

# Unconditional

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The release of her elder son Tarique Rahman, now at the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), may take time as he is accused in 15 corruption and extortion cases.

"The process of releasing Tarique, also senior joint secretary general of BNP, is underway. Like his younger brother Arafat Rahman Koko he is also expected to leave the country straightaway for medical treatment," said a senior home ministry official.

About the progress made so far for releasing Tarique, Ghulam Quader said it was difficult for the process to ascertain whether the process was at the final stage. He, however, said the government was dealing with the issue of releasing Tarique on humanitarian grounds.

BNP insiders said Khaleda's first move after her release would be to unite the party which has split into several factions and now faces a serious image crisis in the absence of its chief.

She may also withdraw the expulsion orders on former BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Ashraf Hossain to bring all the feuding factions together and face the upcoming parliamentary elections in full strength of the party, they added.

They said the BNP chief is not happy with the stance BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain has taken as he failed to keep the party united.

"She is somewhat annoyed with Delwar," said an insider.

Khaleda may opt not to stay at her cantonment home aiming to move freely and oversee party activities. The government, however, will want her to stay at her cantonment home, one of her close aides told The Daily Star.

She [Khaleda] may leave the country within a couple of days of her release to perform umrah," the aide added.

A number of BNP leaders alleged that the government kept them in the dark about her release. They said only the close aides of Khaleda were involved in the secret negotiations regarding her release.

The advisers are saying that her release is in the final stage but the party has not been informed of the matter," Rizvi Ahmed, acting office secretary of BNP, told reporters

yesterday. The process of releasing Khaleda was expedited after her political archival Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina was released on June 11. Hasina was also released without any conditions and on medical grounds. She is now in the US having treatment for her eyes and ears.

The release of Khaleda is being delayed as she has refused to leave the country leaving behind her sons. Koko, facing two corruption cases and an extortion case, was released for two months under an executive order on July 17.

The home ministry was supposed to issue an executive order regarding Khaleda's release yesterday. Officials of the ministry, however, said the order might be issued today.

The BNP-led alliance leaders yesterday gave the government a 72-hour ultimatum to release Khaleda or else they would go for tough programmes.

Meanwhile, Nirjaton Protirodh Chhatra Andolan in support of their demand brought out a procession from Madhu's canteen on DU campus around 7:40pm and marched towards Shahbagh intersection, sources said.

Police stopped the procession in front of the Fine Arts faculty and asked student leaders to not to take the procession forward. The procession made a U-turn and headed towards TSC intersection started vandalising vehicles.

Later, a good number of armoured police were deployed at TSC and at Shahbagh to avoid further violence.

## Rajshahi wife

**FROM PAGE 16**  
hospital, Arzina told The Daily Star how Kamu, who teaches geography at Nahata Women's Degree College in Rajshahi, set fire to her over an affair with his student.

Arzina, who worked as a data entry operator at the Women Affairs Department, came to know about her husband's affair with his student soon after getting married about 10 months ago. She also said Kamu tortured her physically and mentally whenever she protested it.

Locals beat up Kamu after the incident and handed him over to police. Victim's brother Liton filed a case against Kamu who is now in jail.

## Santu demands

**FROM PAGE 16**  
League (AL)-led 14-party-backed candidate Shawkat Hossain Hiron by only 588 votes.

"My opponent has been made winner by rigging the polls and manipulation in the vote counting," the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) leader claimed during a press conference at PDP central office in Segunbagicha in Dhaka yesterday.

Alleging election engineering, Hiron himself had rejected the result of the August 4 election before all results reached the EC office from polling centres. He also demanded re-election in six polling centres, Santu said, adding, "How could he be declared winner?"

"Real irregularities and rigging have taken place in the election office," he said, adding that two officials of Barisal election office opened the ballots illegally and changed the results.

He said he would take legal action if the Election Commission fails to satisfy him with their actions.

Santu, reportedly a big spender of money in Barisal, said, "The result of the election has been changed only to defeat me. Even 2,500 of the 3,100 votes shown as cancelled were valid and cast for me."

Replying to a question he refuted the allegation of buying votes and said, "I am ready to face trial in people's court if anyone can prove such allegation."

