Vanishing forests

FROM PAGE 1 forests of Khagrachhari and Rangamati stretching over 200 miles revealed that animals, which have wide range of food and habitat preferences, tolerance for human disturbances, capacity to face exposure and avoid predators, are multiplying and we found them in good numbers (see list of animals and birds sighted).

One species of bird we found everywhere is the common myna or Vat Shalik and pied sterling or Goborey Shalik as widely known in Bangladesh. Even in deep interiors of Massalang and Marissa where this urban bird variety is not supposed to be seen, we could see suddenly dart out of their nests on flocks of them.

forests, we did not hear, very strangely, one single jackal call. We and many more animals in did not pick any smell of civets, surprisingly too (see list of animals and birds not sighted).

natural forest.

hiding places, cover from which they could hunt preys, nesting and resting places," Dr Khan explains the reason for the dwindling wildlarge scale removal of the socalled indigenous minor species of plants and animals which supported the growth of larger, showy animals such as tigers, leopard, rhinos, buffalos, spotted deer, hoolock gibbon, peacocks and

Common Kingfisher

Pied Kingfisher

House Sparrow

White-eye

Stork-billed Kingfisher

Little Green Bee-eater

Blue-throated Barbet

Large Cuckoo-shrike

Black-headed Munia

Scalybreasted Munia

Green-billed Malkoha

Pygmy Woodpecker

Greater Coucal

Lesser Coucal

Flame Back

Black Drongo

Jungle babbler

Barn Swallow

Sand Martin

Spotted Owlet

Scop's Owl

Indian Nigtiar

Palm Swift

Spangled Drongo

Ashy Wood Swallow

Lesser Whistling Duck

Comon Woodshrike

Barred jungle Owlet

Little Green Heron

Great White heron

Chestnut Bittern

Little Bittern

Pond Heron

Cattle Egret

Magpie Robin

Pied Bushchat

Spotted babler

Brahminy Kite

Purple Sunbird

Tem only 1 no.

Monitor lizard

House gecko

Tokay gecko

Common Toad

Skipping Frog

2 more spp of frog

Cricket frog

Microhylid

Tree frog 2 sp

Baruia

Black-naped Monarch*

White-shouldered Kite in

White-breasted Waterhen

Purple-rumped Sunbird

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird

Pale-billed Flowerpcker

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker

REPTILES

AMPHIBIANS

Long-tailed Shrike

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo

Plaintive Cuckoo

Small Minivet

House Crow

Jungle Crow

Indian Roller

Scarlet Minivet

Common hawk Cuckoo

Black-headed Cuckoo Shrike

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

"Thus, the present day forest, as we see as far as our eyes go, do not, I repeat, do not represent the evergreen or mixed-evergreen forest we had about two centuries back when the British first started commercial forestry or consumption of natural forest for their own benefit and replaced the same with the commercially important species.'

Dr Khan recalls how he and his brother had roamed the Pablakhali forest on a boat for days in 1978 and counted seven pairs of white winged wood duck. He is still thrilled to recall how these ducks would cackle as they would tall trees. He also saw serow, And as we spent nights in deep sambar, barking deer, binturang, flying squirrel, reticulated python Mahillya, Piarachhara, Shishak and Shewratoli.

Later in 1981, he saw two-three As the forest department pairs of white winged wood duck cleared the naturally grown trees and more than 100 species of and replaced them with alien trees birds. In 1997, the wood ducks in lines and files this has discour- were gone and so were the aged the growth of different tiers hornbills. But he saw dollar bird, or galleries to be present in a hill myna and whistling ducks. In 2002, the large birds were gone "Most animals have lost their and so were the major reptiles. And today the forests are basically habitats to a motley collection of

urban and minor birds. We however saw one serow, life population. "The process of that wonderful wild goat, but not clear felling has also resulted in in the wild. At the so-called Dulahajra safari park, we saw the serow, lonely and haggard. An army official rescued the animal from the captivity of an indigenous man in Bandarban. Like the serow, many of the birds and animals which once roamed the pheasants, hornbills, Burmese hills have found their way to the Brown and other tortoises, zoos. The hills are their safe places

