Doctor held

FROM PAGE 16 the victim's head had been struck against some hard object, which caused her death.

The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, Golam Rabbani, said Fahmida had been scheduled to visit a doctor on the day of her murder with one of her sisters. Fahmida's sister had called her up on a cell phone earlier but got no reply. Later Mehedi went to check on Fahmida but found the gate to the one-storey house locked.

Tozammel, 54, and Humayun Kabir, who is also a relative, returned home later and called the police.

Police also arrested Kabir from the house, and produced both men before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday with a prayer for a 10-day remand. Officer-in-charge of Mirpur

Police Station Mohiuddin Mahmud said that both men denied being involved in Fahmida's murder. Neighbours however told the police that Tozammel tortured and

beat his wife almost every day on trifling matters. Her brother Mehedi Hasan filed a case against Tozammel with Mirpur Police. Police sources said that Fahmida

police alleging that her husband tortures her, on June 26 of 2002. Mehedi told The Daily Star that his sister got married to the doctor 12 years ago, concealing the fact that

had filed a general diary with the

Nobel Committee

FROM PAGE 1

as a special guest. Nobel Peace Center organised an exhibition in Oslo portraying the work of Prof Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank after he and the bank received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in December 2006. The exhibition, which remained open for a year, was part of the events to celebrate the Nobel

Peace Prize. Danbolt Mjos and Erichsen will stay in Bangladesh from July 15 to July 20. They will participate in several events organised by the Grameen Bank and Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka during their stay here. The events include visits to the field sites of Grameen Bank and observing the

activities of the bank members. Grameen Bank will host a reception and dinner for Prof Danbolt Mjos and Erichsen. Besides, it has arranged a public lecture for Danbolt Mjos who will address students of various universities and colleges.

Mirza Azam

The IO appealed for issuing arrest warrant against Azam and the order to attach his properties as he has been absconding since the case was filed.

The IO also prayed for dropping charges against Azam's wife Aleya Azam as the charges brought against her were not proved. ACC Deputy Director Mobara

Khanam on January 10 this year filed the case against the couple with Ramna Police Station for committing the offences.

In the case statement, the complainant said Azam accumulated wealth worth Tk 5,362,645 illegally and concealed information about his wealth worth Tk 6,434,295 from the

ting her husband.

he was already married at the time. "He started torturing my sister

very soon after that," he said. About two years into the marriage, Tozammel forced Nazma to have an abortion and since then she has been unable to conceive again. This caused a major rift between

A senior colleague of Tozammel, seeking anonymity, told The Daily Star that Tozammel had close connections with AZM Zahid Hossain, general secretary of Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB).

The colleague alleged that though there had been no post for a consultant at the Pongu hospital, such a post was created to appoint Tozammel.

Left to withdraw

FROM PAGE 16 the Left leaders suggesting another round of meeting on Thursday, as the

future course of action. "We have received the letter. We will meet tomorrow to decide on the future course," CPI(M) General

outside supporters decided to meet

here tomorrow to chalk out their

Secretary Prakash Karat said here. Leaders of the other three Left parties also confirmed having

received Mukherjee's letter. RSP General Secretary T Chandrachoodan said "the letter is non-committal. We will discuss it tomorrow." CPI National Secretary D Raja also said the Left would decide on its future moves at tomorrow's

meeting The Left parties have decided to withdraw support the moment the government proceeds to the IAEA to finalise the India-specific safeguards agreement which they feel would be a step towards operationalising the Indo-US nuclear deal.

The outside supporters, who have a strength of 59 members in the Lok Sabha, had set the deadline till today for the ruling coalition to clarify

whether it was going to the IAEA. Earlier in a rebuff to the Left, the Congress leading the UPA coalition has already rejected the Monday ultimatum contending sovereign governments or political parties cannot be subjected to deadlines. The Left wanted it know by Monday whether the government is intending to approach the IAEA to seal the India-specific safeguards agree-

The party top brass including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Party chief Sonia Gandhi, have already held detailed consultations after the Left ultimatum.

The Congress has remained unfazed by the Left action and maintained that the nuclear deal is in national interest.