## 43 more back

**FROM PAGE 1**  
He also requested the Kuwaiti minister to conduct a full probe into the incidents and find out the reasons behind the worker unrest since it is in the common interest of the two nations that such incidents do not occur in future.

Meanwhile, the remaining Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait continue to endure sufferings as their employers, at least two cleaning companies, refused to pay up health insurance and residency fees for their workers, defying recent instructions of the Kuwait government, reported Arab Times quoting an official of the Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait.

Earlier, the Kuwait government following the strikes had fixed monthly minimum wage for foreign workers - KWD 40 (Tk 10,265) for unskilled workers such as cleaners and KWD 70 (Tk 17,965) for security guards without any deduction.

The government also warned employers of punitive measures if they fail to comply with the government decision.

Arab Times yesterday quoted a Bangladesh Embassy official as saying that five hundred Bangladeshi workers have been asked by their employer to pay for their own health insurance and residency fees, KWD 77 (Tk 19,762) for each, within the next two days, otherwise their residency permits will not be renewed.

The embassy has reported the malpractice by the Kuwaiti employer to labour department and awaiting the department's response, the official added.

Until the Kuwaiti government announced the minimum wage, around 80 per cent of the approximately 2.4 lakh Bangladeshis working in the oil-rich country used to earn a monthly salary of only KWD 20 (Tk 5,132) or less.

Kuwait had stopped hiring fresh Bangladeshi workers in late 2006, claiming that the Bangladeshis were getting involved in various crimes in the country.

Human and labour rights activists strongly criticised the police atrocities on the Bangladeshi workers as well as their forceful deportation, saying that such actions are in contravention of the International Labour Organization convention.

## Engr Mosharraf

**FROM PAGE 1**  
He was first arrested on February 25 last year as he went to the ACC to report his wealth.

Granting Ilias Ali anticipatory bail, the HC bench of justices Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Md Emdadul Haque Azad issued a rule on the government to explain why petitioner Ilias should not be given regular bail in the case.

A Union Parishad member in Sylhet sued him in April last year for extorting Tk 5 lakh from her. A court later issued warrant for his arrest.

Ilias was present at the court yesterday. His lawyer told this newspaper that the ex-MP had earlier got anticipatory bail in another criminal case and that he is not wanted in any other cases now.

He said the HC bench also gave anticipatory bail to former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa's wife Nurunnahar Parul and Mirza Khokon's wife Masuda Ekram following separate writ petitions.

Meantime, the full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, refused to accept the leave to appeal petition against the High Court's granting bail to Dr Taslima Zaman Ahmed and staying the case proceedings.

The bench directed the ACC to take steps to dispose of the High Court rule that had also asked the government to explain why Taslima should not be granted regular bail and the proceedings against her quashed.

# Army officers

**FROM PAGE 1**  
most trusted friend of America into a horrible enemy because they are sure that Army is no more supporting Musharraf.

When Army is claiming to be neutral, nobody except Bush is in a position to save Musharraf. Bush is told that his interference in the politics of Pakistan will spread more anti-Americanism in the only Muslim nuclear power of the world so he should not call anyone in Pakistan for saving Musharraf.

The top leaders of the new ruling coalition in Islamabad have informed some Western diplomats that they have solid evidence of corruption and embezzlements against the President of Pakistan and some of his close family members. A big number of PPP members want to investigate Musharraf for his alleged role in the assassination of Benazir Bhutto. One PPP member of the national assembly is ready to show an email of late Benazir Bhutto sent to American journalist Wolf Blitzer that if anything happen to her, then Musharraf will be responsible.

Coalition leaders have cautioned Western capitals that any effort or appeal from their governments in favour of a dictator would not be welcomed. Musharraf still have one safe option. He must resign from his office before 5 o'clock in the evening of Monday (August 11th 2008). In that case the media and civil society will not press much to produce him in a court of law. If he is not willing to resign and the proceedings of the parliament will be started at 5 o'clock Monday then he will face not only the impeachment motion but he will also face trials in many criminal charges.