We saw		We did not see/nor heard
Rhesus Macaque Irrwaddy Squirrel Bandicoot rat Flying Fox Pipistrelle False Vampire Bat	MAMMALS	Sambar Barking Deer Mongoose Jackal Giant Squirrel Elephant Jungle Cat Palm Civet Capped Langur Mouse Rat
Pied Starling Common Myna Jungle Myna Chetnut-tailed Starling Tailor Bird Common Iora Great Tit RV Bulbul Red-Whiskered Bulbul Gold-fronted Chloropsis Tree-pie Black-hooded Oriole White-throated Kingfisher	BIRDS	Hill Myna Glossy Starling

Striated Baya Dollar Bird/Broad-billed Roller Red Munia White-rumped Munia

Blue-bearded Bee-eater

Lineated barbet

Rufous Woodpecker Graeater Flameback

Bronzed Drongo Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo Striated babbler Yellow-eyed babbler Woodshrike

Crested Tree Swift Cotton Pygmy Goose Pied Flycatcher Shrike Brown Wood Owl Brown Hawk Owl Brown Fish Olw Great Eagle OWL Night Heron Purple Heron Night Heron Black Bittem Yellow Bittern Paradise Flycatcher Fantail Flycatcher Shama Blue Whistling Thrush White-headed Laughing Thrush Ornage-headed ground Trush NO OTHER FLYCATCHER* Pied-crested Cuckoo Indian Cuckoo Little Grebe Cormorants NO EAGLE but 1 NO VULTURE NOHORNBILL NONUTHATCH NO PASSAGE MIGRANT-waders NO LONG-Tailed sunbirds NO JUNGLEFOWLS, MATHURA, ETC

NO SNAKES, BARRING 1 TREE SNAKE

NOTURTLE-TORTOISES

NO SKINKS

2 killed

FROM PAGE 16 escape. The law enforcers recov ered a revolver and two bullets

from the scene. Rab and police said Manik was accused in several cases on different charges including murder.

Our Jhenidah correspondent adds: police arrested Sachchu Molla, 40, a notorious criminal and the second-in-command of Amal Bahini, and Sachchu's associate Bipul at Harihara Noapara bridge at Charuibil at about 8:30pm on Saturday.

Acting on their confession, police took them to Khulum Bari Char on the bank of Garai river to recover illegal arms.

When police reached the place, Sachchu's accomplices opened fire on the law enforcers prompting them to retaliate. Sachchu was killed in the shootout while his cohorts except Bipul managed to flee.

Two policemen were also injured in the incident. Police recovered a pipe gun and four rounds of bullet from the spot. Sachchu was wanted in eight

cases including two for murder,

said Additional Superintendent of

Extortion case

Police TM Mozahidul Islam.

FROM PAGE 16

in exchange for awarding a contract for setting up the Siddhirganj Power Plant in Narayanganj.

The judge fixed August 18 for hearing after the prosecution lawyers sought a 10-day adjournment saying that the complainant was suffering from viral fever.

Earlier, Sheikh Selim was produced before the court amid tight security.

Advocate Sahara Khatun stood for Hasina who had earlier been exempted from appearing at the court in person during the pro-

The Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on June 15 this year sent the case to the Special Court-5 for quick disposal.

Hasina's younger sister Sheikh

Rehana, who lives in London, was

included in the charge sheet and

The final report further said

complainant Quamruzzaman

himself withdrew the allegations

against Baten saying the charges

brought against Baten were false

and fabricated and that he was

the case statement, it was!

alleged that Baten was arrested

when he offered bribe to Babar to

cancel orders for his transfer to

release dated June 3, 2004, said

Baten was handed over to Ramna

police on charge of attempting to

received the transfer order just

two days ago, went to Babar's

Secretariat office on the plea of

having a talk with him. Baten put

a packet containing money on

the table, requested Babar to

accept it and cancel his transfer

order. He also told the minister

that he wanted to remain posted

in Dhaka as he was due to retire in

about 16 months' time, the police

linked his arrest to his efforts to

capture a BNP man in connection

with the murder of the then

Awami League lawmaker

bribing and said it was a conspir-

A costly game

brothers were also found weeping.

