No solution to crisis

election'.

Shahjahan, another former adviser to a caretaker govern-

interested to hold an acceptable election, so they should tell the chief adviser that there is no time

Sources said the delegation of advisers led by Dr Akbar Ali Khan which had held dialogues with political parties, already prepared its recommendations for resolving the crisis but the president surprisingly did not agree to meet them in the last two days. He however, on Thursday met the controversial CEC and three other commissioners to discuss the preparation for the next general election, without any prior discussion with

"The chief adviser knows our views. Already a few steps have been taken regarding some issues following our recommendations," Yasmeen Murshed, an adviser to the caretaker government told a TV channel yesterday. She however said, "We hope to receive directions from the president by tomorrow or Sunday."

Sources said advisers Azizul Haque and Sufia Rahman separately met the president yesterday but the topic of their discussion could not be known immediately. When contacted last night, an employee of the hospital where Sufia is a doctor, told The Daily Star, "She is in

Sources said BNP-led fourparty alliance is maintaining heavy pressure on President lajuddin Ahmed for not to bring

"The caretaker government has no chance to do anything other than carrying out the routine work of the ministries and helping the Election Commission for holding a free and fair election," BNP Standing Committee Member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday, but he did not make any comment when he was asked what the president should

do to resolve the present crisis. "The caretaker government should start preparing for the election from this moment otherwise it might not be able to hold the election on time, which will

Food arrives

FROM PAGE 16

Another group comprising 25 farmers, traders, labourers and service holders from Barisal came at about 3:15pm with another truck full of vegetables including pumpkins, bean, rice and pulses

led by Abdul Aziz Sheikh, Hukumat Ali, Fayez Uddin, Tarajul Islam and Abdus Sattar arrived at the CEC's residence with the third truck loaded with fish chicken vegetables

sugar, pulses, salt, oil and rice. ing intolerable and the people may not A family member of Justice Aziz tolerate any more if the CEC is not preferring anonymity said they have removed, the Election Commission is received all the commodities and not reconstituted, and the administrasent those to different orphanages tion is not made neutral immediately," Jalil warned.

FROM PAGE 16

nial atmosphere for the polls by implementing their 11-point demand. with the midnight launch of Sonv's PlayStation 3 and Sunday's debut of Nintendo's Wii.

The announcement signaled an escalation of the three-year Darfur conflict, which has spilled an explosive mixture of refugees, rebels, militia and bandits over Sudan's western borders into Chad and

"It is agreed in principle that, pending clarification of the size of the force, we should be able to take it forward," Annan said late on Thursday at the end of the Addis

making the army controversial. Jalil asked the BNP chairperson to vacate Ababa meeting the cantonment residence immedi-"The troops should be sourced from Africa as far as possible and the command and control structure Jamaat carders on AL leaders and would be provided by the U.N.," the workers. Jalil demanded immediate arrest of them.

U.N. Secretary-General said, adding the force would consist of Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta,

But it was clear there was some way to go before the force could be deployed, with Khartoum still not agreeing on either its size or any

U.N.-African Union joint command. Annan's remarks on the command and control structure were challenged by Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol who told Reuters: "We have not agreed to this. We agreed to accept the U.N. support to

14-party leaders expressed their Sudan's U.N. ambassador dissatisfaction for not withdrawing Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Doublemooring zone AC Mushfiqur Mohamad told reporters after the Addis meeting the force would have demanded his immediate withan African commander and have U.N. logistical support.

Mosharraf, also a former minis-

ter, said adding that the CG

should not think anything else as

the Awami League-led 14-party

raised its demands 'just to foil the

Echoing his views MK Anwar

vice-chairman of BNP told

reporters, "The next election

must be held under Justice MA

Mujahid, secretary general of

Jamaat, met the president and

urged him not to meet any

demand of 14-party. "It's not the

duty of the caretaker government

to solve the problems which were

not resolved during the regime of

an elected government," he told

reporters in front of

But, AL General Secretary

Bangabhaban after the meeting.

Abdul Jalil yesterday once again

said, "No election under Justice

MA Aziz! If Aziz tries to announce

any schedule for the election,

that will also be the schedule for

14-party's ongoing programme,

the BNP high command yester-

day decided to stage demonstra-

tions across the country.

Meanwhile, in the face of the

The programmes include

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia

rallies, marches and sit-ins in

asked all leaders and activists of

the party to make the

programmes a success, sources

programmes will be discussed in

a joint meeting of different Dhaka

city units of BNP today.

