Chalabi won't play any role in interim govt

AGENCIES, Baghdad

Pro-American Iraqi politician Ahmad Chalabi said on Friday the United States should oversee post-war Iraq and the United Nations lacked the capability and credibility to take a leadership role there.

As Chalabi was being asked if he was a thief, the sound of gunfire interrupted his press conference in the Iraqi Hunting Club -- his first since arriving in Baghdad on Wednesday. Chalabi insisted his conviction for embezzling US\$60 million was all

Outside, one of his supporters, Haqi Ismail, sat in shock dabbing the graze on his nose from one of the eight bullets fired into his pick-up truck.

Chalabi also said he did not want a post in an interim Iraqi government and would

devote himself to developing civil society. But the man seen by many analysts as the US choice to lead Iraq left open the question of whether he would stand as a candidate if the country held democratic

"I do not think that the United Nations is either capable or has the credibility in Iraq to play a major role," he told an audience of mainly Western reporters on his first visit to Baghdad since the overthrow of the monarchy in 1958.

"And the moral imperative is on the side of the United States, and the Iraqi people will accept a leadership role for the "The United States does not want to run Congress (INC), was the first major exile politician to reach Baghdad since the collapse of the government of Saddam

The US military flew him along with 700 of the Free Iraqi Forces who back the INCto the southern city of Nassiriyah 11 days ago, giving him a head start over other exile politicians.

On Friday, US troops and Free Iraqi Forces guarded the building where Chalabi's news conference was held in the shadow of a construction site for a massive

But Chalabi insisted he was just an ordinary person exercising his right to edom of expression

'I am not a candidate for any position in the interim government," he said. "I am a citizen of Iraq and I am home and I am

expressing my views as a citizen of Iraq." Asked if Chalabi would stand in an Iraqi election, his aide Zaab Sethna said

when that bridge comes he will cross it". In Nassiriyah earlier this week, Chalabi faced angry protests by 20,000 fellow Shiite Muslims, and US soldiers were on the verge of using tear gas amid charges the INC leader was now a stranger to his

To date, two Iragis have stepped forward and claimed leadership positions Mohammed Mohsen Zubeidi, and General" Jaudat Obeidi of the INC.

homeland and too close to the Americans.

The US military has distanced itself from Zubeidi and Obeidi saving neither had been sanctioned for any official

Kumaratunga

tions, however difficult, to end disagreements that may arise between organised and sovereign states should be explored to the maximum.

President Iaiuddin Ahmed hosted the dinner in honour of the Sri Lankan leader at the Bangabhaban, joined by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury, ministers, political secretaries to the Prime Minister, chiefs of three services, members of the Sri Lankan president's entourage and senior government officials.

Kumaratunga said both Bangladesh and Sri Lanka "believed and contributed hugely" to the international bodies such as United Nations Organisation, the Non-Aligned Movement and regional organisations such as the Commonwealth, SAARC, BIMST-EC and IOR-ARC to attain the objectives of $upholding \, the \, sovereignty \, of \, nations.$

"We have to now, once again, take courage and rise up again, to rebuild and strengthen the international systems and structure them to be more effective in order to ensure world peace, justice and fair play for al nations -- rich or poor, big or small. This is a pre-requisite to all economic advancement," she said.

Turning to regional context, the Sri Lankan president said South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) be taken forward to help solve the "Intra-regional" conflicts for the common betterment of the South Asian

"We have to collectively formulate methods and procedures to strengthen the SAARC process and take it forward within the context of intra-regional conflict. In this context, Sri Lanka would wish to see the 12th SAARC Summit

convened at an early date," she said. Kumaratunga said both Dhaka and Colombo worked closely together to advance regional cooperation in SAARC and the "name of Bangladesh will always resound through our region, in memory of the great foresight of President Ziaur Rahman who initiated the process of

SAARC." The Sri Lankan president said poverty alleviation remained the "overarching goal of SAARC" and referred to Khaleda Zia's "Dal-Bhaat programme' towards that end, calling it a "valuable example" not only for South Asia but also for the developing world.

"Under the able leadership (of Khaleda Zia), Bangladesh has made significant strides in the fields of

empowerment of women, education especially for girls and in rural economic development," Kumaratunga said.

