviser AMM Shawkat Ali chaired the meeting while Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam, Agriculture Adviser CS Karim, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal and officials of the ministries concerned were pres-

The BDR at the meeting asked the finance ministry for the money it spent on subsidies when selling I lakh tonnes of rice though the OMS programme, the meeting insider said, adding that the border guards had to subsidise Tk 5.48 for every kg

The meeting also approved a proposal for importing one lakh metric tons of rice at the government level and 50,000 tonnes at the private level.

Besides, it decided to appoint 540 more dealers in Dhaka and other labour-intensive areas to sell rice under the OMS scheme. The government had earlier allowed 400 dealers in Dhaka to sell OMS

# Hasina's ear, eye

Rahman, has been detained since July 16 last year.

Coming out of the hospital, Maj Haider told reporters that ultrasonogram was performed on Hasina at the hospital, the report of which would be available today.

He said, "Partial treatment in Sheikh Hasina's eyes has been started. A few tests of her ears and eyes will be done tomorrow [to-

Three doctors of the hospital-Dr Shah Alam, Dr Ziaul Haque and Dr Salma--examined Hasina yes-

The AL has long been asking the government to send Hasina to the US for the treatment in her ears. Hasina's hearing was badly damaged by the gruesome grenade attack on an AL rally on August 21,

FROM PAGE 1

However, the export might start today (Thursday) once the Indian customs authorities at Petrapole land port receive written instruc-

Indian central commerce ministry following rounds of talks with Organisation of Export Import Association decided that the rice that reached Petrapole before March 6 would be allowed for export at the previous rate, said an Indian rice exporter.

on the Indian side for the last 13

Bangladesh at prices lower than \$

Asked whether a democratic government would be better equipped to handle the food crisis, Ngozi said it would not matter which form of government was in

Ngozi however stressed that reforms must continue, especially structural reforms to open up the economy, and to create a climate more conducive to investment, with a level playing field.

Bangladesh can recover from the food and oil price shocks and the natural disasters of last year by supporting farmers and creating an investment friendly climate, she said.

must have a long-term plan to adapt itself to climate change, so it may protect its crops and its infrastructure from greater intensification of the effects of global warm

WB is also helping the government recover stolen assets from home and abroad through programmes like training the officials of its central bank's finan-

FROM PAGE 1 incidents of human rights violation has gone down. An independent human rights commission is being set up," he said.

The CA also refuted an allega tion that the press in Bangladesh is being controlled under the emer gency. He said newspapers and electronic media are enjoying freedom and they are allowed to criticise the government.

Fakhruddin also attended a press conference at Bangladesh High Commission, attended by Bangladeshi-British journalists, vesterday.

He narrated the outcome of his talks with British Prime Minister ministers.

in the UK. He requested Prime Minister Brown to allow semiskilled people from Bangladesh to work as chefs in the restaurants.

In reply to a question, the CA said there is no food crisis in Bangladesh, as he observed there is enough food in stock. However, he agreed that prices of rice and other commodities have gone up due to price hike on the international

formula to exclude Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina from active politics, the CA said he is not aware of it but added that the reform in the political parties is the demand of the

Commission would bring about

holding elections to the local bodies prior to the general elections, held in those local bodies whose terms have expired. He observed that the local body polls won' hamper the national elections.

About holding trial of the war criminals, he said the incumbent government has time constraint to

## Emon

space since they have a good relationship and following an understanding between them."

According to sources, Selim has this regard that education, women's a huge area of land in Karwan Bazar wholesale fish market.

They said following the feud with Babar, Liton made good relations with criminals like "Langra" Masud and Shahabuddin of Karwan Bazar. Masud was allegedly gunned down as a result of the feud between Babar and Liton.

Talking to The Daily Star Monday, Liton said, "I had good relationship with Babar but it deteriorated before the municipality election in 2002 as Babar backed candidate Dewan Mosaddek Shafi.

managed to flee the scene and save my life. Emon, recently deported by the Indian authorities, allegedly admitted to the CID investigators that he did not carry out the murder since the two were relatives.

# Indian customs | Ex-MP Zafarullah

FROM PAGE 16

approval to the investigation offi-

graft cases. Meantime, a Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Sajedul Hossain alias Dipu Chowdhury, son of former state minister for shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, in connection with a case filed against him for non-submission of his wealth

Besides, another Dhaka court completed recording statements of prosecution witnesses in connection with the case filed against Akhter Hamid Paban, son of Khaleda Ziaappointed BNP Secretary General Khondaker Delwar Hossain, and four others for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition.