Ctg port

FROM PAGE 16

The logistics of the

The yesterday's meeting was

attended by CPA Member (finance)

Ahmad Abul Kashem, Member

(engineering) Shafayet Hossain

Khan, Member (operation) Captain

Quamrul Hossain, Director (admin)

ANMA Momin, Director (traffic)

Ahsanul Kabir, Director (security)

Lieutenant Colonel Feroz and CPA

Secretary Syed Farhaduddin

Among the CBA and non-CBA

leaders, Shamsul Alam, Nurullah

Bahar Abul Kalam Mallik, Kazi

Jahangir Hossain, Mamtaz Uddin,

Shamsul Haq Shafi and Abu Zafar

Azad were present. The Bandar

CBA leaders loyal to City Mayor

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, how-

ever, did not take part in the parley.

tion of gantry cranes, sources said.

accelerate the loading and unload-

adviser to a non-partisan person who

any discussion with the four advisers

who held meetings with different

political parties over EC reconstitution

and prepared recommendations

chief adviser would take effective

measurers to bring an end to the

ongoing political stalemate, but he has

The countrymen hoped that the

"The situation is gradually becom-

He said the president will have to

Jalil alleged that lajuddin's govern-

ment has ensured security for the

former ministers and lawmakers of the

BNP-Jamaat coalition who looted

public wealth and resorted to wide

scale corruption although the 14-party

leaders are passing days with insecu-

the chief adviser has been creating

obstacles to creating a level-playing

Zia's political activities inside the

Dhaka cantonment, which, he said, is

field for a free and fair election.

He said the home ministry under

Jalil demanded ban on Khaleda

Referring to the attacks by BNP-

Senior 14-party leaders Syeda

Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak,

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Obaidu

Quader, Rashed Khan Menon,

Hasanul Hague Inu, Akhteruzzaman

Abdur Rahman, Sultan Mohammad

Mansur Ahmed, Nurul Islam and Dilip

Barua were present at the press

Ctg OC shifted

At a meeting yesterday morning, the

Rahman Bhuiyan and

take the responsibility of any untoward

incident if he does not ensure a conge-

although two days have passed.

een wasting time, Jalil said.

Jalil accused lajuddin of not having

CA pushing

is acceptable to all," he said

ing activities.

different parts of the country.

his departure.

Earlier on Thursday, Ali Ahsan

use their right to vote" and should "guarantee balance in the media during the election campaign".

"put an end to the climate of impunity and to bring the perpetrators of violence and harassment directed towards journalists in Bangladesh

They also urged the Election Commission to improve the quality and accuracy of the voter register in cooperation with domestic and

According to the EU Commission, the resolution said some 13 million invalid names have been added to the register.

The MEPs urged the political parties to reach agreement on all controversial electoral issues, to avoid political violence and instability and to develop political programmes, which will improve the standard of the population's living condition.

sion's decision to send an election observation mission during the

The resolution "reaffirms the European Parliament's commitment to Bangladesh's unique tradition of religious tolerance and secularism, as enshrined in the country's longstanding cultural tradition and artistic heritage, and as endorsed in the European Parliament's previous resolutions".

For their part, the resolution asked the Commission to monitor carefully the human rights situation, the political situation and press freedom in Bangladesh and draw up programmes in the framework of EU-Bangladesh cooperation to promote freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

Shop owner

FROM PAGE 16 Bhuiyan, told police that one Zakir, who is well-known as an extortionist in the area, along with two other persons killed his son after he had

A case was filed with Jatrabar police station in this connection. None was arrested in this regard till filing of this report.

Press owners

FROM PAGE 1

The port could not resume functioning on Thursday even after postponement of the blockade programme as the Mohiuddin also not be conducive to the counfaithful opposed the private operatry's trade and commerce, as the political parties may not accept it Earlier in January this year, four considering the present political vital gantry cranes were installed to

> "We are asking the printing press owners to refrain from printing the the country," press owners urged their fellow press businessmen at

Chaired by Vice-president of Bangladesh Printing and Marketing Samity Amin Helali, former director of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers and Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Nagibul Islam Dipu, President of Bangladesh Mudran Samity Rabbani Jabbar, President of Bangladesh Printing and Marketing Samity Shahid Serniabat also spoke at the meet-

Family toils

However, Anwar's family did not have any idea that the species is so

Meanwhile, the deer multiplied

and its number increased to six. Aleya Begum, Anwar's wife, said the deer were like her own children and they used to move about the house freely like their family mem-

"From today they will get a new place to live but I will feel like losing my children. My children will also miss their playmates," Aleya said.