On Dhaka-Colombo ties, she said both the countries are Indian Ocean States with an ancient history and civilisation, with close cultural linkages and commonalties and the two peoples had a long history of close and friendly

The Sri Lankan leader also recalled Dhaka's consistent support to Colombo in the course of the last two decades on matters relating to the ethnic conflict in her country as part of Bangladesh's "keen desire to assist us in the reestablishment of peace and prosperity in

"I shall of course continue my personal commitment to the success of the peace process and attempt to guide the government in its present undertak ing. We also wish to learn and draw inspiration from the experience of Bangladesh in the peaceful resolution of the insurgency problem in the Chittagong Hill Tracks region,' naratunga said.

UNB adds: Earlier in the day ımaratunga was accorded a red carpet reception on her arrival at the Zia ernational Airport at around 11:20

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia received the Lankan President at the VVIP Tarmac of

Four jets of Bangladesh Air Force escorted the Sri Lankan Airlines aircraft after it entered the Bangladesh airspace. A 21-gun salute heralded the arrival of $the \, President \, of the \, Indian \, Ocean \, Island.$

A contingent drawn from the three services presented guard of honour. She took salute from a well-decorated dais and reviewed the parade. Chiefs of the three services were present.

The Sri Lankan President was introduced with members of the cabinet. diplomats and senior officials at the esentation line.

Immediately after arrival Kumaratunga drove in a ceremonial motorcade to National Memorial at Savar and paid homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War.

Entire gamut of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka is likely to be discussed during the Khaleda-Kumaratunga official talks

Regional and international issues of come up during the talks.

common concern are also expected to

India, SA lock horns

trouble to advance into the final with three wins from their four league matches in the double-leg format. The only failure came in the last

game against their final opponents on Friday that they lost by five wickets.

The victory for the Proteas set the stage for an exciting final.

This is for the second time both teams lock horns in a final showdown. Besides, India and South Africa will desperately be looking for one-day glory in Dhaka for the second time.

Interestingly, both teams had successful Dhaka tours in 1998. While in January India chased a record 315 to beat bitter rivals Pakistan to win the third and deciding match in the Independence Cup, South Africa lifted the first ICC Mini World Cup tournament in October at the expense of the

West Indies. South Africa are likely to retain the same side that won against India on Friday. India on the other hand will be hoping for the return of left-arm pace-

man Zaheer Khan. Zaheer recovered from a minor

second game against Bangladesh. He underwent a fitness test yesterday, but India coach John Wright said he wanted to be absolutely sure before fielding his

But Zaheer might take a back seat as

far as the reputation of Dhaka wicket is concerned, which has been regarded a batting paradise. In that case the home crowd can expect a contest between two exciting stroke-makers Virender Sehwag and Herschelle Gibbs.

Saddam's minister

adviser, Lt. Gen. Amer al-Saadi; Saddam's half brothers Watban Ibrahim Hasan and Barzan Ibrahim Hasan, and Samir al-Aziz al-Najim, a leader of Saddam's toppled Baath party.

The Central Command also said that Khala Khader al-Salahat, a member of the Abu Nidal terrorist organisation, a Palestinian militant group, had surrendered to marines in Baghdad.

Abu Nidal, who died in Baghdad last year under murky circumstances. led a terror campaign blamed for more than 275 deaths on several continents.

newspapermen today

Grand rally of

The newspapermen will hold a grand rally on the Jatiya Press Club premises at 11.00am today to press home their

seven-point demand. The demands include formation of 6th wage board and formulation of a national policy for newspaper industry.

Sangbadik Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP), a combined platform of journalists, press workers and general employees, has organised the rally. They will also observe a threehour work stoppage from 11.00am to

The rally will be followed by a

In a joint statement vesterday, Parishad leaders requested the journalists, press workers and employees to attend the meeting with banners and

The signatories to the statement are Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Akhter Ahmed Khan and Manjurul Alam of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists: Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Elahi Newaz Khan, Omar Faruque and Abdus Shahid of Dhaka Union of Journalists; Fazley Imam and Abul Hashem of Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers, and Afsar Uddin Khan and Motiur Rahman Talukder of Newspaper

