suggest that he stashed away the

money in a foreign bank account as it

was not earned through legal

residence on May 28 last year. The

recovered four firearms -- a shotgun,

a rifle, a pistol and a revolver, two

magazines and 297 rounds of ammu-

He has already been sentenced to

Shafiat Sobhan, son of

Bashundhara chairman Ahmed

Akbar Sobhan, was the prime sus-

pect of the July 2006 murder of

Bashundhara director Humayun

Trial adjourned

The trial proceedings of the barge

mounted power plant graft case

against former premier Sheikh

Hasina and seven others were

adjourned yesterday till September

Judge Firoz Alam of Special

Court-1 located on the Jatiya

Sangsad Bhaban premises

adjourned the proceedings upon

receiving the copy of the HC order

that stayed the case proceedings for

The HC had issued the stay order

The counsel for former energy

and power secretary Dr Towfig-e-

Elahi Chowdhury, one of the co-

accused in the case filed by the Anti-

Corruption Commission (ACC)

yesterday pleaded to the special

court for the release of his client since

he was arrested again despite being

The court, in response, said it

Advocate Sahara Khatun repre

sented Hasina during the proceed-

ings as the former premier had been

exempted from appearing person-

ally at trial proceedings in the court

during her stay overseas for medical

Hasan filed the case with Tejgaon

Police Station on September 2 last

year accusing Hasina and six others

foreign company and its local part-

ners win a deal for setting up 100-

megawatt barge-mount power

plants in Haripur, Khulna and

Shikalbaha, depriving the lowest

Other accused in the case are

former Power Development Board

(PDB) chairman Noor Uddin

Mahmud Kamal, Managing Director

of Summit Industries and Mercantile

Corporation Private Ltd Aziz Khan

its Director Farid Khan, United

Group Chairman Hasan Mahmud

Raja and its Director Abul Kalam

The Bangladesh Army would com-

plete the work at an estimated cost

strong opposition from various

quarters, the task was taken as a

challenge and was successfully

completed by the armed forces in

He said it is the pride of

cooperation with all sections of

Bangladesh that it has registered

more than 80 million voters within a

short time, adding that very few

countries have achieved such a feat.

The army chief said despite

Elect honest

of Tk 446 crore, he said.

of using their influence to help

ACC Deputy Director Sabbir

could not issue such order since the

HC had already stayed all proceed-

awarded bail by the HC.

ings of the case.

treatment

bidder.

POWER PLANT CASE

until Sep 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

17 years' rigorous imprisonment for

illegally keeping the arms and ammu

charges.

Kabir Sabbir.

two months.

on July 7.

Babar was arrested at his Gulshan

sources, said the case statement.

Candidates changed

Detained SCC Mayor Badar

Uddin Ahmed Kamran, a candidate

of this SCC polls, had pledged to curb

corruption in SCC ahead of the 2003

elections. He is now detained in the

Kitchen Market scam case filed in

the work order for a kitchen market

development and making it a city

that draws tourists have not materi-

year, Nagorik Committee is running

his campaign pledging to make the

SCC free from political influence and

continue the development works in

dates have made curbing corruption

defeated in the first SCC polls by

Kamran, is repeatedly talking about

eliminating corruption and criminal

activities in the SCC and making it an

organisation accountable to the

race, has stressed the need for mak-

ing the SCC an "affective organisa-

tion in the real sense"

land of water bodies.

dates in the KCC polls.

KHULNA

election is.

and Enavet Ali

ners of the event.

reforms.