Their father Ahsanullah, who runs a

sand trawler business at Kholamora

in Keraniganj, was pacing back and

forth in the hallway in an attempt to

comprehend why he was having to

face this horrible affair of losing his

July 15, when Reha, a class three

student at Nayabazar Primary

School in Keraniganj, and Sheila, a

neighbour and a class eight student,

were playing the blind man's buff

(Kanamachhi) on the roof of a nearby

was blown away by a strong wind and

the scarf got tangled in the high-

voltage electric lines that runs by the

roof of the house," Ahsanullah told

behind so that Reha could lean on

the edge of the roof and fetch the

tangled up scarf off the power cable.

"My daughter fell on the wires as she

reached for the scarf," said the father

while wiping off tears from his cheek.

off sparks and smoke, burning 37

percent of her body including her

back, back of her head and both of

sparks and screams of the young girl,

neighbours rushed to her rescue and

took her to Malancha Hospital in the

area. Reha was immediately trans-

ferred to the DMCH in a critical

morning yesterday at the DMCH

burn unit despite all life saving mea-

sures taken by the doctors. Her right

arm had to be amputated and she

was operated on five times before her

graveyard in Kholamora in the eve-

ning. An unnatural death case was

filed with Keraniganj Police Station.

Reha was buried at their family

Reha passed away at 3:30 in the

Soon after hearing the sound of

Reha's contact with the cables set

Sheila then held Reha from

The Daily Star quoting Reha.

At around 4:00pm, "Shila's scarf

two-storied building.

herlegs.

condition.

It was just another afternoon on

beloved child before his very eyes.

Baten refuted the allegation of

A few police officials, however,

press release said.

Ahsanullah Master.

acy against him.

A police headquarters press

shown absconding.

forced to file the case.

Khagrachhari

bribe Babar.

Babar

FROM PAGE 1

Gen Mustafiz

yesterday afternoon with state honour.

Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed and senior military officials attended his first namaz-e-janaza that was held at Army Central Mosque premises at Dhaka Cantonment.

His second namaz-e-janaza was held at New DOHS Mosque at Mohakhali.

Born in Rangpur on January 20, 1941. Gen Mustafiz received different higher military and civil training during his military career.

Gen Mustafiz was awarded with the honorary title of Bir Bikram in recognition of his contribution and valour in the War of Liberation in

The gallant war veteran took part in the Liberation War under Sector 8 at different places of Darshona, Jiban Nagar, Jhenidah, Magura and Faridpur. He sustained bullet injury to his stomach while fighting against the enemy forces at Jhenidah on November 12, 1971, says an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release.

He served as the army chief from December 24, 1997 to December 23, 2000. During his advisory council of AL. long career, he held positions including Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division and General Officer Commanding of Infantry Division.

Gen Mustafiz was one of the coaccused with former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in the MiG-29 purchase corruption case.

On June 11, the trial court dealing the case granted permanent bail to the ailing former army chief and later on July 8, the court exempted him from personal appearance in the court.

President Iajuddin Ahmed expressed profound shock at the death of former army chief Gen Mustafiz.

In a condolence message, the president dwelt on Gen Mustafiz's at the death of Gen Mustafiz.

professional life and said he had an enormous contribution in establishing an independent and sover-

gratitude his contribution in developing the armed forces as well as serving the country with his competence and working experience, President Iajuddin said adding that the nation has lost an experienced

family

Ahmed, currently on a visit to Colombo for attending the Saarc Summit, expressed deep shock at the death of Gen Mustafiz. The chief adviser prayed for peace and salvation of the departed soul and conveyed his deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

President Zillur Rahman and Acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Gen Mustafiz, also a member of

In a condolence message, they said the nation has suffered an irreparable loss at his death. They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) in a condolence message said the nation has lost a true patriot. The SCF also prayed for peace and salvation of the departed soul and conveyed its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved

Dhaka City AL, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Liberation War Museum and Rangpur AL district unit and front organizations of the AL also expressed deep shock and sorrow

Polls in 4 city

FROM PAGE 1 Talking to The Daily Star, noted

"And that is why the government did not need to issue any circular withdrawing the relaxation

aware of any such plan.

It also said Baten, who enjoyed full freedom in canvassing for the 13.66 lakh voters.