CASEAGAINSTZAFARULLAH ACC Assistant Director Ashraful Islam filed the case against Zafarullah with Gulshan Police Station for not timely complying

CASES AGAINST QUADER three bribery cases to Dhaka

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, within a short time.

On September 30 last year, ACC Assistant Director Ashraful Islam filed the cases with Paltan Police Station against detained Awami League Joint General Secretary and former state minister for youth, sports and cultural affairs Obaidul Quader on charges of taking Tk1.41 crore in bribe from bidders on different dates.

ministry took bribes to help bidders win tender of different development activities under National Sports Council and obtain bill after work.

mentioned that Obaidul Quader lakh from three contractors on different dates between January 1, 1999 and September 3, 2001. CASE AGAINST DR FIROZ

letter to the same court in connection with the case filed against Dr Firoz for wasting government money through abuse of power. On November 13 last year, ACC Deputy Director Iqbal Hossain filed

Emergency Power Rules. Drugs Company Limited (EDCL) and two vehicles of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) for his own and family purposes from June 2003 to October 2006, incurring a loss of Tk 34.90 lakh to the national exchequer. ARREST WARRANT

AGAINST DIPU After scrutinising the case docket and other relevant documents, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order and fixed March 24 for service return of the arrest war-

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against him and the order to attach his properties, as he has been absconding since the filing of the case.

Assistant Director Mohammad Ibrahim filed the case with Sutrapur

and basic individual rights at all

the judiciary from the executive in

Bangladesh had been a historic step

forward and underlined the impor-

tance of a strong and independent

judiciary for ensuring fair and trans-

together to combat terrorism and to

enhance Bangladesh's institutional

capacity to that effect. They agreed in

empowerment, opportunity and

prosperity in mainstream society

offered the most effective defence

climate change challenge uniquely

faced by Bangladesh due to global

warming and sea level rise. Both

sides agreed to work together in

international forums to secure an

effective and responsible interna-

that Britain would host an interna-

tional climate change conference in

London in May this year at the

request of the government of

Bangladesh to explore how the

country can best prepare and adapt

Bangladesh's support for the

iaunched by the UN secretary gen-

eral and the prime minister in July

2007 to encourage greater collective

to a changing global environment.

The prime minister confirme t

tional response to climate change.

The chief adviser highlighted the

Both sides agreed to work closely

They noted that the separation of

FROM PAGE 1

parent trials for all.

against extremism.

## Police as Dipu failed to submit his wealth statement within seven days

as directed by the commission

through a notice served on him on

After cross-examination of the IO by

the defence lawyers, Judge

Mohammad Shafiul Azam of the

Special Tribunal -12 completed

recording statements of the wit-

his associates arrested on October

Later, Rab seized two illegal for-

eign made firearms--a pistol and a

revolver--along with nine bullets and

a motorbike from Dhaka Flood

Protection Embankment at

Hossain, Masud Ali alias Apu and

Delwar Hossain alias Ratan-- were

also arrested while his cousin Nahid

Mufti Shahidul

Judge Sirajul Islam ordered the

confiscation of Shahidul's ill-

gotten money, worth about Tk 29.8

lakh. The court said the sentence

would be effective from the date of

The IOJ leader, who fought in

Afghanistan and is accused of

having militant connections, was

elected to parliament in a by-

election from Narail-2 constitu-

ency on BNP-led four-party alli-

sentence under Section 27(1) of Anti-

Corruption Commission Act, 2004.

Corruption Commission (ACC)

Golam Shahriar Chowdhury, filed

the case against Shahidul and his

wife Nadira Begum with

Mohammadpur Police Station on

August 5 last year on charges of

pressed charges against the ex-MP

and dropped his wife's name from

Following investigation, the ACC

Shahidul was on the first list of 50

Shahidul, also a Khelafat Majlish

leader, was a pioneer in Islamist

militancy in Bangladesh and was

reported to have close links to al-

Qaeda, including its supremo Osama

Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh

Hasina once pointed to his militant

roots when he was an MP in the last

parliament. He was arrested in 1999

during the AL regime for his involve-

ment in bomb attacks on an

Ahmadiyya mosque in Khulna that

African countries. He also got al

Qaeda training in bomb making.

Detained leaders of the banned

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh

(JMB) also mentioned his name as

the AL handed over power to a care-

taker government, he joined the IOJ.