AFM Kamal, also in the mayoral

Candidates Babrul Hossain Babul

if elected, their first job would be to

make the SCC free from corrupt

people and corruption. Their

pledges also include eliminating the

water crisis and recovering occupied

Curbing corruption and making the

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) a

public welfare-body are the prime

electoral pledges of mayoral candi-

Rahman was convicted and sen-

tenced to 17 years' imprisonment in

two separate extortion cases. He had

pledged to curb corruption and

are making similar commitments

along with serving the people with

utmost sincerity, honesty and dili-

together yesterday at "Face-the-

People" dialogue at Zia Hall in the

city and pledged to work together for

the welfare of the city people no

mater what the outcome of KCC

tism and politicisation, make KCC

accountable to the people, make the

best use of KCC resources and

Abdul Khaleque, Feroze Ahmed,

Moslem Uddin, Prof Taibur Rahman

(Shujan) organised the programme

Shujan Khulna district committee

President Prof Mohammad Zafar

Imam chaired the programme and

Channel i, The Daily Star and

Prothom Alo were the media part-

Manmohan govt

modernise and reform India.

government's ambitious agenda to

"Now we have crossed a major

bridge that is the Indo-US civilian

nuclear deal. Now, we will move

ahead on economic and social

impassioned defence of the deal

during two days of special debate,

people badly need alternative

sources of energy to avert an

we won or lost. I think what is impor-

tant here is what is right for India,"

said Rahul Gandhi, the son of

Congress leader Sonia and heir

apparent of the Nehru-Gandhi

warned that time may be running

out for Washington to ratify the pact.

forward with this," said spokes-

woman Dana Perino, but "there

aren't that many days left where

They also argued it would com-

In what was seen as a last-ditch

ment, three BJP MPs took to the floor

waving bundles of cash worth 30

million rupees (715,000 dollars) that

they said they had been paid for their

turned into a mart of corruption,

where MPs are bought and sold. So

much money has changed hands

that it's reached a new level of cor-

ruption in India," senior BJP official

ers, and we will win the next general

election," which is due by May 2009

one of the four left-wing parties that

forced the vote, said the govern-

ment's win had "blackened" the face

victory. They won because of intense

horse-trading," furned party leader

Chatteriee had called in New Delhi's

police chief to investigate the bribery

claims. The speaker also said the

furore was a "sad day in the history of

of Indian democracy.

TJChandrachoodan.

parliament.

"But ultimately we are the gain-

The Revolutionary Socialist Party,

"We do not recognise this as a

Officials in parliament said

"Manmohan Singh's office has

promise the country's nuclear weap-

ons programme and the ability to

Congress is going to be in session."

United States.

However, the White House

"We think that we can move

"I am not interested in whether

impending fuel crunch.

Government officials gave an

The five candidates are: Talukder

Shushashoner Janney Nagorik

increase revenue earnings.

They also pledged to shun nepo-

This time, the mayoral candidates

Five mayoral candidates sat

develop the city in 2003 elections.

KCC Mayor Sheikh Tayebur

their prime electoral pledge.

All most all other mayoral candi-

Mayoral candidate MA Haque,

His plans for the city's overall

As he is detained since May last

connection with illegally awarding

to serve his interest.

the city.

people.

several years while services like road communications, water and power supply and drainage system remain as poor as ever, they said. RAISHAHI

Ahead of the election to Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), most electorate have observed that they have been cheated in the last five years as the city has remained underdeveloped, reports our correspondent in

BNP lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Minu, now convicted in an extortion case, never paid heed to people's reminders of his mayoral election pledges including bringing natural gas supply to the city, industrial boost, not increasing taxes, building educational institutes, constructing new roads and expanding the exist-

City dwellers alleged that the RCC itself was made the centre of corruption and crime although Minu's main electoral pledge was to eliminate them.