Aziz clarifies

FROM PAGE 1 measures. Our direct measures have been withdrawing duties on all food items. We also reduced duties on raw

materials and capital machinery." He said the government has taken safety-net measures considering the price hikes on the international

"But then, none can give 100 percent guarantee that prices of essentials would come down", said

dissolution was not announced

import rice on time to cool down the

market, many advisers claimed that

prices would go down with the har-

vest of boro rice in March. The country

saw a bumper boro harvest this year

and there is a plenty of rice in the

country, but with no cooling effect on

resume OMS and other social safety

net programmes in September keep-

ing in mind the coming of Ramadan,

but added that the steps might not

have any positive impact on the prices.

percent of the total grain production

which is not enough to reduce prices,

he said adding that the prices of

essential commodities might how-

ever come down when world food

market is expected to stabilize in

chase 5 lakh tonnes of rice from India

so far brought only 1 lakh tonnes into

the country while over the last :

months there was no rice import in

the private sector, according to the

target of purchasing the remaining

lakh tonnes of rice from India might

see success by the end of August, but

added, even that is also not likely to

fuel oils is also likely to have additional

adverse impact on every sector

increasing the living cost in the

months ahead, throwing the poor

from the frying pan into a fire, with a

severe dent into their buying capaci-

high possibility of making a much

Latif's nephew Mafizur Rahman

Failing to get other transport, my

told The Daily Star that the two were

on their way to the airport at about

3:00am in order to receive Latif's son

uncle and Billal got into the auto

rickshaw in which two muggers were

already lurking in the guise of pas-

sengers," he quoted his uncle as

and Latif to give them (muggers) their

valuables at knifepoint soon after the

driver pulled up at a distance, adding

that the thugs stabbed Billal in the

throat and his uncle in different parts

in front of a restaurant near the

airport roundabout, he said adding

that doctors declared Billal dead after

The muggers later dumped them

as they refused to give in.

them to the hospital.

He said the hijackers asked Billal

Meanwhile, the hike in prices of

bring down the prices of rice.

ties this time around.

coming from Oman.

saying.

their cellphone and money.

FROM PAGE 16

He however said the government's

The government's effort to pur-

"We procure and stock only 6

AMM Shawkat Ali said they will

the prices.

tood adviser.

When the government failed to

Aleya Azam was accused of abetthe adviser.

Govt blasé The strong 18-member committee comprised of the secretaries to the commerce, agriculture, and food and disaster management ministries, the NBR chairman, director generals of the Bangladesh Rifles and the food directorate, the president of FBCCI, economists, and business leaders, evaluated the market situation, prices

"Idon't see any effort on the part of the government to check skyrocketing prices of essentials," commented a senior official of the commerce

of essential commodities, and import

One of the main responsibilities of the commerce ministry is to control prices but the commerce adviser and other top officials seem little worried about the latest round of price hikes of

essentials. Since the military backed caretaker government assumed power in January last year, a series of measures involving various government agencies, were taken to ensure supply and to control prices. But all that has proven futile as the prices keep soaring making consumers' dig deeper

into their pockets just to stay afloat. Against such a backdrop, the council of advisers formed a core committee on March 24 to keep the market on a tight leash, and to raise the people's purchasing capacities. The committee led by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed met regularly to find out ways and means to keep the prices within the reach of the consumers and to ensure that the poor

gets a greater access to food. Launching open market sales of rice, engaging the border guards Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in retailing and distribution of essential goods, market monitoring by law enforcers, and expansion of government safety net programmes like vulnerable group feeding, were some of the steps the committee took in an effort to

bring the prices under control. But the price rally kept on going relentlessly, turning all government efforts into futile exercises over the past 18 months.

BDR had set up 75 fair price outlets in the capital and launched 'Operation Dal Bhat' to help the poor but the mission ended abruptly when they started selling rice for Tk 30 instead of Tk 25 after the government had withdrawn subsidies.

The market monitoring by BDR and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) is also not evident anymore while the price lists that used to hang at every market in the city have also been

missing for months now. BDR had a taskforce patrolling the markets in the capital, the presence of which has not been seen over the last three months or so, although its

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 16 newsmen yesterday that as the prime minister she had acted in accordance with the rules of busi-

ness. So, the ACC cannot file any case against her actions. "The then prime minister Khaleda Zia approved the deal with Niko on completion of all necessary procedures of the committees and the people concerned. But, she did not indulge in any sort of corruption in okaying

the deal with Niko for gas explora-

tion and extraction. So the case

against her cannot run," he said. On December 9 last year, the ACC filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda Zia, former law minister Moudud Ahmed and former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain, former acting energy secretary Khandaker Shahidul Islam and Vice-President (South Asia) of Niko Resources Bangladesh Ltd Kashem Sharif in connection with abusing power to award a gas exploration and

pany Niko. defendants after probes found | ing information about his

extraction deal to Canadian com-

their involvement. On May 5, SM Sahidur Rahman, ACC assistant director and also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet of the graft case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, against Khaleda Zia and 10 others.