In fact, they will go to polling emergency.

will not allow any rallies or processions till August 7, meaning winvictory celebration.

did not agree.

Over 5,500 local and interna-

Political parties have long been

CEC Huda yesterday expressed satisfaction with the overall election atmosphere, which he said is much better than in previous

He said the contestants did not face any difficulties campaigning because of the relaxed state of

and fair, and voters will elect honest and competent persons," he said, adding that these polls will help the efforts to change the election culture for the better. The CEC will visit Manikganj

there. Another election commiswas already in Sylhet.

members have been deployed across four city corporations and nine municipalities so there is no obstruction in polling scheduled to continue without break till 4:00pm. Besides, a special strike force

and mobile teams of police, Rab duty through August 7.

for city corporations and the rest for municipalities.

The authorities have identified 283 polling stations, mostly in the city areas, as vulnerable in terms of security. According to the arrangements, at least 30 law enforcers will be on duty at each of those.

The stationary force yesterday completed taking position at the polling stations.

eign Bangladesh by participating in

the War of Liberation actively. "The nation will remember with

President Iajuddin prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin

Awami League (AL) Acting

family members.

jurist Shahdeen Malik said the EPR have got back to full mode automatically with the end of campaigning

of emergency rules," he added. Against the backdrop of a debate whether a free and fair election is possible under the state

of emergency, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed has recently said the EPR would be eased further for the local government polls. Contacted, the home ministry officials however said they were not

While some 1,600 contestants over the last 20 days, there will be no let-up in the emergency reins

stations with fundamental rights like freedom of movement, of thought and conscience, and of speech suspended for the state of Besides, the strict electoral rules

ners will not be able to do much in EC sources said the commission

wanted the EPR to stay slackened until gazettes of the election results are published, but the government

tional observers will monitor the polls, widely considered a test for the EC's preparations for the general election planned to be held in the third week of December.

demanding a complete withdrawal of the state of emergency before the parliamentary polls.

emergency "We hope the polls will be free

municipality to observe polling sioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain Around 20,000 police and Ansar

and Ansar will work to ensure security. They will be on election Of 715 polling stations, 579 are

The number of voters in four city corporations is over 10.93 lakh while that in nine municipalities is over 2.73 lakh. Forty-six candidates are vying

for four mayoral posts, 752 for 118 councillorship, and 194 for 39 councillor posts reserved for women in Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet city corpora-

Fifty-nine persons are competing for mayoral posts, 429 for 81 councillor posts, and 120 for 27 reserved women seats in Naohata, Dupchanchia, Chuadanga, Sreepur, Manikganj, Fulbaria, Shariatpur, Golapganj and Sitakunda municipalities.

Saarc

FROM PAGE 1

Appreciating the Saarc Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters signed at the 15th summit, the leaders urged early ratification and implementation of the new common instrument for combating crimes.

On energy, the declaration put emphasis on developing the region's hydroelectric potential grid connectivity and gas pipe-

It noted that the possibility of evolving an appropriate regional inter-governmental framework may be explored to facilitate such an endeavour.

On partnership for growth for the South Asian peoples, the leaders observed that an effective and economical regional telecommunications regime is an essential factor in connectivity, encouraging the growth of "people-centric partnerships".

They stressed the need for the member-states to move towards low tariffs for international direct-dial calls within the region.

The declaration resolved to work together to address and prevent the threats to the region's livelihood and to provide access to remedies when these rights are violated The declaration expressed

concerns over the human loss caused by natural disasters in the region and stressed the need for providing relief on time during humanitarian emergencies.

The Saarc leaders expressed deep concern over global climate change and its impact on the lives and livelihood in the region, but expressed satisfaction at the adoption of Saarc Action Plan and Dhaka Declaration on Climate Change by Saarc environment ministers at the Saarc Ministerial Meeting in Dhaka on July 3, 2008.

On water resources, they directed initiation of process of capacity building and encouragement of research, combining conservation practices such as rainwater harvesting and riverbasin management to ensure sustainability of water resources in South Asia. Expressing deep concern over

the looming global water crisis, they recognised that South Asia must be at the forefront of bringing a new focus on the conservation of water resources.