He also pledged to make Rajshahi a drug-free city but at least 60,000 bottles of banned phensidyl used to enter the frontier city every day, said a

Government land was grabbed while extortion by ruling party men and Abdul Mukit Khan pledged that | FROM PAGE 1

The present mayoral candidates and also those who contested last time also did little to force the authorities to follow these pledges during the last five years, many city dwellers alleged, expressing pessimism about any positive change in case politicians who become active only during elections come out successful this

Mayoral candidate AHM Khairuzzman Liton declared a 23point election pledge that includes taking initiatives for producing 50-60MW electricity to solve power crisis, establishing a silk-based industry and an industry-based export processing zone (EPZ) and adopting a master plan for the development of greater Rajshahi, reports our Rajshahi University correspon-

Enamul Haque declared a 21point election pledge including establishing a centre to build skilled manpower; Durul Huda announced a 15-point election pledge including reducing unemployment; Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul unofficially announced a 10-point pledge; Masudul Haque Dulu announced a 20-point pledge; and Raihanur Rahman announced an 18-point pledge including establishing transparency in the RCC BARISAL

BNP district unit President Mujibur Rahman Sarwar, who committed to curb criminal activities, was elected the mayor of Barisal City Corporation (BCC). However, the mayor himself allegedly had criminals around him who resorted to different criminal activities including manipulating tenders.

Sarwar allegedly took percentage from each development work. He turned the BCC office into a political hub of the BNP-Jamaat coalition, appointing a large number of men at the BCC office from the parties.

tion, killing, extortion and illegal arms possession, among others.

He has been charged with corrup-

The present mayoral candidates are now going door to door with the same pledges giving priority to carrying out development work and curbing criminal activities and corruption, reports our correspondent in the city. Advocate Enayet Pir Khan has arguing that the country's 1.1 billion

pledged to curb criminal activities. There would be no political influence on the city corporation if I am elected," he said.

Shawkat Hossain Hiron said he does not want to cheat by placing unreal pledges. "If I am elected, I will do what is necessary, especially development of the city," he said. Ebaidul Haque Chan said he

would form a nagorik committee in every ward comprising non-political persons and would carry out development work recommended by elected ward councillors.

Former mayor Ahsan Habib Kamal who is accused of several corruption charges has pledged to curb corruption from the city corpo-

Left-wingers--who triggered the SYLHET vote by withdrawing their support The mayoral candidates of Sylhet for Singh earlier this month--and the City Corporation (SCC) polls have main opposition Hindu nationalist pledged to eliminate corruption Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had from the corporation. argued the deal would tie traditionally neutral India too closely with the

ACC to quiz FROM PAGE 16

Ltd, a bridge maintenance firm. But details of the statements,

however, could not be known keep ahead of main regional rival immediately Pakistan, also an atomic weapons On June 18, the ACC filed the case with Motifheel Police Station

accusing the two of taking Tk 6 lakh attempt to bring down the governin bribe from the owner of Marganet One Ltd. In the case, the complainant

stated that Nazmul Huda demanded bribe from the owner of the firm in exchange for a work order for the maintenance of Jamuna Bridge.

As per his demand, the owner of the firm deposited Tk 6 lakh to the account of Weekly Khoborer Antorale at Amin Court (Motijheel) branch of Agrani Bank in 20 Vijay Kumar Malhotra told AFP. cheques between September 30, 2004 and October 18, 2006, the case

statement said. Sigma Huda, who used to run at the latest, he said. the weekly, drew the money from the bank and the firm got the work

order, the complainant said. Earlier, separate special courts set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises acquitted Sigma Huda in two extortion cases and sentenced her to three years' imprisonment in a case on charges of abetting her husband in taking Tk 2.4 crore in bribe from the proprietor of a construction firm.

sentenced to different terms of imprisonment in bribery and extotion cases.

Govt cancels FROM PAGE 16

In Kurigram, Kazipara High School, Khamarbari High School, Burarpath Girls' High School, Kalirhat High School, Rabaitari High School, Sardarpara Adarsha Biddyalaya, Bhogdanga Girls' High School, Bhimsharma High School, Najimkha Girls' High School, Sardab Adarsha High School, Utttar Dhaldanga High School, Kodalkati Girls' High School, Char Shoilmari Girls' High School, Dantbhanga Girls' High School, Chaktabari High School, and Nayabarir Bhita Girls' High School are on the list.