Another writ

FROM PAGE 16 to article 119 of the constitution, the EC has been entrusted with holding elections to the parliament and the post of the president, redraw parliamentary constituen cies and to prepare the electoral

He also said the proposal for holding elections to city corporations and municipalities was against article 119 of the constitu-

Earlier, on July 6, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Jasim Uddin Sarker filed a writ petition with the HC seeking a stay on the Election Commission's (EC) August 4 schedule for holding elections to four city corporations and nine municipalities.

In the petition, he also challenged the legality of two ordi nances promulgated by the gov ernment for holding local government elections.

An HC bench comprising Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Md Emdadul Huq yesterday fixed July 13 for hearing the petition.

Bashundhara

each, defaulting on which will earn them three months more in jail.

The sentences will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender. The court directed the authorities to confiscate the illegal currencies in favour of the state.

Earlier, the court had recorded statements of 14 prosecution

According to the prosecution, police seized the currencies worth Tk 23,10,885 at Shah Alam's Gulshan residence during a raid on February 4 last year.

Later on February 19, police

filed a case accusing Shah Alam, his wife and three of their sons of the offences. The investigation officer of the

case submitted the charge sheet on January 22 this year.

Shah Alam, accused in 15 other criminal cases, and his wife were earlier convicted in a tax-dodging

142 bridges

FROM PAGE 16

carrying heavy loads. Besides, their maintenance cost is very high, said a RHD engineer.

The old bridges most of which were built in 1960s do not have the capacity to bear the heavy load of present-day traffic. Besides, they are also very short in length and affect water flow.

"Their thin deck slabs can no longer bear the heavy load of trucks. Moreover, their condition deteriorated further due to lack of adequate maintenance," said the RHD engineer.

agreeing to give financial assistance for constructing 68 bridges which are 30 metre and above in length, has put a condition that the Bangladesh government replace bridges below 30 metres at its own cost," a communication ministry official said.

The RHD has already singled out 74 bridges most of which are 15 to 22 metres in length and is now working on their designs. Besides, it will construct 14 culverts under the same project.

The project proposal has already been submitted to the planning commission, RHD sources said, adding that the project will be placed before the Ecnec

Apart from it, the government has already embarked on a threeyear project at a cost of Tk 437.40 police picked them up and rushed | crore to complete the overdue construction works of 65 bridges.

Arrest warrant

NEWS

The court discharged Khoka's son Ishrak Hossain and daughter Sarika Sadeque from charges on an appeal by the investigation officer (IO).

On July 1, ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Khoka to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court showing 45 people as prosecution witnesses.

The ACC could not submit any probe report in another case as the HC had earlier stayed the proceedings of the case against Khoka's wife Ishmat Ara.

The Investigation Officer (IO) will take necessary steps against Ishmat Ara after an HC order.

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against Khoka and an order to attach his prop-

On April 2 this year, ACC filed the case against Khoka, his wife Ishmat Ara, son Ishrak and daughter Sarika for accumulating wealth worth over Tk 17.57 crore beyond Khoka's known Six others were named as sources of income and conceal-

HCPROCEEDINGS

The bench comprising Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad yesterday passed the order fol-

lowing a writ petition to quash the graft case against DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka along with a bail prayer submitted by his lawyers.

The bench also stayed the proceedings against him until July 16 and issued a rule upon the government and the ACC to explain by this time why the proceedings of the case should not be quashed.

The HC also fixed July 16 for further hearing of the petition.

The petitioner's counsels Barrister Rafique-ul Huq and barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon told the newsmen that the HC granted bail to Khoka and stayed proceedings against him on the grounds that the HC has jurisdiction to grant bail to any accused as per section 561 of the Criminal Procedure Code

(CrPC). They further said the ACC did not maintain due procedure of the rules and law in giving sanc-

tion for filing this case. ACC's counsel Khurshid Alam Khan, however, said that the commission would file an appeal with the Supreme Court to vacate the HC order as soon as possible.