Anwar's family members could not hold tears while handing over the deer to the park authorities.

Tapan said, "When we came to know that Anwar possesses six hogdeer, we contacted him. We told him about the importance of the species and requested him to hand them

Anwar decided to give all the six deer as a contribution to the park, he said, adding that it is great news for

One dies

FROM PAGE 1 The robbers hacked Manik indiscriminately as he tried to resist them, and made away with valuables including cash and gold ornaments around 2:30am.

The attackers who were carrying sharp weapons took an hour and a half to carry out their deed, local residents said.

Summon Mia. one of the evewitnesses, told reporters that yesterday's robbery was the third of such incidents in the locality in the last eight months.

150-yr-old building

architect Mahbub Rahman, general secretary of Institute of Architects Bangladesh.

"Besides, it has an economic implication because the building was in use. It is neither in a dilapidated condition nor a threat to the public safety," Rahman said.

The ornate building bears testimony of British colonial architectural styles, he said.

Architect Homaira Zaman, an activist of Urban Study Group, said it is a constitutional right and obligation to protect the building, which is over 100 years old.

The building represents its own time, said architect Mustaque Quadry.

Quadry, who is also an expert on trees, said, "At least 25 to 30 rare species of ancient trees and plants. have been felled down in the garden adjoining the building. The majestic structure to the east

of university's commerce faculty and close to the main entry is appar ently separated from the designated campus of the university by a houndary wall Protesting the action, environ-

mentalists forum Paribesh Bachao Andolon yesterday arranged an impromptu demonstration at the site where a good number of architects and environmentalists as well as students of the university took part. "The historic building is a national heritage. Along with the

garden, it must be protected at any cost." said Andolon's convener Abu Naser Khan The message is that any individual or authority must take utmost

precaution before demolishing a

historic monument, he said

As of yesterday, roofs and railings of the two-storied grand building were demolished while labourers were found busy felling scores of old trees in the garden in front of the

"We have got the contract to demolish the building in two months," said Md Abul, who was given the contract for demolition of the building. "I will take the whole lot of debris, bricks and iron frames and beams as my pay for the work."

"I came to know from my forefathers that the building originally housed an Indian bank during the British era," said a local.

"Most of us did not know anything about shifting of our library and demolition of the historic building. Coming to the campus after four days of blockade programme by the opposition, we suddenly saw the library has been shifted to the science faculty and the old building is being pulled down," said Lipi Pal, a second-vear student of Physics.

"The old building is being replaced with a twenty-story highrise with construction of seven stories in the first phase," said an on-duty security guard at the university's main gate.

On behalf Paribesh Bachao Andolon, Abu Naser Khan yesterday filed a general diary with the Kotowali Police Station.

Despite repeated attempts, vicechancellor of the university Prof Sirajul Islam could not be contacted

Ex-state minister

documents to support my action," the former state minister said.

The process of making allegations against each other began as the expatriates ministry in a letter to the commerce ministry on October 22 asked for suspension of the executive committee of Baira. accusing it of overcharging the aspirant migrant workers and renting an office in Kuala Lumpur without government permission.

The expatriates ministry also recommended appointment of an administrator to continue overseas employment smoothly as long as the Baira committee remains sus-

pended. In another letter to the Prime Minister's Office on the same day, the ministry sought permission to constitute a high-powered committee to probe how Baira rented an office in Kuala Lumpur and over-

charged overseas job seekers. While the probe body was formed. Baira wrote a letter to the commerce ministry saying the allegations against it are baseless. wanted to know why the government will suspend its executive trator.

Later, the commerce ministry arranged a hearing in the presence of representatives from the ministries of commerce, expatriates welfare and home affairs, and Baira.

Baira on Monday got a High Court stay order on the government move to suspend Baira executive body and appoint an administrator. The stay order followed a writ petition by Baira General Secretary Ali Haider Chowdhury

Issuing the stay order, a division bench comprising Justice Syed M Dastagir Husain and Mamnoon Rahman asked the government to refrain from interfering with the affairs of the petitioner organisation.

There were allegations that after Malaysia entrusted Baira with managing the migration process, it started charging 1,800 ringgit or Tk

36.000 from each worker in addition to the fixed amount of \$1,200 or Tk 84.000

As per directives from Malaysia, Baira was supposed to rent an office in Kuala Lumpur but the Baira

The government said Salim rented the office without its permission and it also has intelligence reports on Baira's overcharging the also made the same allegations to the government.