Coalition leaders have sent an urgent message to US President through diplomatic channels that the name of Musharraf will be put on the exit control list immediately after the impeachment and the new elected government will not be in a position to provide safe exit to a person once declared "the only non-terrorist in a terrorist country" by an American newspaper. A prominent leader of pro-Musharraf Pakistan Muslim League-Q disclosed that Musharraf is disappointed not only with US President but he is also disappointed with the leadership of Pakistan Army which is not coming out openly to rescue their "supreme commander" from the "dirty hands of bloody civilians".

PML-Q sources claimed that initially Musharraf was thinking to resign from the office of country's President and wanted to become the President of PML-Q. A lady member of the National Assembly started campaigning within the party three days ago that Chuadry Shujaat Hussain should resign from the presidency of the PML-Q and offer Musharraf to become head of the party which was actually created in 2002 by Musharraf with the help of ISI. A big majority of the PML-Q leaders rejected this proposal and asked Shujaat Hussain to stay away from Musharraf who is no more an asset but a liability.

Another friend of Musharraf recently proposed him to join Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) of Altaf Hussain. This party is very much capable of providing him some political cover. Some of his close relatives are already members of MQM. Once Benazir Bhutto wrote in her autobiography that "I first encountered Musharraf when he acted as Turkish interpreter during visits by Turkey military. I declined to make him my military secretary. We initially refused his promotion because of his suspected links with MQM. The final time I recall meeting with him was the most important, when in 1996 he presented to me a war scenario for Kashmir".

Musharraf has an entirely different story which he mentioned in his memoir "In the line of fire". He said "a friend of Benazir Bhutto's husband Asif Zardari came to call on me. His name was Javed Pasha. I had never seen him before. Pasha suggested that I become Benazir's military secretary but I rejected Pasha's suggestion. Had I become her military secretary I would have gone down with her and her government".

The spokesman of Sharif's Muslim League, Sadiqul Farooq have another story. He was press report his wealth.

Granting Ilias Ali anticipatory bail, the HC bench of justices Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Md Emdadul Haque Azad issued a rule on the government to explain why petitioner Ilias should not be given regular bail in the case.

A Union Parishad member in Sylhet sued him in April last year for extorting Tk 5 lakh from her. A court later issued warrant for his arrest.

Ilias was present at the court yesterday. His lawyer told this newspaper that the ex-MP had earlier got anticipatory bail in another criminal case and that he is not wanted in any other cases now.

He said the HC bench also gave anticipatory bail to former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa's wife Nurunnahar Parul and Mirza Khokon's wife Masuda Ekram following separate writ petitions.

Meantime, the full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, refused to accept the leave to appeal petition against the High Court's granting bail to Dr Taslima Zaman Ahmed and staying the case proceedings.

The bench directed the ACC to take steps to dispose of the High Court rule that had also asked the government to explain why Taslima should not be granted regular bail and the proceedings against her quashed.

"I think it's not a problem with sportsmen. It's politics," Golovina said. "Sports and politics are different."

secretary of Nawaz Sharif during his premiership from 1997 to 1999. He claims that Musharraf was about to retire in 1996 as Brigadier due to his bad record but Javed Pasha helped him. Pasha pursued Asif Ali Zardari for the promotion of Musharraf from Brigadier to Major General. According to Sadiqul Farooq, Asif Ali Zardari requested Benazir to speak with the then Army Chief General Wahid Kakar for the promotion of Musharraf in 1996 and that was how his military career was saved. Asif Ali Zardari has denied this whole episode narrated by an important leader of his ruling coalition.

One thing is clear that the main strength of Musharraf was not his enlightened moderation but his military uniform and after taking off this uniform he is now a burden for everyone. It was Musharraf who assigned General Ashfaq Pervez Kiani to get in touch with Benazir Bhutto two years ago when Kiani was DG of ISI. Kiani realised soon that involvement of Army officers in politics is not good for the institution and for the country. Musharraf always said the same thing that Army should stay away from politics but his actions are always different from his words. He is no more Army Chief but he is still living in Army House of Rawalpindi. He declared Army House as the President's camp office. He is continuously meeting leaders of PML-Q in Army House even after their humiliating defeat in general election on February 18th. He never respected the verdict of the people expressed through ballot power. His "forced" stay in the Army House is generally not liked by many Army officers. Many officers think that Musharraf meet anti-government politicians in Army House just to give an impression that Army is still with him which is not a fact.