Mayor Khoka appeared before the HC bench for bail in

Climate change HC stays proceedings

The government has already discussed with UNDP and the World Bank, which sent positive signals on funding but have not made any clear commitment, he added.

Aziz said he does not know whether the donors will contribute to the government's climate change fund or create separate

He said if the donors create separate funds, representation of the board of trustee will be there to make sure no overlapping takes

place for the same purpose. About the global conference on climate change and Bangladesh, to be held in September in London, he said the government will have presentations on the vulnerabilities that Bangladesh will face due to

climate change. Bangladesh with financial support from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) is going to hold the conference where representatives from various multilateral organisations will be present.

The government has already started collecting reports from various ministries concerned to present in the London conference.

"The main purpose of the September conference is to sensitise the world about Bangladesh and our strategies on adaptation and mitigation," Mirza Aziz said.

This conference, however, will not be any pledging session like that of the Paris Consortium meeting. Any pledges by agencies, however, would be welcomed, he

FROM PAGE 16

Tk 3.89 crore.

Tk3 crore.

sheets and filing of the case.

Detained Barisal mayor and

BNP leader Sarwar and his wife

Syeda Nasima Sarwar will be

charge-sheeted in the case filed

against them for amassing illegal

wealth worth Tk 9.09 crore and

hiding information of assets worth

ACC will charge-sheet former

state minister for power Prof

Rafiqul Islam, his wife Nurunnahar

alias Lily and son Mostafa Ashish

Islam for accumulating illegal

wealth worth about 1 crore and

concealment of information of

charges against ward commis-

sioner of Dhaka City Corporation

Dipjol and his wife Romana

Monwar for amassing illegal

wealth worth 5.15 crore and con-

cealing information of assets worth

A case will be filed against for-

mer prime minister Sheikh

Hasina's APS Alauddin and his wife

Jahanara Arju for acquiring wealth

worth Tk 68 lakh beyond their

known sources of income and

concealing information about

said the commission has taken

punitive measures against its 28

staff members for their alleged

offences like corruption, miscon-

Of the 28, the high-power com-

mittee headed by the ACC chair-

man has decided to file criminal

and departmental cases against

five officials, departmental cases

against six persons, caution one

official, reinvestigate allegations

against three staffers and supervise

intensively about the allegations

other officials were not proved.

The allegations against five

Responding to a question, the

ACC director general informed that

first information reports have

already been filed against two of

grassroots level leaders of major

political parties including many of

the incumbent ward commission-

ers of the four city corporations,

who allegedly had been involved in

criminal activities over the last five

years and had been on the run until

recently, started to show up in their

constituencies and filed applica-

tions for candidacies, some of

whom have also been selected as

candidates by returning officers of

disqualify the questionable indi-

viduals since the accusations

against them have not yet turned

yesterday, Returning Officer for

Sylhet City Corporation Khondaker

Mizanur Rahman said although

there are allegations of criminal

activities against a number of

candidates there, and some of

them are also in jail, until and

unless they are convicted their

applications for candidacy cannot

City Corporation Monirul Islam

said he is also aware of applications

from alleged criminals seeking

openly about the criminal activi-

during scrutiny, but that is not

Talking to reporters on Sunday,

Election Commissioner Brig Gen

(retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said

there is no specific law preventing

an individual from contesting in

candidacies in the city poll.

Returning Officer for Barisal

"Some applicants even spoke

Contacted by The Daily Star

The returning officers could not

respective electoral areas.

into convictions.

be rejected.

tions," he argued.

against eight employees.

the 28 individuals.

FROM PAGE 1

EC worried

duct and breach of discipline.

The ACC director general also

assets worth Tk 44 lakh.

The commission will press

assets worth Tk 53 lakh.

Graft cases Poor attention leads

FROM PAGE 16

wealth

becoming a college the number of manpower there has not changed, and no facilities or equipment were added," said Principal of Dhaka Nursing College Tahatun Nahar.

The colleges are running with existing infrastructure and manpower and there are no posts for professors, associate professors or assistant professors. There should be 100 posts for teachers in these colleges.

College of Nursing affiliated to Dhaka University offers a two-year Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in nursing and Public Health Nursing. Around 125 nurses graduate from the college each year with leadership, management and teaching capabilities. The college does not offer master's programme in nurs-

The country currently has around 150 nurses with master's degree in nursing. They achieved the degrees with the financial and technical help from foreign organisations," said Tahatun Nahar adding that NIPSOM is currently offering master's programme on Health Education but not nursing.