MPO for Ebatunnechha Girls' High School in Lalmonirhat has been cancelled.

ADB

FROM PAGE 16 This was worsened by the rapid rise in food prices that mainly affected

the poor and fixed income earners. Along with the loan, the ADB is also issuing a 600,000-dollar grant to help the government improve its ability to plan and undertake medium- and long-term programmes to improve food security.

Tofail demanded lifting of the state of emergency to create atmosphere for the general election. "Awami League is no rival to the caretaker government. Since the caretaker government is running the country as per constitution, there is no need for the emergency," he said.

UZ polls FROM PAGE 1

a non-party election. Polls to the remaining 182 upazila parishads will be held immediately after the ninth parliamentary election, which is supposed to be held on the third week of December.

The CEC said the commission has yet to fix any tentative date for the parliamentary polls.

The EC sits today again to discuss the draft rules and code of conduct for the upazila parishad polls. It plans to finalise the draft rules next week and then send it to the law ministry for vetting, sources in the EC Secretariat said.

According to the draft electoral rules and code of conduct, polls to upazila parishads are totally nonpartisan and the candidates will not be allowed to use their political identities, party name or symbols during their campaign. If a candidate violates this rule, he or she can lose the candidature, be fined and jailed the draft says, _____

The Upazila Parishad Ordinance promulgated by the caretaker government in June says that if an individual is elected upazila chairman, he or she will have to resign from the post of his or her political party before taking oath for the new job.

The EC has made plans to publish the draft voter list for DCC areas later this month allowing people to check the authenticity of

the voter list with photographs. According to the plan, the final voter list for the DCC areas will be ready by the first week of September and it will require a few days to complete its printing.

Politicians

invitation "but we could not invite them due to space constraints at the celebration venue."

Of its own employees, the EC Secretariat invited only the first class officials to the programme. Employees, who worked for the voter listing from the very beginning, tried to communicate with the CEC on Monday to express their desire to participate in the celebration but failed to draw his

attention. The EC invited 500 guests including civil and military bureaucrats, civil society personalities, diplomats and leaders of professional bodies to the celebration held yesterday afternoon.

Representatives from all communities were supposed to be invited to the programme.

Putting to rest all scepticism about the project's success, the EC completed the field level task of voter registration in the first week of this month, registering 8.05

It has also had ready the electronic database of the voters, perhaps one of the largest electronic databases of electoral rolls in the world and definitely the largest in developing countries.

The project's senior official said all preparations were made to invite politicians to the programme as they were invited to celebrate the halfway mark of voter registration at the same venue earlier on March 2 this year.

But the decision on not inviting the politicians was taken on the eve of sending the invitation letters, he added.

He said intelligence agencies objected to inviting Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid to the programme as both of them are

facing corruption charges. Besides, presence of a political leader in the March 2 celebration created controversy. "So, we finally decided not to invite any politician, the senior official said.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed attended the function as chief guest while Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed and UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Renata Dessallien were present as special

The CEC delivered the welcome address at the function.

Babar charged

FROM PAGE 1 Rupak Kumar Saha, deputy assistant director of the ACC and investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, showing nine people as prosecution wit-

The charge sheet was prepared under sections 26 (1) and 27(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act nition. 2004 and Section 15 of the Emergency Power Rules 2007.

The IO in his charge sheet maintained that Babar should be brought to trial as charges against him were primarily proved to be true.

He said the former state minister

had amassed assets worth over Tk

6.79 crore through illegal means and hid information on wealth amounting to more than Tk 7 crore from the commission. On January 13, ACC Assistant Director Mirza Zahidul Alam filed the

case with Ramna Police Station accusing that Babar made a fortune of about Tk 6.74 crore through illegal means and hid information about Tk 7.6 crore of his assets. Babar reported his wealth to the

ACC on July 7 last year through the Dhaka Central Jail authorities.