Obituary

Mohammad Nurul Islam, deputy chief of ERD, died of cancer on April 17, says a

He is survived by his wife and six daughters. His gulkhwani will be held at 3/14

Humayun Road, Mohammad-pur, after Asr prayers today Relatives and friends have been

equested to attend the gul Dr Illias Hossain

Dr M M Illias Hossain, a renowned physician and former director of Libva Medical Centre, Dhaka, died of a cardiac arrest at ZH Sikder Hospital on Thursday at the age of 72, says a press release

He is survived by his wife, one sor and five daughters. His gulkhwani will be held at his

residence at 8/3, Block-A, Lalmatia after Maghrib prayers today

Relatives, friends and admirers have

Housewife beaten to death for dowry in Uttara

UNB, Dhaka

housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Chamurkhan in Uttara thana Friday night.

Police said the husband Amzad in mercilessly beat up his wife Bilkis Begum, 23, at about 11pm for

She was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared her dead. A case was filed with Uttara police station.

Hasina to meet Kumaratunga today

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will make a courtesy call on visiting Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga today. Hasina will meet Kumaratunga at her

suite in Hotel Sonargaon at 4:45pm, said a party press release.

New apex body of NGOs launched

The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) was formally launched yesterday as the apex body of non-government organisations.

The announcement came at the council of National NGO Coordination Committee held at the BRAC Centre with its convenor Fazle Hasan Abed in A 21-member national executive

board of the federation was formed for one year with Abdul Muveed Chowdhury of BRAC as its president. Rasheda K Chowdhury and

Kamaluddin Akbar were made vicepresidents while Abul Hasib Khan was made treasurer. And the members are Shah-e-

Mobin Zinnah, AK Arzu, Shamsur Nahar Rahman, Mashhuda Khatun Shefali, Fakhrul Ferdous, AHM Noman, Shahidul Haq, Zehin Ahmed, Thomas Kosta, Zakir Hossain, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Abdul Kader, Michael PK Bar, Nasrin Haq, MA Kader, Abdul Awal and Afzal Hossain.

A four-member advisory committee was also formed with Fazle Hasan Abed as its convenor. The other members are Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, Khushi Kabir and Shafigul Hag Chowdhury



Government employees stage a demonstration in Dhaka yesterday for realisation of their five-point demands including a permanent pay-commission.

HC issues 15-point directive

16, the date the court signed and served

The government can still file a leave to appeal petition before the Appellate Court within 30 days, from April 16, but that would not be an excuse for the authorities concerned not to comply with the 15-point directive.

The judgement said, "Our answer is that this court has such power under the Article 102 of the Constitution. As we have found that some of the existing provisions of the Section 54 and 167 of the code are inconsistent with the fundamental rights of the citizens, this court can not only recommend, it can even issue directives

"In Mazdar Hossain's case, the Appellate Division had also issued directives upon the government to ensure separation of the Judiciary from the Executive and the Appellate Division modified the drafts and made those drafts part of its order.' The 15-point directives are as follows:

1. No police officer shall arrest a person under section 54 of the code for the purpose of detaining him under Section 3 of the Special Powers Act, 1974.

2. A police officer shall disclose his dentity and, if demanded, shall show his identity card to the person arrested and to the persons at the time of arrest. 3. He (PO) shall record the reasons for

the arrest and other particulars in a

separate register till a special diary is prepared. 4. If he finds any mark of injury on the person arrested, he (PO) shall record the cause of such injury and shall take the person to the nearest hospital or government doctor for treatment and shall obtain a certificate from the attending

Iajuddin said the two countries are

bound by a deep and abiding friend-

harmonising good neighbourly

relations through constructive dia-

logue among the countries of the

"It is in this spirit that Shaheed

President Ziaur Rahman envisioned a

peaceful, stable and prosperous South

Asia in which the key thrust was to

improve the quality of life of the

ordinary South Asians in an environ-

it will not have any legitimate basis,"

Washington has called for a quick

end to the 12-year-old UN economic

sanctions, imposed after Iraq invaded

Kuwait in 1990, so that oil sales can

Iraq has the second largest proven

oil reserves after Saudi Arabia. Rivadh

and Kuwait are concerned that their

revenues might be hit if Iraqi oil is once

Lifting sanctions threatens to

Saudi Arabia said yesterday UN

"Now Iraq is under an occupying

power and any request for lifting

sanctions must come when there is a

legitimate government which repre-

Calls for a UN role in Iraq cut no ice

sents the people," said Faisal.

sanctions imposed on Iraq should end

only when it has a legitimate govern-

trigger another diplomatic tussle as it

raises the issue of who controls Iraq's

again sold on the open market.