On poverty alleviation, the declaration emphasised undertaking sustained efforts, including developing and implementing regional and sub-regional projects to attain the Saarc Development Goals (SDGs).

Threat, blame

FROM PAGE 1

"The Election Commission did not take any action against those who violated electoral rules, encouraging corrupt, incompetent and dishonest aspirants to go ahead," Prof Syed Aminul Haque, president of Shujan district unit, told The Daily Star.

A cultural activist said a few identified corrupt are contesting the polls while a teacher of Barisal Islami College said, "There are no notable changes in this election." A student of BM College who has

cant changes would take place except that people would cast their votes in a peaceful environment as criminals are on the run. But the candidates are either deny ing the allegations against them of

reiterating that there would be no

become a voter this year said no signifi

repetition of the past mistakes. Incumbent Ward Commissioner and a candidate for ward-9 councillorship Syed Jamal Hossain Noman said, "We made a few mistakes in the past but I can assure that those mistakes would not be repeated in future."

Asked about the cases filed against him on charges like land-grabbing and extortion, ward-12 Commissioner and councillor candidate KM Shahidullah said, "The allegations are false."

USEOFMONEY, ATTACKS, THREATS

Mayoral candidate and BNP leader Ebayedul Haque Chan alleged that his opponents were trying to buy voters. "District BNP General Secretary Nazrul Islam Rajan and his aides went to Amanatganjarea and offered money to my activists. They also threatened my supporters," Chan claimed to The Daily Star.

Rajan, a close aide of another may oral candidate Ahsan Habib Kamal who was expelled from BNP, outright rejected the allegation, saying he did not visit Amanatganj area. "Chan is fearing defeat in the poll," he said.

Mayoral candidate Enayet Pir Khan filed a general diary against competitor Sharfuddin Shantu.

Meanwhile, conflicts among a few councillor candidates created tension in different areas in the city as Gyanendro Halder, an activist of ward-26 councillor candidate Farid Uddin, was beaten up by a group of miscreants on Saturday night. "Relatives of councillor candidate

Lina Kabir attacked me as I refused to vote for her," Gyanendro said. He was later admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Admitting the incident, Assistant Commissioner of Police Hayatul

Islam said police are investigating the Kamrunnahar Sweety, a councillor candidate for ward-15, filed a general diary with Kotowali police, alleging that a few miscreants hijacked her ornaments and asked her to refrain

from the electoral race. Law enforcers meanwhile recov ered a number of national identity cards from a person named Dulal in Shikderpara area.

Assistant Commissioner Hayatul Islam said they received about 15 complaints against a few councillor candidates for distributing money to buy votes but found most allegations

A competition among the mayoral candidates to buy votes of about 20,000 slum dwellers in the city corporation area was also reported.

Ten candidates are contesting for the Barisal mayoral seat while 145 for councillorship in 30 wards and another 39 for 10 reserved ward councillorship. Some 1,79,000 voters will cast their votes at 91 centres. corruption drive seems to have

Delwar

FROM PAGE 1 country a vassal state by installing elements subservient to an 'alien power' through elections under its

blueprint. "We shall not allow it to happen," asserted Delwar while talking to newsmen.

The meeting held at the residence of Delwar in a resolution demanded restoration of general holidays on May 30, the day President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated, and the Revolution and National Solidarity Day on November 7.

In another resolution the meeting strongly criticized the government for not releasing BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia and her elder son Tarique Rahman, also senior joint secretary general of BNP undergoing trial on corruption charges.

Traffic in city

FROM PAGE 16 Dhanmondi and Asadgate areas.

Even though the traffic department of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) is trying to use the existing traffic management system with new guidelines for traffic police, no positive change in the traffic condition was visible in the capital yesterday. Witnesses said the presence of

traffic police at intersections was less in number than usual. Jasim Uddin, joint commis

sioner of DMP traffic, told The Daily Star, "We are trying to manage traffic by giving new guidelines to traffic police that were developed following a new for

He, however, refuted the allegation that there were fewer traffic police on duty.