According to reliable sources, Army circles have informally sent messages to Musharraf that his time is over and he must resign now in the "supreme national interest". Many Army officers support the non-political approach their new Chief and think that Musharraf was their leader for eight years due to his rank and position not because of respect. Now Musharraf has lost the rank of Army Chief and he must leave the position of President now. One of his very close friends who is also a serving Lt General recently advised him privately that Musharraf is still very popular in Washington and Delhi but he is no more popular in his own country and now is the time that he must resign because Army cannot support him for another five years. Army officers want total depoliticisation of their institute and want to contribute for the making of a new democratic Pakistan.

According to reliable sources, Army circles have informally sent messages to Musharraf that his time is over and he must resign now in the "supreme national interest". Many Army officers support the non-political approach their new Chief and think that Musharraf was their leader for eight years due to his rank and position not because of respect. Now Musharraf has lost the rank of Army Chief and he must leave the position of President now. One of his very close friends who is also a serving Lt General recently advised him privately that Musharraf is still very popular in Washington and Delhi but he is no more popular in his own country and now is the time that he must resign because Army cannot support him for another five years. Army officers want total depoliticisation of their institute and want to contribute for the making of a new democratic Pakistan.

According to reliable sources, Army circles have informally sent messages to Musharraf that his time is over and he must resign now in the "supreme national interest". Many Army officers support the non-political approach their new Chief and think that Musharraf was their leader for eight years due to his rank and position not because of respect. Now Musharraf has lost the rank of Army Chief and he must leave the position of President now. One of his very close friends who is also a serving Lt General recently advised him privately that Musharraf is still very popular in Washington and Delhi but he is no more popular in his own country and now is the time that he must resign because Army cannot support him for another five years. Army officers want total depoliticisation of their institute and want to contribute for the making of a new democratic Pakistan.

According to reliable sources, Army circles have informally sent messages to Musharraf that his time is over and he must resign now in the "supreme national interest". Many Army officers support the non-political approach their new Chief and think that Musharraf was their leader for eight years due to his rank and position not because of respect. Now Musharraf has lost the rank of Army Chief and he must leave the position of President now. One of his very close friends who is also a serving Lt General recently advised him privately that Musharraf is still very popular in Washington and Delhi but he is no more popular in his own country and now is the time that he must resign because Army cannot support him for another five years. Army officers want total depoliticisation of their institute and want to contribute for the making of a new democratic Pakistan.

## Nat'l Mourning Day

**FROM PAGE 1**  
and at Bangladesh missions abroad.

REACTION  
AL welcomed the government's decision. "We welcome it whole heartedly," said AL acting general secretary Syed Ashraful Islam.

"We congratulate the caretaker government and its all advisers for declaring 15 August as National Mourning Day and a public holiday in line with the High Court verdict."

Talking to The Daily Star last night, he observed that it shows there is a rule of law in the country. "And finally justice prevails over injustice," added the AL spokesman.

Hailing the government decision, Jatiya Party (Monju) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam said, "This will give the countrymen opportunity to pay respect to the best son of the soil as well as the father of the nation."

## Bibiyan power

**FROM PAGE 16**  
have to pay the EPC contractor this sum as slot reservation fee, soil on investigation and bathymetry study, anticipated down payment for major equipment.

The consortium believes it will have to take significant financial risk till the financial closure of the project to ensure delivery of power and to provide a fixed price proposal for at least five months.

In a letter sent to the law ministry on Thursday, the power ministry noted that if Powertek's exception is accepted, it would impose "Contingent Liability" on the government. Therefore the law ministry may give its opinion on the matter.

The Power Cell has so far not succeeded in completing any large power project tender in its lifetime except the Haripur 360 MW AES project in 1998 and till date the completed tenders of some small and rental power projects -- most of which were awarded to incompetent and wrong bidders.

The Bibiyana tender initially attracted pre-qualification bids from AES, Chevron, Powertek, Kepco, Summit and Malaysian YTL late last year.

Summit was conditionally selected at first, but then in January it was arbitrarily disqualified and YTL was also disqualified.