Baira sources said Salim also did not take permission from its executive committee nor took any money

"Salim still personally takes Ringgit 300 or Tk 6,000 from each worker before taking biometrics fingerprint at Baira office without giving any receipt and without government permission," said a recruiting agent. "This is highly

constitution of the association provides that it can open liaison offices for market promotion. So there is nothing wrong in opening

"The government can now take

any allegations against the state smoothly.

On Salim's alleged extortion of Tk 6,000 from each worker, he said

contacted for his comment

recruiting agency office at Fakirapool in the capital on Thursday evening.

The recruiting agency men brought them to ZIA at midnight and left them there after collecting boarding passes

The women had been waiting at gration, where police found them carrying fake work permits.

fraudulent although they had genuine passports and visas." Officer-in-Charge (Immigration) Shamima Shabnam said, adding, "Being confirmed, we held them."

and overseas employment ministry officials posted at ZIA might be involved with the trafficking attempt. Four of them -- Mosharraf, Hassan, Shahjalal and Hafizur Rahman -- were picked up and being quizzing at the ZIA, she added.

tion) Shah Alam told reporters that they had also learnt about the recruiting agencies concerned. However, the names of the recruit-

ing agencies were not disclosed for the sake of 'investigation'. Rights organisations have contacted them to take care of the rescued women and send them back home, he

Shah Alam said the ministry officials did not verify the work permits before sending them to the immigration, which is a negligence of duties.

from Baira for renting the office.

office in Kuala Lumpur.

Asked why Baira did not make

minister when he demanded bribe, he said they did not want to embarrass anyone but run their business

"I do not know anything about it."

The Baira president could not be

31 women held

the passengers lounge for their immi-"The women's work permits were

She said some expatriates welfare crying. She pleaded to send her abroad for any kind of work.

and Shahnaz from Savar and Rahela Superintendent of Police (Immigra-

said another woman. The ill-fated women could not name the recruiting agencies con-

answerfor most of them.

Robot FROM PAGE 16

said in an interview.

"In the beginning, the robot starts off and does not know what it looks like. You look at it. and you see that it's a four-legged machine. But the robot itself doesn't know that. All it knows is that it could be a snake, it could be a tree, it could have six legs," Lipson

Lipson said the robot used various movements of its joints, first to generate hypotheses and then to formulate an accurate conception of The researchers then tested the

robot's ability to adapt to new situations -- in this case injury -- by shortening one of its legs. "The robot knows something's wrong," Lipson Animals can compensate for

injury by changing movements. like limping to favor an injured leg. Machines can be programmed to react to a problem in a certain way. But when they are damaged in unexpected ways, they usually are doomed. This plucky robot responded by

of its structure, accurately sensing it had been altered, and then devising a new way to walk using a different gait to compensate for the injury. The robot's smarts, awareness

generating on its own a new concept

of itself and ability to adapt on its own separates it from its mechanical brethren.

The study was published in the iournal "Science. 'THINKING ABOUT ITSELF'

The video game industry's own clash of the titans reboots this week with the midnight launch of Sony's PlayStation 3 and Sunday's debut of "We don't really think this is self-

consciousness, which is a robot thinking about itself thinking," Lipson said. "But I do think it is moving in the direction of consciousness, like a cat, that kind of

Aside from contributing to a

philosophical debate, the research has practical implications -- giving hope to people who envision send ing robots that can adapt to unforeseen circumstances to explore other worlds or the ocean floor. "There is a need for planetary

robotic rovers to be able to fix things on their own." Bongard said in a statement. "Robots on other planets must be able to continue their mission without human intervention in the event they are damaged and cannot communicate their problem back to Earth." Christoph Adami of the Keck

Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences in Claremont, California, wrote a commentary accompanying the research titled, "What Do Robots Dream Of?" -- an allusion to science fiction writer Philip Dick's 1968 novel, "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" Adami described how a robot like

this one might perform in unknown territory, exploring the landscape and then "dreaming" of new methods to overcome obstacles it had "And even though the robots seem to prefer to dream about

themselves rather than electric sheep, they just may have unwittingly helped us understand what dreams are for." he said. Reminded of malicious robots and computers turning on their human masters in movies like "The

Odvssev." Lipson was not worried. "We just pull the plug out of the robot. That's all," Lipson said. 'There are more immediate things to worry about than to worry about

Terminator" and "2001: A Space

Five held

FROM PAGE 16 motorbike used in Manu's murder at Faridpur Cold Storage Ltd compound near Rajbari crossing in

Faridour district They said Babu and Nazmul top the list of criminals in Faridour and they are accused in seven criminal cases including the sensational Ali

and Karnize murder cases. A gang shot Manu, a businessman, dead as he was supervising a feast for destitute people on the 31st death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the city's Mirpur area on August 15. A bystander rickshaw-puller was also iniured in the incident.