145 killed

FROM PAGE 16 temples in India, where large

crowds sometimes hundreds of thousands of people congregate in small areas lacking the facilities to control such big gatherings. The pilgrims had come to the

temple to celebrate Shravan Navratras, a nine-day festival that commemorates the Hindu Goddess Shakrti, or Divine Mother. Sunday was the second day of the festival and authorities sought

to reassure other pilgrims. "There

is no need to panic, everything is

normalized now, "Verma said.

Tac gets going

FROM PAGE 1 economic and industrial development continue unhindered. The commission also aims at cutting short the time for dealing with graft

"I am not a pessimist. I can't sit around thinking about what other people could not achieve. I don't believe in that. We will do our best. Tac has been created with a mission of realizing a vision," said Habibur permission from it. Rahman Khan replying to a question regarding whether a five-month period will be enough for the commission to deal with the huge task in

"Corruption has hit our country on such a large scale that it will be time consuming if you want to catch all of them. Trials will continue without an end and at one point a half of the capital will have to be turned into jails," the Tac chairman quipped.

Against the backdrop of corruption suspects getting bail and widespread speculation that Tac might be an idea for protecting particular graft suspects, Habibur Rahman Khan said, "Tac has not been formed to protect any particular person. It has been formed with a great objective and we are very clear about it. We will follow the ordinance while carrying

out our duties. He, however, said although it is a commission for granting mercy to rules, the commission will be run on repentant corruption suspects, there will be punishments for the admitted corruptionists. They will be considered ineligible for contesting in any national or local election, for holding any public office or executive position in any collective bargaining agency, association, bank, or financial institution for five years.

The Tac boss also said persons willing to make voluntary disclosures about their corruption may apply to the commission for mercy on a form available from the commission's office, giving details of his or her moveable and immovable properties and other relevant information.

Persons willing to voluntarily disclose their ill-gotten wealth will be exempted from prosecution and imprisonment, subject to surrendering their illegal property or the corresponding amount of money to the state exchequer. But violation of the commission's directives and providing wrong information to the commission will constitute offences punishable by imprisonment for a maximum of five years, the commission said.

A person already charged with corruption, or convicted in a case, will not have recourse to the commission. If a corruption suspect applies to a court for facing Tac before indictment or arraignment, the commission will consider the suspect's application along with restricted thanks to a strict enforcethose coming through the Anti-

Zillur

FROM PAGE 16 illegal and ordered his release, which was later stayed by the

Appellate Division, Zillur said. The government later filed two "conspiratorial and false" cases against him though police have not yet been able to submit any charge sheets in this connection, he said.

Zillur said the HC again granted Mosharraf bail in the two cases on July 28 following fresh appeals, only to be arrested after he came out of prison on August 1. He said the government's anti-

turned into "anti-politics drive"

with a select group of people

indicted with serious charges

getting released while some others

kept in jail for long without trial.

corruption Commission, and the National Coordination Committee against Severe Crimes and Corruption, the commission said.

The commission will also have the authority to hold public hearings as well as closed-door hearings of confessions considering specific situations. A suspect willing to face the commission may also appoint a lawyer in his or her defence with

Although the commission will deal with corruption and corrupt practices, it will not deal with voluntary disclosures of offences involving arms, drugs, human trafficking, prostitution, violence, murder, rape, etc, the Voluntary Disclosure

Ordinance 2008 stipulates. -- former comptroller and accounting general Asif Ali and Maj Gen

(retd) Manzur Rashid Chowdhury. On May 25 the council of advisers to the caretaker government at a meeting approved the proposal for setting up a Truth and Accountability Commission under the Voluntary Disclosure Ordinance 2008. Law Adviser AF Hassan Arrif on July 23 announced that the commission

Until formulation of necessary the basis of its chairman's discretion. The government has already posted 26 officials and employees on deputation under the commission.

for Tac in consultation with the commission.

Sylhet voters

The official adds strict enforce-

ment of election laws have also

helped instil a fear among parties of

violating the rules. Local leaders of Awami League and BNP yesterday said the law enforcement agencies visited their offices several times and warned the rules would be strictly enforced and

and money in campaigns, the police official said, "We've arrested people for the slightest violations, so they've slowed down gradually. He added it is likely that most of

completely with drawn. Use of money and muscle to woo or coerce voters has been largely

an elephant to woo voters. Plainclothes policemen and intelligence officials are monitoring

percent are unlikely to create a lot of trouble so we're only monitoring them."