Despite the demand for specialised nurses, there is no scope for grooming specialised nurses in the country, experts said.

"After completing general nursing course there should be scope for nurses to have specialised courses like cardiology, oncology, paediatrics, neurology, urology and traumatology and there should be a specific curriculum and separate budget for this," said Registrar of Bangladesh Nursing

Council Shamsunnahar. The government is indifferent to improving the quality of nursing here but allows nurses from India, Nepal and some other countries to work here in the name of technol-

ogy transfer, experts said. They said in spite of these nurses being very competent, their ability to provide services is not properly utilised due to language and cultural barriers.

"There are around 250 foreign nurses at different private clinics and hospitals being paid high salaries as per international standards. A large amount of foreign exchange is being spent to pay for these nurses," said former Bangladesh Bank governor Farashuddin.

Farashuddin, also the former vice-chancellor of East West University, tried to initiate a BSc programme on nursing at the university. He said it is possible to create international-standard nurses in this country if the government wants to and if the strict regulations on nursing education at private organisations are eased.

However, demand for nurses abroad has also risen which would give Bangladesh the opportunity to export once the shortage of nurses is gone.

"The country needs between 400 and 450 nursing education centres if

we want 4,000-5,000 nurses to graduate every year. Government institutes, private universities and institutes should come forward in providing nursing education," said Coordinator of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) Prof Tasneem Siddiqui. Many private universities are willing to start nursing education courses but they cannot initiate the course due to strict government conditions, she said. In the guidelines for offering

courses on nursing, it is said that a private university must have a 100bed hospital and a nurses' dormitory. These tough conditions discourage entrepreneurs as offering the course becomes uneconomical for them, she added.

Health Adviser AMM Shawkat Ali recently formed a taskforce with a view to update the curriculum of nursing education in a bid to take Bangladesh's nurses up to international standard and encourage private universities to initiate nursing course.

Karachi

FROM PAGE 16

facing growing unrest just five months after defeating US-backed President Pervez Musharraf's allies in elections with Islamist violence on the rise and political divisions growing.

"One person was killed and at least 30 injured in a series of low intensity bomb blasts in the Pashtun-dominated areas in Karachi," police officer Mohammad Saqlain told AFP, adding that seven children were among the wounded.

Hospital official Liagat Memon later

said a total of 37 people were hurt. Musharraf condemned the blasts saying the "despicable acts of terrorism were a conspiracy against the country and the people," the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but police said the blasts appeared to be small and aimed at raising tensions in the city, rather than major attacks.

"Apparently the purpose was to create panic in the city. There is also a possibility that these people who planted the bombs wanted to fan ethnic tensions in the city," provincial police chief Babar Khattak told AFP. One of the blasts happened near a school, injuring several of the children.

Another completely destroyed a car leaving half a charred chassis and two "It bewildered us all and we saw two of our friends injured. The blast sent concrete flying which damaged some

motorcycles," labourer Ali Shah told AFP after another of the blasts in the city's Banaras Chowk area. Tension gripped several neighbourhoods affected by the bombs, with

mobs pelting cars with stones, burning tyres and chanting anti-government slogans, an AFP reporter said. Karachi has seen a number of

attacks blamed on various Islamic militant and political groups since Pakistan joined the US-led "war on terror" in 2001.

Maids find it hard

that its own agencies cooperate Joint Secretary Mansur Raja Trading. Some fear that prospective

employers might be shying away

from recruiting from Bangladesh because of the stringent rules they need to adhere to in order to hire workers from here. An official of the recruiting agency Rabbi International said they have not received any visas in the last four months though they

have been sending female workers to Saudi Arabia for long time now. Therese Blanchet, director of Drishti Research Centre, which conducts research on female migration, said: "The new rules are creating frustration as long waits lead to expiration of workers' documents and many women have already lost the money they paid in advance for

are exploring alternative routes as they face pressure to clear their documents faster. Far from being protected, women may end up not getting the jobs," she pointed out.

the jobs."