He had claimed in his wealth statement that he and his family own about Tk 6.77 crore in moveable and immovable property. He showed construction costs of

his 5,938sq-feet under-construction building in Netrakona's. Madan upazila at Tk 8 lakh. But the Public Works Department later determined the costs to be around Tk 34.43 lakh, the case statement said.

It said the former state minister did not mention about Tk 6.79 lakh deposited in his savings account with Prime Bank's Gulshan branch.

Moreover, information collected from the bank shows that US\$1 million was wired to Babar's bank account in Singapore on June 20 last

He could not give any explanation as to the source of this money which

Bahrain

FROM PAGE 16

Bangladeshis living in Bahrain, he added. Bahrain suspended work visas

for Bangladeshis toward the end of May after the mechanic was accused of killing a Bahraini man, newspapers reported at the time. A Bahraini Islamist lawmaker

had called for the expulsion of all Bangladeshi workers from the Gulf country amid outrage over the murder. The mechanic was charged with

premeditated murder after he was allegedly slit the victim's throat with a hacksaw during an argument over payment for work on the victim's car. Like other Arab states in the Gulf, Bahrain relies heavily on

unskilled Asian workers in lowpaid jobs such as construction and domestichelp. In June, a Bangladeshi cook was

executed after he was convicted of killing his female employer in August 2006.

The tiny Gulf archipelago applies the death penalty but executions are rarely carried out.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1

constitutional responsibility of the caretaker government to hold the general election. "Upazila elections are to be held after the national

Hasina said it is a good sign that the caretaker government has started realising that there is no alternative to elections and transfer of power to an elected government.

AL Acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam, UK chapter AL leaders Syed Farooq and Mustaque Qureshi and Jubo League President Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury and General Secretary Tarif Ahmed also spoke at the meeting.

Salam Pintu

FROM PAGE 16 confessional statement regarding the attacks.

Judge KM Rasheduzzaman Raja of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court adjourned the hearing following petitions submitted by defence lawyers. law enforcement agencies also

The court fixed August 3 for next hearing on charge-framing and directed the jail authorities to produce all the arrested accused on that day.

The case was filed for the grenade attacks on an Awami League (AL) rally on August 21, 2004 that left 23 people dead and around 200

The law enforcers also recovered injured Tk 20 crore he received from the REJECTION OF BAILS Bashundhara Group in exchange for The court rejected the bail petiallegedly sparing the son of the tions of Pintu, Arif Hasan and group's chairman from murder Jahangir Alam following argu-

> prosecution on the issue. Moving the bail petitions, lawyers told the court that their clients were implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass them. Their clients were not named in the FIR but included in the charge

ments from the defence and the

sheet, they argued. The prosecution opposed the petitions saying that they had earlier confessed to the killings and their petitions should be rejected. SHOW RESPECT TO COURT

The judge asked the former BNF lawmaker Pintu to show respect to the court order during the hearing of the case. The judge's comment came as the defence and the prosecution argued on whether Pintu should stand in the dock or not. BAILOFJEWEL

The same court granted bail to Jewel upon a bond of Tk 20,000 with two guarantors following a HC order. The HC on April 7 granted bail to Jewel for six months.

Delwar

FROM PAGE 16 Khaleda Zia for the validity," Delwar also said.

Delwar made the comments at a meeting organised by four-party alliance at Engineers Institution in the capital, demanding the release of political leaders including BNP chief Khaleda. Accusing the Awami League (AL)

of hatching conspiracies, the BNP secretary general said, "The Awami League has announced that they will boycott the upazila elections. They however are hatching conspiracies in London and a foreign diplomat was present at the meeting between Hasina and Ershad."

This government does not want to hold the elections as it intends to stay in power for a longer period, Delwar alleged saying, "When will it be a good time for them to withdraw

"In fact, it [government] is in search of its own candidates who will win the elections under the emergency," he said demanding that the government make public the names of the candidates it endorses.