Previously qualified for the Sirajganj 450 MW power project, Summit repeatedly requested the Cell for reconsideration in vain. The world's leading turbine manufacturer GE was holding 20 per cent stakes with Summit in this bid.

Soon after the pre-qualification, Powertek and Kepco announced its consortium and AES announced its withdrawal. Finally, when the bid submission date arrived, Powertek appeared as the lone bidder.

## Phelps

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"I was in the ready room. I didn't feel so good, I got these cold chills," he said.

"Afterwards, I looked up and saw President Bush giving me the thumbs up and holding up the American flag. That was pretty cool."

But the Olympics, with its theme of "One World, One Dream", continued to be dogged by political reality. A series of bomb blasts, followed by gunfire, rocked a town in China's mainly Muslim northwestern region of Xinjiang, state media reported, adding eight people were killed with four injured.

After Phelps won his first gold, Park Tae-Hwan won South Korea's first-ever Olympic swimming gold in the men's 400m freestyle, Australia's Stephanie Rice set a world record in taking the women's 400m individual medley while the Netherlands were upset winners in the women's 4x100 freestyle relay.

The US relay team, anchored by 41-year-old Dara Torres at her fifth Olympics, finished second for her 10th career Olympic medal.

The US men's 4x100 relay team set a third pool world record winning their heat in the evening session where Phelps was again back in action cruising to second in his heat of the 200 metres freestyle.

As the deluge swamped the road cyclists and the temperature plunged, several riders fell on the rain-lashed course before Welshwoman Nicole Cooke prevailed in a sprint finish for Britain's first gold.

The silver medal went to Sweden's Emma Johansson who was surprised by her win.

"Sometimes I felt like I was drowning more or less. Coming down the climb the first time I was just freezing and I couldn't stop shaking."

Top women's tennis seed Ana Ivanovic became the latest name player to pull out of the Olympics, complaining of a sore thumb, as rain reduced the opening day on the courts to a handful of completed matches.

US number one James Blake, one of the few to finish, said he drew inspiration from Phelps's performance as he beat Australia's Chris Guccione 6-3, 7-6.

## Aug 21 attack

**FROM PAGE 16**  
warrants against four absconding accused -- Maulana Tajuddin, Maulana Liton, Anisul Mursalin and his brother Mahibul Muttakin. They said they are yet to know the whereabouts of the absconders.

The court fixed August 31 for next hearing and directed the OCs of different police stations to submit reports on arrest warrants against other four absconding accused -- Iqbal, Jahangir Alam Badar, Abu Bakar alias Hafez Selim and Khalilur Rahman -- on the scheduled date.

Determined former lawmaker Abdus Salam Pintu, Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan and other accused, who are in jail custody now, were produced before the court yesterday.

Twenty-three people were killed and around 200 injured in the grenade attacks on the AL rally.

## Fema

**FROM PAGE 16**  
"The state of emergency has enhanced the ordinary people's courage to come out and cast their votes," she observed.

Fema prepared the report on the basis of feedback from from its 515 fulltime and 195 roaming observers.

According to the report, there was adequate presence of law enforcing agencies, good number of polling centres and voter turnout was high. In Rajshahi voter turnout was 75 per cent, Khulna 77.81 per cent, Barisal 82 per cent and Sylhet 75 per cent.

The report identified some negative factors including issues related to voter ID cards, insufficient training of some polling officials and inefficient polling agents.

The report said that vote casting was slow at centres where some voter ID card holders' names were not present on the voter list at the centre.

There were also some instances of fake vote casting in Barisal, Rajshahi and Sylhet City Corporation polling centres, the report added.

Fema secretary general Muhammad Abdul Matin, among others, were present at the briefing.

## Primary schools

**FROM PAGE 16**  
August 20 in the capital where a series of protest programmes will be announced against the government decision," said association Secretary General MM Ansari Ali.

The tasks of Brac under the pilot project approved by the government on May 23 this year include training teachers, activating the school managing committees (SMCs) and improving the overall education environment of the classrooms.

Brac got the permission to supervise primary schools at 20 upazilas in Sylhet, Habiganj, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sirajganj, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Munshiganj and Gazipur.

The demands of the teachers include nationalisation of their jobs, increase of house rent, medical allowance and dearness allowance.