Expatriates' welfare ministry "The Japanense government duly," said Abdul Alim, owner of SA Chowdhury said the government is considering relaxing some rules regarding visas. Asked for comments on allega-

tions that many work visas expired because the government has not approved those on time, he said that the government had in fact -- since the new rules were implemented on September 1 last year -- extended ties of some prospective rivals time up to March 2 this year to enough to reject the rivals' applicaapprove the visas secured by previous procedures.

"We are looking into the matter and consulting the issue with agencies and others concerned," Mansur Middle East is the main destination for the unskilled female labour.

quarter was 19,094.

the polls on grounds of accusations, until the person is convicted. Demand for domestic help from Meanwhile, the EC yesterday Bangladesh is on the rise as Sri issued a circular asking the return-Lanka, India and the Philippines ing officers to prepare panels of "Recruiting agents and brokers have recently hiked wages for polling officials, who will man the female workers. polling centres on the polling day. A total of 5,906 female workers

The circular instructs the left for overseas jobs upto April this returning officers to have the panyear. In 2007, the figure for the same els ready and to inform the EC Secretariat about those by July 20.

commission would file an appeal with the Supreme Court as soon as possible. Both the cases are now pending with the special judge's courts set up on Jatiya Sangsad

> Bhaban premises. The Niko scam case awaits charge hearing and the barge-mounted power plant case is in the phase of cross-examination of the prosecu-

tion witnesses by the defence. Earlier on June 11 and June 19, the HC bench during separate hearings on the petitions called for the trial court records for its scrutiny as to whether the cases had been filed by

ACC following due process of law. On September 2 last year, ACC Deputy Director Sabbir Hasan filed the barge-mounted case with Tejgaon Police Station against Hasina and six prominent personalities including former energy secre-

tary Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury. The case says Hasina and other accused through mutual understanding and use of influence helped Wartsila Power Development Ltd Consortium and its two local partners win a deal for setting up a 100MW power plant in Khulna

depriving the lowest bidder. Summit Group and United Group areWartsila's local partners.

The case statement says a few days before and after the deal, the three companies paid a Tk3 crore kickback, which was spent for buying a house with some land in Dhanmondi for Bangabandhu Memorial Trust set up and controlled by Hasina.

Sabbir Hasan filed another case with Tejgaon Police Station on December 9 last year accusing Hasina and six others of corruption and abuse of power while awarding

three "abandoned" gas fields in Chhatak, Kamta and Feni to

Canadian energy company Niko Resources Ltd during the Awami League tenure. The case statement said the Niko

deal caused a loss of Tk 13.6 crore to the state exchequer. Meantime, the trial court dealing the Niko case could not hold the

hearing yesterday as it did not get back the records from the HC. As the court resumed at 10:35am, Judge Amar Kumar Roy of the Special Court-2 told both the defence and prosecution: "The proceedings can't be started as I've not received the records and documents yet which

the High Court had asked for judicial The HC on June 19 asked the trial court to send in the case records by June 30 for scrutiny as Hasina peti-

tioned for quashing the case. In view of the situation, the court fixed July 14 the next day of hearing subject to the HC decision on the

pending petition. Advocate Sahara Khatun was present in the court on behalf of Hasina as she has been exempted from personally appearing in court

during her overseas treatment. The counsels of other accused former state minister for power Prof Rafigul Islam appealed for proper

treatment of their client. The court did not give any decision as it did not have the case records. The court however asked verbally the jail authorities through the prosecution to take measures for

his treatment. Two other accused in the case former power secretary Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and Prof Rafigul Islam were produced before the court.

Fakhruddin said the government

is going to enact the Right to

Information Act which will enable

institutions to be transparent and

the people will be able to get neces-

About the problems of expatriate

workers in Malaysia, he said the

foreign adviser had a meeting with

the Malaysian home minister to sort

Ahmed Chowdhury and

Bangladesh High Commissioner M

Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar

Later, Fakhruddin was driven to

Hotel Renaissance in a ceremonial

daughter of Salma Begum who was

killed in the accident, two-and-a-

half year-old Abdus Samad, Yusuf

of Muradnagar, and Ferdousi, 35,

Mukti, 10, of Korikandi village in

Highway bus

Khaleda can be released

toring the prices.

sary information.

out the problems.

D8 Summit.

motorcade.

FROM PAGE 1

FROM PAGE 1

started and the general election will be held accordingly.