On his return home in 2001, after

Surprisingly, he got nomination

from the AL-led grand alliance to

contest last year's scrapped general

elections following a five-point

moratorium of understanding

signed between AL General Secretary

Islami, an NGO that provides free

health healthcare and ambulance

services. The NGO was reportedly

founded on suggestions of the al

Qaeda. It allegedly promoted terror

ism in Bangladesh under the guise of

and 13 madrasas and dug 350 wells in

his constituency. He became a talk

ing point after he began sacrificin

He also set up at least 40 mosques

Shahidul founded al-Markazul

Abdul Jalil and the Khelafat Majlish.

graft suspects the ACC published on

building up illegal wealth.

the charge sheet.

bin Laden.

killed eight people.

their patron.

helping people.

February 16 last year.

Shahidul was given the prison

Deputy director of the Anti-

alias Mota Nahidis still at large.

Paban's associates -- Anwar

Panchabati near Pallabi.

FROM PAGE 1

ance's ticket.

September 27 the same year.

**CASEAGAINST PABAN** 

four others.

cers (IOs) for submission of the charge sheets against detained former state minister for youth, sports and cultural affairs Obaidul Quader and detained former premier Khaleda Zia's assignment officer Dr Firoz Mahmud Iqbal in

statements to the ACC.

with the directive of the commission.

The case against the AL leader

was filed under section 26(2) of the

Anti-Corruption Commission Act, Investigating Officer (IO) Mohammad Talebur Rhaman yesterday sent the sanction letters of the

Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court. Sources said the charge sheets of the cases will be placed before the

In the cases, the complainant said the AL leader while at the helm of the

In the cases, the complainant

took Tk 37 lakh, Tk 57 lakh and Tk 47 ACC Investigating Officer Jahangir Alam yesterday sent the sanction

the case with Tejgaon Police Station under the Anti Corruption Act and

In the first information report, the complainant mentioned that Firoz used three vehicles of Essential

On March 18, ACC investigating officer (IO) Mahbubur Rahman submitted the charge sheet against Dipu to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka showing 11 people as prosecution wit-

On November 22 last year, ACC

Azha each year. British PM

## Rivers

FROM PAGE 1

chromium and at least 30 other

toxins every day. These toxic waste flows untreated into the Buriganga through the Rayer Bazar sluice

The report also said the waters of Buriganga became so polluted that it is impossible for any aquatic life to survive there. The government following the

nesses in the case against Paban and report took an initiative to relocate the tannery industries in Savar but On October 29 last year, Rapid the move has been stalled since Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Paban raiding a Japan Garden City apartment in the city's Mohammadpur area following information gathered from three of

The waters of the Shitalakhya have meanwhile also become severely polluted. Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) and Aqua Consultant and Associates surveyed and tested the water of Shitalakhya in 2006 and recommended relocation of water intake point of Wasa from Sarulia point of Demra as the water over there is

severely polluted. But still the government allows the industries to pollute the water of Shitalakhya and Wasa is also

supplying its water. Talking with city dwellers from different areas including Basabo, Goran, Mugda, Narinda, Jatrabari, Maghbazar, Tejgaon, Hatirpul and Mirpur it was learned that they often find bad odour in the water.

"Sometimes the water smells like soil," said a Mirpur resident, while another from Hatirpul said the supply water sometimes stinks like decomposed rats.

But the Wasa officials said the stink is a result of chlorine and ammonia sulphate used to treat the water. "Though it's stinky it's safe as

we tested the water in every hour

before supplying," said a top Wasa

official. The total population in Dhaka city grew from 0.1 million in 1906 to 12 million in 2008. Industries and houses have also mushroomed but the city authorities could not prepare and implement a long-term plan to keep the water bodies free from pollution.

## EC to announce

specific election schedules for the city corporations and municipalities will be declared by the end of March.

Asked if the delay in announcing the schedule for the two types of local government elections will end up hampering the EC's ability to comply with its own electoral roadmap, the CEC replied in the negative.