Association leaders Golam Faruque Sarkar, Emziaz Ali, Golam Mohammad, Abu Bakar Siddique, Mosharraf Hossain and Abul Kalam Azad, among others, were present.

# Musharraf

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Musharraf," he revealed. "The president should avail the opportunity to make an honourable exit," he said, adding that a resignation would be "good for the nation and strengthen the democratic system."

Senior officials from the ruling coalition also advised the president to step down, saying he would not be able to fight the charges being lodged against him.

The call was made as a government committee met to finalise a charge sheet against Musharraf before the lower house starts impeachment proceedings, lawmakers in the governing coalition said.

Coalition leaders Zardari -- the widower of slain former premier Benazir Bhutto -- and former premier Nawaz Sharif announced Thursday that they would seek Musharraf's ouster for allegedly mismanaging the country.

"Cracks are visible in the PML-Q," Information Minister Sherry Rehman said.

"Musharraf is losing support every day," she told reporters, adding that the committee had collected enough material against Musharraf.

The committee will have another session on Monday to finalise the charge sheet, Rehman said after Sunday's meeting.

"It will be a historic motion. It will have solid points against Musharraf."

Under Pakistan's constitution, impeachment requires a two-thirds majority in a joint sitting of the upper and lower houses of parliament.

"A comprehensive charge sheet is being prepared," Law Minister Farooq Naik told reporters. The charges include "gross misconduct and violation of the constitution."

"The charge sheet will be solid and Musharraf will not be able to fight it," said the minister, a member of the committee drafting the charges. "It is better for him to resign before impeachment."

Naik did not provide further details, but Zardari on Thursday said

## Powdered milk

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Bangladesh from Malaysia and the consignment had its pre-shipping inspection (PSI) done in Singapore. Bureau Vaitus was the PSI company and Shaikat Traders was the C&F agent of the consignment.

During the yesterday's examination each of the 25-kg milk bags found in the containers had either KPFI0NOV07 or REG10NOV07 printed on one side.

Joint Commissioner (Export) Kazi Mostafizur Rahman said MGG generally stands for the word "manufacture" but he does not know what KPFI0REGMENT.

Radioactivity test showed that the powdered milk had a radiation level within the limit.

"The authorities would decide on the fate of the seized powdered milk after consulting BSTI (Bangladesh Standard Testing Institution)," said the joint-commissioner.

The radiation test report and the Clean Report Finding (CRF) certificate, the importer collected from Radioactivity Testing and Monitoring Laboratory of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission in Chittagong and Bureau Vaitus, showed November, 2007 and November, 2009 as manufacturing and expiry dates.

The health certificate the importer produced from Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry showed that the powdered milk--described as "MG" brand spray dried full cream milk powder--was processed during a period between November 05, 2007 and November 29, 2007.

It says nothing about the date of expiry, sources in Chittagong Customs House said.

Customs officials claimed that the Australian department usually issues a health certificate valid till one year of the manufacturing date for any food product.

Representatives of Bureau Vaitus said food products from European countries are said to be safe for consumption up to two years after manufacturing.

However, even if the powdered milk can be released following the consultation with BSTI, the concerned parties, particularly the PSI company, would not be able to escape punitive actions for violating the IPO (Import Policy Order) rules, sources said.

## Corruption probe

**FROM PAGE 16**  
allegedly threatened him with dire consequences.

Officer-in-Charge of Mehendiganj Police Station Liaquat Ali told The Daily Star, "The UNO filed the GD himself."

The army major declined to talk to The Daily Star in this regard last night.

## 43 killed

**FROM PAGE 16**  
their own. Independent verification of the fighting is not possible because journalists are barred from the war zone.

The rebels have been fighting for an independent state in the north and east since 1983, following decades of marginalisation of ethnic Tamils by governments dominated by the Sinhalese majority. The fighting has escalated in recent months after the government vowed to crush the rebels by the end of the year.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

The government has poured a record 1.5 billion dollars into this year's war efforts and troops are now concentrating on dismantling the LTTE's de facto state in the north. Colombo pulled out of a truce with the LTTE in January, saying it had the upper hand in the long-running conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives since 1972.

"Musharraf worked to undermine the transition to