The president said for more than

ment of peace," he added.

Faisal said.

fund reconstruction.

5 He shall furnish the reasons for arrest to the person arrested within three hours of bringing him to the police

6. If the person is not arrested from his residence or place of business, he (PO) shall inform the nearest relation of the person over phone, if any, or through a messenger within one hour of bringing him in the police station.

7. He (PO) shall allow the person arrested to consult a lawyer of his own choice if he so desires or to meet any of his nearest relation 8. When such person is produced

before the nearest Magistrate, the police officer shall state in his forwarding letter under section 167(1) of the code as to why the investigation could not be completed within 24 hours, why he considers that the accusation of the information against that person as well-founded. He shall also transmit copy of relevant entries in the case diary to the same Magistrate. 9. If the Magistrate is satisfied on

consideration of the reasons stated in the forwarding letter as to whether the accusation or the information is wellfounded and that there are materials in the case diary for detaining the person in custody, the Magistrate shall pass an order for further detention in jail. Otherwise he shall release the person forthwith.

10. If the Magistrate releases the person on the ground that the accusation or the information against the person produced before him is not well-founded and there is no material in the case diary against that person, he shall proceed under the Section 190(1)(c) of the code against that police officer who arrested the person without warrant for commit-

working steadfastly to deepen the

 $SAARC\,process\,in\,which\,the\,Sri\,Lankan$

11. If the Magistrate passes an order for further detention in jail, the investigating officer shall interrogate the accused, if necessary, for the purpose of investigation in a room in the jail till the room as mentioned in the judgement is

12. In the application for taking the accused in police custody for interrogation, the investigating officer shall state 13. If the Magistrate authorizes

detention in police custody, he shall hear the accused or the lawyer of the accused Sessions Judge for approval. The accused, before he is taken in custody of the investigating officer, shall be examined by a doctor or medical board and the report shall be submitted to the Magistrate. After expiry of the custodial period the accused shall be produced before the Magistrate and if the accused makes any allegation of torture, the Magistrate shall at once send him to the same doctor or medical board for examination. If the Magistrate finds from the medical report that the accused sustained injury during the period under police custody, he shall proceed under the Section 190(1)(c) of the code against the investigating officer.

14) The police officer who arrests a person under the Section 54 or the Investigating Officer who takes a person in police custody or the jailor of the jail, as the case may be, shall at once inform the nearest Magistrate of the death of any person dies in custody, and

15) A Magistrate shall probe the death in police custody or in iail immediately after receiving information of such

Dhaka to work closely with Colombo two decades, Bangladesh has been The president also suggested

ship rooted in historical ties, common President had made an invaluable cultural heritage and aspirations for contribution. "We shall work closely peace, stability and prosperity of the with you to realise the real potential of regional cooperation." He said Bangladesh is deeply Iajuddin said Bangladesh and Sri committed to promoting peace and

Lanka have also much to gain by further enhancing bilateral ties. Excellent potential exists to increase two-way trade, explore joint investment projects and exchange and upgrade skills in different areas, he

"It is vital that we effectively promote and follow-up existing bilateral agreements while exploring new directions, especially in such important areas as the IT sector, civil aviation, tourism and shipping.

encouraging greater contact between the parliamentarians, academicians, youths, cultural groups and civil

He lauded the efforts of the Sri Lankan president in leading her country purposefully on the path of development. "Sri Lanka's socioeconomic progress, particularly in the area of poverty eradication and human resources development, has been an object of international acclaim," he pointed out.

Iajuddin said as a close friend Bangladesh welcomes all positive initiatives aimed at strengthening peace and stability in Sri Lanka.