"The electoral roadmap won't be disturbed even if the local government elections are delayed by a month or two. UPAZILA ELECITONS

Following his release, he left the them after the general election. country and reportedly roamed in Afghanistan, Pakistan and some parishads before the parliamentary poll, since area wise voter lists for all upazilas will not be ready before October, and because holding of

> Secretariat said. On the other hand, holding the upazila elections simultaneously too difficult for the EC, since holding the general election itself is a mamlor of science degree in physics and

moth task, said the officials. Under the circumstances, the EC might begin holding the upazila elections on a limited scale in only those upazilas where area wise voter

The caretaker government also wants holding of polls to upazila parishads much before the parliamentary election, wherever possible. LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal at a meeting with the EC in early March, informed the commission about the

upazilas will be ready by the end of

If the EC wants, it might start holding elections to those 100 upazila parishads in the next two to three months after completing other

Elections to upazila parishads have not been held in more than 17 years.

match series after their clinical eight-wicket win on Tuesday. Previously, they have won against The two heads of government thrice against Zimbabwe, twice against Kenya and won a series 2-0 against Scotland in 2006. If they win today, Bangladesh will claim their fifth home series victory.

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful will lead an unchanged side that bowled out the visitors for 185 with vicecaptain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza taking three wickets. Later, it was Ashraful and opener Shahriar Nafees who struck half-centuries to guide the home side to win in

Ireland, meanwhile, skipped their scheduled practice yesterday due to the oppressive heat. They will look to play as much competitive cricket as they can on this tour.

international cricket in July 2007 when they hosted the quadrangu-

# Writer Arthur C Clarke

He was credited with the concept of communications satellites in 1945, decades before they became a reality. Geosynchronous orbits, which keep satellites in a fixed position relative to the ground, are called Clarke orbits.

in the late 1960s.

and Astronautics.

bered as a writer."

diverse career as a writer, underwa-

ter explorer and space promoter. Of

all these I would like to be remem-

output of both fiction and non-

three books in a year. He published

his best-selling "3001: The Final

Nine Billion Names of God," 1967;

"Rendezvous with Rama," 1973;

When Clarke and Kubrick got

together to develop a movie about

space, they used as basic ideas

several of Clarke's shorter pieces,

including "The Sentinel," written

in 1948, and "Encounter in the

Dawn." As work progressed on the

screenplay, Clarke also wrote a

novel of the story. He followed it up

with "2010," "2061," and "3001: The

Apollo 11 moon landings, Clarke

great divides in human history; we

are sundered from it forever by the

moment when Neil Armstrong and

Buzz Aldrin stepped out on to the

Sea of Tranquility. Now history and

fiction have become inexorably

the Science Fiction Writers of

America in 1972, 1974 and 1979;

the Hugo Award of the World

Science Fiction Convention in 1974

and 1980, and in 1986 became

Grand Master of the Science

Fiction Writers of America. He was

Born in Minehead, western

England, on Dec. 16, 1917, the son

of a farmer, Arthur Charles Clark

became addicted to science fiction

after buying his first copies of the

pulp magazine "Amazing Stories"

at Woolworth's. He read English

writers H.G. Wells and Olaf

Stapledon and began writing for

Her Majesty's Exchequer and Audit

Department in London, where he

joined the British Interplanetary

Society and wrote his first short

stories and scientific articles on

War II that Clarke received a bache-

mathematics from King's College

In the wartime Royal Air Force,

But it was an RAF memo he

wrote in 1945 about the future of

communications that led him to

fame. It was about the possibility of

using satellites to revolutionize

communications - an idea whose

Clarke later sent it to a publica-

Clarke married in 1953, and was

He moved to the Indian Ocean

island of Sri Lanka in 1956 after

Sector commanders

to hold the much-awaited national

convention of freedom fighters and

pro-liberation organisations," Maj

Gen (retd) M Masudur Rahman,

organising secretary of the SCF,

Police commissioner gave us the

permission in a letter provided that

we abstain from giving any provoc-

ative speech at the convention and

do not display any banner, placard,

and similar things outside the

building," he said, adding that they

as authorities did not give them

warned that if the authorities

obstruct them on their way to the

Bangladesh China Friendship

Convention Centre on March 21,

they would hold the meeting at the

Meanwhile, different organisa-

The commanders at the time

The SCF on March 18 vowed to

accepted the conditions.

permission to assemble.

place they are stopped.

the SCF programme.

"The Dhaka Metropolitan

told The Daily Star last night.

tion called Wireless World, which

almost rejected it as too far-

divorced in 1964. He had no chil-

time had decidedly not come.

he was put in charge of a new radar

It was not until after the World

space travel.

in London.

fetched.

FROM PAGE 16

blind-landing system.

Clarke went to work as a clerk in

his school magazine in his teens.

awarded the CBE in 1989.

Clarke won the Nebula Award of

Final Odyssey."

intertwined."

Songs of Distant Earth," 1986.

Odyssey" when he was 79.