Implying that the Election Commission (EC) is playing along with the government scheme, Delwar said even though all political parties demanded national elections first, the EC maintains that it will hold the upazila polls before the parlia-

mentary polls. Pointing to the chief election commissioner, the BNP leader said, "Please resign if you have any respect for the people. You made yourself controversial. Everything you did is

Other BNP leaders who spoke at the meeting said the present government will be held accountable for its corruption. The future elected government will conduct investigation into the corruption committed by the present government and a fair trail would be conducted under existing laws of the land.

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid said the AL is hatching a conspiracy and they are using Ershad for it. "You have to come to Khaleda Zia for assistance. The handover of power following the elections would be possible with her assistance.

BNP-led four-party alliance leaders including Shamim Al Mamun, Abdul Latif Nezami, Nazrul Islam Khan, Muhammad Qamaruzzaman, among others, spoke at the meeting.

1.2 lakh MT rice

offices take bank drafts. "I used to

Chittagong, Salahuddin Ahmad, said around 40,000 tonnes of rice have already been unloaded and transported to different food warehouses in Chittagong and Dhaka divisions.

Mamun

Mamun's counsel barrister Fakhrul Islam yesterday told The Daily Star that the HC granted the ad interim bail to Mamun till disposal of his appeal, on the ground that the government did not take steps to dispose of the appeal

grounds including the 90 days provision, he added.

The ACC filed the case against Mamun for his failure to submit his wealth statement to the corruption watchdog that served a notice on him in this regard on February 18 last year.

would be able to know everything Ashraf Hossain of a special court after deposition of tax renewal fees. set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises handed down cles are plying without depositing tax three years' imprisonment to Mamun for his non-compliance with the ACC requirement.

the conviction.

Voter list

FROM PAGE 1

ATM Shamsul Huda made the welcome address at the function, attended by the speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, advisers, special assistants to the chief adviser, diplomats, representatives of international development partners, high civil and military officials and distinguished personali-

A video documentation on voter registration was displayed while election theme song rendered at the function.

The voter list project was approved in August 2007 and fin-

ished on July 9, 2008. The CA said the reconstituted Election Commission had decided at the very outset that the voter list with photographs would be prepared afresh.

He said in order to implement

the new initiative technological feasibility had to be assessed along with human resource requirements. A pilot project was then launched in Sreepur with the help of Bangladesh Army.

The CA said UNDP provided inputs for the project implementation and rendered administrative assistance when the project faced procurement problems.

The project also received assistance from the European Union, DFID, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and the Republic of

The CA extended heartfelt thanks to everybody involved in the process, including those from Election Commission, Armed Forces, civil administration as well as voting-age citizens of the country without whose enthusiastic

Obama, Iraqi PM want US troops out

White House hopeful Barack Obama yesterday ended a highprofile tour to Iraq by sharing a common vision with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of withdrawing US forces from the country by 2010.

Obama criss-crossed volatile areas of the war-wracked country during a two-day trip to meet Iraqi leaders, US military commanders and former insurgents who switched allegiances to battle Al-

His trip along with Senators Chuck Hagel and Jack Reed came days after he renewed a pledge to withdraw US forces from Iraq within 16 months if he takes the White House next year, a vision apparently shared by Maliki.

"The prime minister said that now is an appropriate time to start to plan for the reorganisation of our troops in Iraq -- including their numbers and missions," Obama said in a statement released with the two other senators.

participation it would not have been possible to register 80.5 million voters by using a completely new technology.

Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda termed the new voter-registration process a memorable event in the annals of country's history.

He said participation of the Election Commission and Bangladesh Army has successfully completed a computerised databased voter list. The CEC said digitized voter list

with photos and fingerprints is one of the very few events in the history of Bangladesh since its independ-UN Resident Coordinator Renata said today is the day of

pride for Bangladesh people as the electronic registration of over 80 million voters within a span of just 11 months is a historic achievement "The people of Bangladesh can feel proud that their 2008 voter list

compares favorably not only with other developing countries but also with developed countries," said the UN agency's country chief.