He reaffirmed Bangladesh's territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

unwavering commitment to the

Arab states ask America

The heavy US Marine presence completely vanished from Baghdad's streets yesterday, replaced by lighter army units that face the daunting task of rebuilding

the city's infrastructure and keeping

Pullout of us Marines

The army is traditionally responsible for civil affairs issues such as rebuilding security and water and electricity systems and a 30,000-strong task force from the US Fourth Infantry

is currently flowing into Iraq from

Amid growing hostility to their presence from locals, the troops will also take on the remnants of Saddam Hussein's diehard Fedayeen militia and suicide bombers. The United States awarded a 50-

Virginia-based firm to recruit advisors to train police in post-war Iraq, the State Department and the company

million-dollar contract to a private,

Pilgrims' March on Karbala Tens of thousands of Shiite worship-

with pro-US Iraqi politician Ahmad pers were on the march yesterday Chalabi, newly returned from exile, towards the holy city of Karbala, a who said in Baghdad on Friday that the pilgrimage that was for many years United Nations lacked the capability banned under the regime of Saddam and credibility to take on a leadership

Beating their chests and crying "Our

beloved Hussein," the crowds moved south from Baghdad and Babylon towards the central city to mark the death in battle at Karbala in the year 680 of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet

The commemoration, to culminate next Tuesday and Wednesday, was also expected to provide an opportunity for the Shiites to flex their newfound political muscle. On the sides of the roads, where

shelters with portraits of Hussein had been set up to sell food from steaming pots to hungry worshippers. There was only a small military presence on the road from Babylon to Karbala, where Hussein is buried and which lies some 80 kilometres south-

traffic was brought to a crawl by the

crowds of walking pilgrims, makeshift

west of Baghdad. Pilgrims, some of whom said they had been walking for 10 days, have come from all over Iraq, where Shiites make up around 60 per cent of the population.

Saddam's ousted regime included no Shiites in senior leadership positions and, fearful of Shiite opposition to his rule, the deposed dictator had banned the Karbala pilgrimage.

Cabinet body for resumption of activities of mission in Iraq

UNB, Dhaka

A cabinet committee meeting yesterday recommended immediate resumption of activities of Bangladesh mission in Iraq so that it can contribute to the rebuilding of the war-rayaged country.

The committee on external and internal trade felt that humanitarian aid to Iraq should include quality items like frozen chicken and biscuits as a measure to popularise such items among the importers. Presided over by Commerce

Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud

Chowdhury,the meeting decided to encourage traders to develop brands of Industries Minister M K Anwar and

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain attended the meeting

Five killed in Mymensingh road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Five people, three of a family, were killed and three others injured in a road accident at Shambhuganj near Mymensingh town yesterday.

The accident took place at around 11 am when a Mymensingh-bound eggladen nick up van rammed four rickshaws, leaving one dead on the spot The dead were identified as Rubel,

0, his brother Sohel, 7, sister Bali, 5, his

grandma Rabeya, 55, and a rickshawpuller Mintu, 20. Rubel died on the spot while four others on way to Mymensingh Medical

College Hospital.

nab its driver

Hospital sources said Rubel's father and mother -- Fazlu and Rupa -- were also admitted to the hospital. Of them, Rupa's condition was stated to be critical.

All the victims were rickshaw pas-Police seized the pickup but failed to

A case was filed with the Kotwali

PSC rule STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Victims of

Children of freedom fighters who have passed written examinations of the 22nd Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) are in deep trouble due to a new rule introduced by the Public Service Commission (PSC).

They applied to sit for the BCS examinations in the war veterans' children category with certificates ssued by the Muktijoddha Sangsad. But PSC last month declared the

certificates invalid for viva and asked them to come up with certificates given by the Ministry of Liberation War It said none would be allowed to attend the oral examination without the

Sangsad documents stood invalid with the issuance of the new rule. Many examinees applied for the certificates from the ministry, but due to the tardy and long procedures there

ministry certificates as the Muktijoddha

Several students visited The Daily Star office and expressed their anguish over the new rule. They said some candidates, who passed BCS preliminary test in February 2001 and written examinations in April

the same year, were not allowed to

they are yet to obtain it.

attend viva as they could not submit new certificates.