From 1950, he began a prolific

"I'm perfectly operational caster Walter Cronkite as commenunderwater," he once said. tator on the US Apollo moonshots Clarke was linked by his com-

Clarke's non-fiction volumes on space travel and his explorations of the Great Barrier Reef and Indian the Internet. Ocean earned him respect in the world of science, and in 1976 he became an honorary fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics

But it was his writing that shot sources of energy and for evidence him to his greatest fame and that of extraterrestrial beings to be gave him the greatest fulfillment. discovered. "Sometimes I am asked how.I would like to be remembered," Clarke said recently. "I have had a

Associated Press, Clarke once said he did not regret having never followed his novels into space, adding that he had arranged to have DNA from strands of his hair sent into orbit. "One day, some super civiliza-

tion may encounter this relic from fiction, sometimes publishing the vanished species and I may "Move over, Stephen King."

Some of his best-known books are "Childhood's End," 1953; "The Reserved City and The Stars," 1956, "The AFP adds: Drawn to Sri Lanka in 1956 by scuba diving, which the "Imperial Earth," 1975; and "The

> cated with the world using computers and radios. Clarke first attracted attention after the Second World War when he wrote an article predicting satellites would make global broadcasts a reality -- years ahead of their time.

In 1989, two decades after the industry worth billions of dollars. wrote: "2001 was written in an age lot of money if I applied for a patwhich now lies beyond one of the ent," Clarke recounted in the

> all his life. "I did not get a patent because I never thought it will happen in my lifetime. After a varied career as an

> "I want to be remembered most as a writer -- one who entertained readers, and, hopefully, stretched their imagination as well," Clarke

Clarke, born to farming parents, was only 12 when he developed an

reading the March 1930 issue of the

King's College, London. Despite his visionary status, Clarke had an uneasy relationship with the scientific establishment

physics and maths degree from

Among his "extrapolations" for the future -- he avoided the word predictions -- he envisaged mankind making contact with intelligent life on other planets by 2030 and discovering immortality by

## Zardari

speculation. He said the party would announce the name of its candidate when the government convened the National Assembly

However, some political analysts believe that the party may spring a surprise and someone other than the three of four people whose names are doing the rounds may become the prime minister.

slain opposition leader Benazir Bhutto returned to Pakistan yesterday to announce the party's nomiter, a party spokesman said.

AFP adds: The teenage son of

carry on with their plan to hold the national convention on March 21 December following her assassinaafter their earlier bid was thwarted tion at a political rally. Bilawal is completing his studies, and in the interim his father Asif Ali Zardari has taken the reins of the Pakistan People's Party,

> "Bilawal will announce the name of the prime minister. He has come to Pakistan, he is in Karachi." party spokesman Farhatullah Babar told AFP.

ern Sindh province where Bhutto was buried, Babar said.

Commission (ACC) on March 13 in a letter through the jail authorities gave five days time to Hasina for submitting statement in her defence. The ACC on the same date

The jail authorities claimed that

the arrangements.

SM Sabbir Hasan, a deputy director of ACC and investigation officer (IO) of the case, said, they whether she takes the chance or

time before the charge is pressed. Commenting on the jail author-

lawyers.

Rafiqul Islam, former principal secretary to the Prime Minister's

end in victory. "Five years into this battle, there's an understandable debate over whether the war was worth fighting, whether the fight is worth

ring to the late Iraqi dictator.

## American military.

Jamaat

FROM PAGE 16 "The grounds for rejecting the

trial belt and the export processing zones in the port city.

scorching heat," said Aminul Islam, a resident of Kathalbagan.

the decision.

tions on the matter, said exporters.

Around 3,000 trucks loaded with rice have been stranded at Petrapole land port near the border

On March 5, India imposed restrictions on export of rice to

## WB MD

Patel, also present at the briefing, said WB is also helping the government design a better safety net for the poor, who are the hardest hit.

place.

She identified energy sectors, the agriculture sector, social sectors, and environmental management, as requiring reforms.

Ngozi also said Bangladesh

cial intelligence unit. Emergency

Gordon Brown and other British He said he raised the concern with the British prime minister over the shortage of staff at the Bangladeshi-run curry restaurants

Asked about the "minus-two"

He hoped that the reforms undertaken by the Election lot of changes in political parties. Asked about controversy over the CA said the elections will be

FROM PAGE 1

"In March 2006, goons hired by Babar attacked me during a conference of Madan upazila BNP, but

Both sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation on achieving the MDGs in Bangladesh.