On the issues of registering expatriate Bangladeshis as voters and giving them voter ID cards, the chief adviser said all Bangladeshi nationals deserve to be voters and to get ID cards. But the matter of voting right of the expatriate Bangladeshis is complex. The Election Commission has already visited

will be able to reach a decision after examining it. When asked about the continuity of anti-corruption drives, he said the incumbent government has set up an independent Anti-corruption Commission. Those who will come to power next will continue the drives. "If corruption is hated and the corrupt are not tolerated, it will

some countries, and hopefully they

be easy to curb corruption," he said. Some members of the audience criticised the finance adviser's recent remarks on price hike of essentials.

The chief adviser admitted that the prices of essentials have gone beyond the tolerable level and people are suffering. He said the government does not control the market in the present world but his government is sincere about moni-

Croc farming

markets.

FROM PAGE 16 A crocodile costs around Tk 25,000 to 30,000 to rear over 2.5 years to three years while they can be sold at around TK 50,000 to 60,000 in foreign

Crocodiles have other saleable values, including their skin, which is in huge demand and their meat, a kilogram of which is sold for seven to eight US dollars in the international markets.

Many entrepreneurs have contacted the farm for technical help to set up their own cultivations, the CEO of the farm said. He claims that Reptiles Farm Ltd is the only private venture in the Saarc countries that runs crocodile farming on a commercial basis.

Some universities have also

expressed interest to collaborate

with the farm, set on 13.40 acres of

land and containing 12 ponds and

two lagoons, to provide practical

knowledge to their students on

crocodile farming, he added.

Titas upazila. Hearing the news, relatives of the passengers rushed to the scene, creating traffic congestion on the highway for about four hours. The bodies of the victims were kept at the office of Eliatganj

Highway Police. Eleven of them were identified till yesterday evening. They are Nasiruddin, 42, his sister Salma Begum, 35, of Purba Devpur in Chhagalnaiya, Habibur Rahman, 60, of Langalkot, Shadhan Mahbub, 55, of Fulgazi, Starline driver Nayan, 45, of Chhagalnaiya, Abdul Mannan, 19, of South Sotero in Chhagalnaiya, Akbar Hossain, 30, cloth trader Alam, 38, Abul Kashem, 42, Zahir,

30, and Reaz, 32, of Feni Sadar. Comilla Deputy Commissioner Monjurur Rahman, Superintendent of Police Imtiaz Ahmed and other

senior officials visited the spot. This was the major accident since 41 people were burned to death as a passenger bus caught fire on the same highway in Suaganj in January 2007.

41 killed in suicide

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The militants have previously denied involvement in attacks with high civilian casualties but authorities often blame them, pointing to their record of suicide bombings.

President Hamid Karzai accused "enemies" of the good relationship between Afghanistan and India, one of the country's staunchest allies as the war-torn country battles the increasingly · bloody Taliban insurgency.

Afghan Foreign Minister

Rangeen Dadfar Spanta visited the

embassy soon after the attack to show support, his spokesman Sultan Ahmad Baheen said. "The enemies of Afghanistan and India's relationship cannot hamper our relationship by con-

India has provided significant support to Afghanistan's efforts to restore order after the ouster of the Islamic extremist Taliban movement, which seized power in 1996.

"Such acts of terror will not deter us from fulfilling our commitments to the government and people of Afghanistan," the Indian government said in a statement.

The United States and European Union quickly condemned the attack, pledging to stand by officials said.

Afghanistan as it battles a growing wave of extremist violence in the region that has also seen a wave of deadly attacks in neighbouring Pakistan. In Islamabad, Foreign Minister

Shah Mehmood Qureshi added to

the outcry, saying Pakistan "con-

demns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as this menace negates the very essence of human values." The unrelenting extremist attacks have strained ties between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which each accuse the other of not doing

enough to stop the tide of blood shed. The international community has sent about 70,000 troops to Afghanistan to help them fight the ducting such attacks," Baheen told militants but the insurgency has only gained pace, notably over the

> past two years. In other violence Monday, a Canadian soldier died after being badly hurt in a bomb blast in the southern province of Kandahar, a Canadian commander said.

A roadside bomb similar to those used by the Taliban killed three Afghan police in the same province and a separate one killed four more in the neighbouring province of Uruzgan, government

Khairuzzaman, among others, were Earlier, the chief adviser was accorded a red carpet reception on his arrival at Kuala Lumpur International Airport to attend the Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Abdur Rahim Bakri received him on the tarmac at 4:05pm local time.