24th BCS exams

FROM PAGE 12 The PSC cancelled the preliminary test on March 3 and formed a threemember probe body on March 6 with member of the commission Mohammad Mahabbat Khan heading

Khan said the investigation is 'going on very well'. The committee has already interrogated some persons allegedly involved in the question leakage. He declined to give details. "The committee cannot say at this

stage when it could complete its work because every new information has a dimension that has to be looked into by it", he said.

Khan also said he does not know if there is any link between the inquiry committee report and a fresh date of the preliminary test. " I think the PSC would consider recommendations and guidelines of the committee to avert similar incidents in future."

Foreign tourists FROM PAGE 12

many local visitors, however, expressed their dissatisfaction over the sea beach management. They alleged the local vendors and unruly youths often create nuisance.

Young women are often teased and valuables snatched away from people. Consequently, visitors, particuarly women, cannot stay in the beach after evening, they complained.

However, officials in the district administration termed the present atmosphere 'favourable' for all visitors. They alleged no untoward incident has taken place during the first four months of this year due to enhanced security measures.

HC order on BFF election stayed

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed for two weeks the High Court order on the election of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The court directed the petitioner to file petition for leave to appeal by this

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Syed J R Mudassir Husain passed the order. Attorney General A F Hasan Arif

oved the petition before the court. Earlier, a division bench of the High Court issued a rule and stayed the election of the executive committee of Bangladesh Football Federation upon

a writ petition filed with the court.

Bhikkhu murder case **Buddhists** irked at slow progress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Buddhists here are outraged over the slow progress of the sensational Bhikkhu Gyanojoti Mohasthabir murder case although it has been a year since he died.

Gyanojoti Mohasthabir, 52, the

founder director general of Wara Punya Bouddha Anathalaya at village Hingala under Raozan upazila, was brutally killed and beheaded by terrorists, led allegedly by notorious linchpin Azizul Hag of infamous 'Aziz Bahini', at his bedroom at the temple cum orphanage there on April 21. Police arrested Nipu Barua, wife of Gyanojoti's younger brother Sulal

Barua, a teacher of the temple and two neighbours on suspicion. They were remanded and interrogated, but police could squeeze no substantial information from them to get a clue to the Relatives of the slain monk and

Buddhist people alleged that police deliberately nabbed and interrogated the arrestees at the instruction of a topranking BNP leader only to divert the course of investigation

Khela begins Thursday

Jobbarer Boli

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg The century-old traditional Jobbarer Boli Khela (wrestling) and Boishakhi

Mela (fair) will begin at the Laldighi Maidan and adjacent areas Thursday. A meeting of the organising committee held at the Jabbar House at the city's Badarpati (Boxirhat) yesterday fixed the schedule. A 101-member managing committee was also formed at the meeting to organise the three

day traditional festival. The festival that start on Baishakh 12 every year draw participants from across the country.

Schoolgirl suicide case in Feni:

Accused held

Police yesterday arrested Anwar Hossain, one of the three accused in schoolgirl suicide case in Feni. Police also picked up Tajul Islam

Parul and Munni Begum for interroga-

tion as they are close relatives of two absconding accused. Shamima Akhter alias Bakul, 15 a student of Hassanpur High School, was raped by Anwar, Jasim and Yasin at a place near her house on the night of

The girl, then returned home and

took poison. Family members rushed her to Feni Sadar Hospital where she died Friday morning.

3 ex-judges

FROM PAGE 1

Yesterday, former additional judges Mohammad Faruk, Hasan Fayaz Siddiqui, Shamsul Huda and Idrisur Rahman in separate writs said the government's non-confirmation of their jobs overlooking the chief justice's recommendation had trampled the constitutional convention.

They added that such an act was also against the independence of Dr Kamal Hossain and Barrister

Tanjibul Alam moved the petition on

behalf of Idrisur Rahman while Dr

Azmalul Hossain represented the

three former additional judges. Discontent in the judiciary over political interventions in the appointments of judges surfaced when the government on February 20 declined confirmation of six additional judges.

The chief justice had recommended in favour of confirmation of their services but the government ignored the suggestions breaking the tradition. These judges were appointed at the fag end of the past Awami League rule for two years.

Earlier, six other judges appointed by Awami League government lost their jobs. The chief justice had recommended confirmation of services of three of them.

hamstring injury he suffered in the