The prime minister announced

British support for a new £50 million

education programme - "English in Action" - with the government of Bangladesh. It would contribute to economic growth by improving the English language skills of 25 million Bangladeshis, helping them partici-

pate more effectively in business and

international trade.

Bangladesh.

The chief adviser confirmed on the need to work together to

Millennium Development Goals economic development and to

expressed satisfaction at the level of bilateral trade and investmen between the two countries. The chief adviser expressed his hope that British investment would continue to grow in Bangladesh and that Britain would play a leading role in the G8 and in multilateral trade negotiations to secure duty-free market access for LDCs such as Bangladesh.

(MDGs) Call to Action. This was combat climate change and terror-The chief adviser expressed appreciation for Britain's practical action to attain the MDGs by 2015. assistance for this project.

British-Bangladeshi community in

forging that partnership and agreed

promote sustainable democracy and

FROM PAGE 16

The EC is currently deliberating whether to hold the upazila elections before the parliamentary poll or simultaneously with it, or to hold If the EC decides to start holding upazila elections before the parliamentary poll, then it is unlikely that the commission will be able to finish holding the polls to all 482 upazila

those polls involves a lot of other preparations too, officials in the EC with the parliamentary poll will be

lists will be ready by July at the latest.

100 cattle on the occasion of Eid-ulgovernment's desire. According to the ongoing voter registration plans, voter lists for 100

preparations.

## ligers FROM PAGE 16 The Tigers are 1-0 up in the 3

They expressed satisfaction at the thriving strategic partnership of equals between Britain and They acknowledged the impor-39.5 overs. tant role played by the vibrant

> The Europeans last played lar series which included West Indies, Scotland and Netherlands.

FROM PAGE 16

and he remained a diving enthusiast, running his own scuba venture into old age. He joined American broad-

> puter with friends and fans around the world, spending each morning answering e-mails and browsing At a 90th birthday party thrown for Clarke in December, the author said he had three wishes: for Sri Lanka's raging civil war to end, for

the world to embrace cleaner

embarking on a study of the Great

Barrier Reef. He discovered that

scuba-diving approximated the

feeling of weightlessness that

astronauts experience in space,

In an interview with The

exist in another time," he said. Copyright 2008 by The Associated Press. All Rights

British author said was as near as he could get to the weightlessness of space, he lived in an "electronic cottage" from which he communi-

He was paid just 15 pounds for the theory that led to a satellite "People say I could have made a

strong Somerset burr that he kept

author, underwater explorer, space promoter and science populariser, he said in his last public message marking his 90th birthday in December he would like to be recalled mainly as an author.

"I have no regrets and no more personal ambitions," said the author, awarded a knighthood in 1998 in recognition of his status as the grand old man of science fic-

interest in science fiction after

US sci-fi magazine Amazing He became an early member of the British Interplanetary Society, a group of dreamers who met to discuss ways of putting a man on the moon, worked during the war helping pioneer development of radar and acquired a postwar

and many of his technical papers were published in Playboy maga-

FROM PAGE 16 prime minister could be from any province. He termed all reports in the media in this regard mere

session to elect the leader of the house.

nation for the post of prime minis-Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, a 19year-old student at Britain's prestigious Oxford University, was named Bhutto's heir apparent in

which won the most seats in last month's parliamentary elections.

tions including the Communist Bilawal would be first travelling Kendra and the Sammilita Samajik to the mausoleum in rural south-Andolan expressed solidarity with

issued similar letters to the other accused in the case.

without consulting her lawyers.

did not know whether Hasina received the notice or not. "We have given her a chance to defend herself in accordance with the commission laws. It's up to her

FIVE YEARS OF WAR

US President George W Bush yesterday defended his decision to go to war against Iraq five years ago, vowing no retreat as he promised the battle against extremists would

of thousands of Iraqi civilians.

Karim passed the order. leave petition could not be known immediately," Advocate Manzill Murshid told UNB, after emerging from the court.

Scales will be used as election

Gas supply to Chittagong has been declining for the last few years due to the nose-diving gas production from the Sangu Gas Field. Chittagong is experiencing a shortage of around 100 million cubic feet of gas a day, for which gas-fired power generation in Chittagong is

smoking openly during the six-

"We fined a shop in Khilgaon highest Tk 600 as the shopkeepers didn't cooperate with us initially,"

But, other shopkeepers had

confiscation of his property worth MANJU CASES The SC yesterday stayed further

Gas companies under Petrobangla

terday, Haider added.