Bangladeshi FROM PAGE 1

The wages of the other 2000 workers, who work under other projects of the education and oil ministries, and municipalities, have not been increased, he said. Those workers continue to demand an increase in their wages, he added.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Arab Times in a report yesterday quoted the Bangladesh Embassy Labour Counsellor in Kuwait, Shahriar Kader Siddiky, as saying that many of the workers have returned to work, but he could not ascertain their numbers.

The Bangladesh Embassy official said that cleaners working at the health and the defence ministries have returned to their jobs and the embassy is making all efforts to find a solution to the problems of workers employed under other establishments. The workers of the above two ministries will now receive KD 40 per month (one KD=Tk 258) against KD 18 a month earlier, the newspaper report said.

"We managed to convince some workers to drop their strike. The embassy assured them that it would take up their problems one by one with the company, some agreed to the proposal while others stuck to their guns," the news report quoted Siddiky as saying. Labour Counsellor Shahriar

Kader Siddiky told The Daily Star yesterday that he had called on the workers to maintain calm and not to take any steps that would get them into trouble.

The workers allege that in addition to low wages and irregular payment, the company deducted amounts for insurance from their salaries, charged them extra for handing over passports before workers' vacation and also forced them to buy air tickets from a particular travel agency at high cost.

Some workers complained to the counsellor that that the company had not given them any vacations for 8 to 10 years, Shahriar Siddiky said.

Karadzic arrested

FROM PAGE 1 Karadzic accused of masterminding the deadly wartime siege of Sarajevo and the executions of up to 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica during Bosnia's 1992-95 war, Europe's worst massacre since World War II had topped the tribunal's most-wanted

istfor years. Government official Rasim Ljajic said Karadzic, once known for his distinctively coifed hairdo, was unrecognisable.

vincing," Vukcevic said. "Even his landlords were unaware of his iden-Karadzic used a false name,

"His false identity was very con-

Dragan Dabic, Ljajic said. The editor in chief of Belgrade's "Healthy Life" magazine, Goran Kojic, said he was shocked when he saw the photo of Karadzic on TV, recognising him as a regular contrib-

utor to the publication. "It never even occurred to me that this man with a long white beard and hairwas Karadzic, "Kojicsaid.

Karadzic's whereabouts had been a mystery since he went on the run in 1998, with his hideouts reportedly including monasteries and mountain caves in remote eastern Bosnia. Serbian security services found Karadzic, 63, on Monday while looking for another top war crimes suspect facing genocide charges, Bosnian Serb wartime commander

Gen. Ratko Mladic, Ljajic said. Karadzic "was arrested Monday evening near Belgrade while changing locations," he said. "International pressure was to arrest Mladic, and a few had expected that Karadzic would be captured.

A judge finished interrogating Karadzic on Tuesday and issued the order for his extradition.

Ljajic refused to reveal more details about his arrest, saying Karadzic's movements are being analysed and will be kept secret until Mladic's capture. "We are absolutely determined to finish this job," he

beard and glasses managed to move freely while living in a new part of Belgrade and working at a private clinic, Ljajic said, holding up a photo of a much thinner-looking Karadzic. Governments worldwide hailed the arrest of the man described by the

Karadzic disguised by the bushy

tribunal as the mastermind of scenes from hell, written on the darkest pages of human history." German Chancellor Angela Merkel called it a "historic moment." "The victims need to know: Massive human rights violations do

European Union foreign ministers meeting in Brussels said the arrest sets Serbia firmly on the path

Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said in Brussels. "This is a very good thing for the rapprochement of Serbia with the European Union." In Sarajevo, Bosnian Muslims rushed into the streets Monday night

to celebrate the news of Karadzic's This is a very important day for the victims who have waited for this tribunal's head prosecutor, Serge

the law and that sooner or later all fugitives will be brought to justice." During the siege of Sarajevo that began in 1992, Bosnian Serb troops starved, sniped and bombarded the city centre, operating from strongholds in Pale and Vraca high above

roads in and out. Inhabitants were kept alive by a thin lifeline of food aid and supplies provided by UN donors and peacekeepers. Walking down the street to shop for groceries or driving down a main road that became known as

"Sniper Alley" was a risk to their lives. The siege was not officially over until February 1996. An estimated

The international tribunal indicted Karadzic on genocide charges in 1995. The psychiatrist and self-styled poet-turned-hardline Serbian nationalist continue to wield behind-the-scenes power over Bosnian Serbs, occasionally appearing in public before going into hiding three years later.

Srebrenica in 1995, when Serb troops led by Mladic overran the UNprotected enclave sheltering Bosnian Muslims. Mladic's troops rounded up the entire population and took the men away for execu-

The worst massacre was in

estimated 250,000 people were dead and another 1.8 million driven from their homes.

Karadzic faces 11 counts of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other atrocities committed between 1992 to 1996.

pect sent to the tribunal in The Hague. The others include former President Slobodan Milosevic, who not go unpunished," she said in died there in 2006 while on trial.

Post office hassle

FROM PAGE 16 "Frustrated, I came out of the post office when a broker asked me to wait and he went inside the post office. Minutes later he returned and said he could manage a receipt if I pay him Tk 500," Anisur said. When he agreed the broker managed a money receipt from inside and all his work done

within half an hour. A deputy director of BRTA unwilling to be named said motor vehicles owners sometimes have to wait for a long time to get tax tokens or other papers. This happens because the post office often takes even up to a week to provide one of the three

money receipt to the BRTA.

should provide the receipts to BRTA the same day, the deputy director Upon every payment of fees or tax, the post office makes three money receipts-gives one to the

BRTA and keeps one for itself. The government had earlier detected several cases of money embezzlement by the postal department. Asked about the hassle people have been suffering every day, the

deputy director said it is not the

BRIA's doing.

in the capital are attached to BRTA deposit their tax fees.

deposit money in a post office at Gulshan where they accepted bank draft. Assuming that the GPO will also take the same, I went there with a bank draft but they asked me to deposit cash," said a motorist. BRTA sources said they have already published advertisement twice in newspapers seeking expres-

motor vehicles owners will be able to deposit tax fees. After the first advertisement was published on June 5 five companies including a bank submitted applica-As per the rules, the post office tions. However, another advertisement was published on newspapers on June 29 asking interested compa-

After the period, four to seven best

vendor who will open sufficient

booths across the country where

applicants will be selected and will be requested to submit proposals and owner of the vehicle, sends one to finally the lowest bidder will be appointed vendor. "We will complete everything in two to two and a half months," the deputy director said. The official said after the online system is introduced, the BRTA

nies to apply within July 25.

Now 94 post offices including 18 and other fees, "the official added. BRTA sources said the governwhere motor vehicle owners can ment last year earned around Tk 400 crore in taxes and registration, trans-A number of vehicle owners said fer, fitness certificate, route permit GPO takes cash while other post and driving licence fees.

"It will let us know how many vehi-

FROM PAGE 1 sion of interest for appointing a

> within 90 days of its filing. According to a ruling of the Supreme Court, the HC can consider bail applications on three

On June 7 last year, Judge M

On July 2 the same year, Mamun filed an appeal with the HC against years. Finally, "said French

toward EU membership. "We have waited for this for 13

arrest for over a decade," said the Brammertz. "It clearly demonstrates that nobody is beyond the reach of

the city and controlling nearly all

10,000 people died.

By war's end in late 1995, an

Under the UN indictment,

He would be the 44th Serb sus-

On the other hand, Huda was