FROM PAGE 16 the summit as an observer, said he believed Gilani was determined to

"We welcome the statement he made about looking into the causes and sources of the Kabul bombing,' Boucher told reporters, adding that Pakistan's new government needed more time to tackle terrorism. "I do remember it's a new govern-

Menon said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who met Gilani at expressing his views," said Menon.

reporters, adding Gilani had "stressed that across the board in Pakistan, all political parties want improved relations."

Gilani also met with Afghan

and "the two sides agreed to coordinate their efforts to stop cross border terrorism," ajoint statement said. Foreign ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan would meet soon "to

cious individuals. But at least 95

India, Pakistan

and terrorism.

"conquer the problems of extremism

lenges," he told reporters on the sidelines of the eight-member South

On Saturday the Indian and foreign secretary Shiv Shankar

a luxury hotel overlooking the Indian Ocean, "was relatively frank in But "both prime ministers said we need to overcome these (problems) and move forward," Menon told

by tensions between India and Pakistan, who have fought three wars since the post-colonial partition of the subcontinent.

President Hamid Karzai on Sunday,

lawyer for the convicts, yesterday between (the) two countries to build read out the statements of the proseconfidence and develop a common strategy at the political, military and intelligence levels," the statement added.

President Iajuddin Ahmed constituted Tac on July 30 by appointing the chairman and the two members -

would start functioning in 10 days.

According to the ordinance, the government will formulate the rules

FROM PAGE 16 legal repercussions under the emergency state, says a high-level police

no-one would be spared. Asked about the use of muscle

the campaigns would resort to violence to intimidate voters or clash with opposition if the emergency is

ment of election laws. At least one councillor aspirantwas arrested for violating election rule and around 100 arrests were made for general rule violations, including handing out food or using

suspicious individuals who have past experience of election or politicsrelated violence. Sylhet Police Commissioner Syed Towfiguddin Ahmed told The Daily Star "We've created a list of suspi-

Twenty-eight policemen and Ansars will be posted to each of all 120 polling stations, with two additional law enforcers in 63 polling centres identified as 'vulnerable' to

Afghan officials have also linked

Pakistan's shadowy Inter Services

Intelligence (ISI) to the Indian

embassy bombing -- a charge

shook hands with Gilani and Karzai

besides other leaders before leaving

in a bullet-proof car he brought with

him from India despite Sri Lanka

saving it was offering "ultimate"

most "menacing" challenge faced by

Saarc, which groups Afghanistan,

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, The

Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri

for collective action to combat "all

forms of terrorist violence" that was

threatening their "peace, stability

The leaders agreed to implement

a regional trade pact -- signed in 1995

but never fully implemented -- "in

letter and in spirit" to ensure a free

flow of goods and services between

urgent need to develop energy and

food security, and to look at cutting

international telephone call charges

within the region to foster closer

unprecedented security in insur-

gency-hit Sri Lanka, which deployed

20,000 additional police and troops

Jail killing case

appeals and death references against

the verdict in the 1975 Jail Killing

Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun, a

The summit was held under

Saarc members also noted the

the region of 1.5 billion people.

A draft summit declaration called

Karzai said terrorism was the

security.

and security.

At the end of the summit, Singh

Islamabadhas denied as "rubbish.

rigging or violence.

ment. There are enormous chal-

Asian Association for Regional

Cooperation (Saarc) summit in the Sri Lankan capital. Pakistan premiers agreed that the bombing of India's embassy in the Afghan capital, plus a string of clashes along the Line of Control dividing the Himalayan region of Kashmir, had "cast a pall" on the four-year-old peace drive, Indian

The summit is routinely eclipsed

prepare grounds for a framework for close and constructive engagement

backing Taliban militants, and

Case began in the HC on July 13.

this case.

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economic ties.

to guard delegates.

The HC bench comprising Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan yesterday continued hearing of the appeals in

The HC bench adjourned the

proceedings of the case.

cution witnesses before the HC

Karzai accuses Islamabad of hearing and fixed today for next