Police claimed Babu admitted to them that he opened fire in Prince Hotel in Mirpur that left two of its employees wounded around two years back

Earlier, police arrested four other accused in the Manu murder case and two of them -- Killer Tota and Killer Lotus -- gave confessional statements before a court. In the statements, they said TVS Babu had led the attack on Manu.

India observing

FROM PAGE 16 anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

He said the AL leader showed interest to join the programme, but would take decision in this regard considering the overall political situation of Bandladesh.

Hasina, however, told the envoy that she would try to send an Awami League delegation to the programme.

Awami League leaders Sheikh Helal and Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury were present during the hour-long

Chief Adviser

that the caretaker government cannot function under any threat or time limit of a political party or group. But at the same time we also cannot accept the fact that the President/CA is behaving in a way as if there is no political crisis facing the country at the moment and that there is no urgency in finding an acceptable solution to

What raises our concern more is to see, within a few hours of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's demand that poll schedule be announced, the President/CA suddenly finding time to hold an unscheduled meeting with the EC for nearly two hours discussing precisely what Khaleda demanded -- election schedule. Honourable President/CA

appears not fully aware about how controversial he is becoming. Please note the following facts. First, he sent two advisers, on 2nd.November, to speak to the AL chief Sheikh Hasina about postponing their first deadline of 3rd November 2006. Then when the BNP cried foul and said that the advisors met AL chief (Their not using the official vehicle was a mistake and should have been publicly acknowledged as such) without his permission he kept quiet and issued no official clarification to defend them. But we have learnt from several independent sources that the President/CA actually did ask them to communicate with the AL chief to persuade her into postponing the date of political agitation which was to be announced from Paltan maidan the next day. The effort under his instruction paid dividend but he did not take credit for it because the BNP was criticising it.

Then he sent, on November 6 or 7, General Mashhud, another adviser, along with his Military Secretary, to meet the Chief Election Commissioner to persuade him to resign. Again when a controversy arose because the CEC denied being approached by the caretaker government, he kept quiet and Gen. Mashud himself was forced to go public to tell the truth to the world, which embarrassed all including the President/CA and his office. It appeared again that he did not defend the persons whom he assigned to perform a certain

sensitive task. Thirdly, he read out a speech in which he claimed that the government we now have has acquired the form of a Presidential system just because he, as the President, has become the Chief Advisor. He still hasn't told the public why he said so and under what law he did it. It had to be clarified by reiterating his commitment to the constitution, meaning we still had a parliamentary form of govern-

Then came the most serious faux pas of the President/CA's enure. Suddenly on November 12 a home secretary-signed government notification was sent to all deputy commissioners alerting them of an impending army deployment. This was done without the consent or even discussion with the council of advisors. Though it was verbally cancelled the following day, it took several days of uncertainty for it to be withdrawn in writing last Thursday. This delay between a verbal decision and its written follow-up created an impression of a serious gap between the

Austrian

media.

FROM PAGE 16 Dunlop could not immediately confirm that. The Iraqi officer spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorised to talk to the

The officer said the Crescent

Security Group convoy had been stopped at a checkpoint on Thursday by Iragi men, some of them wearing police uniforms. The Crescent Security Group company works mostly in Iraq, and

its operations are based in Kuwait.

Many of its managers and employees are American. In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said Thursday that preliminary reports suggested the attacked convov

included about 19 vehicles. A State Department official informed the family of Paul Reuben, 39, a former Minneapolis police officer who was working as a security contractor in Iraq, that he was among those captured, his brother, Patrick Reuben, told the Star Tribune newspaper and KSTP-TV in

St. Paul, Minnesota Italy formally handed over security responsibility of the southern Dhi Qar Province to Iragi forces in late September, and British troops handed over control of the adjacent southern Muthana province in July.

Meanwhile, insurgents killed one US soldier in Iraq's restive province of Diyala in a small arms fire attack, the military said Friday.

The soldier was killed Thursday, raising to 11 the number of American military deaths in three

The latest fatality raise the military's losses in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to 2,859, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures.

decision of the council of advisers and its implementation. However, the issuance of that order hap-

pened miraculously fast! We still don't know who authorised this crucially important notification that dealt with such a sensitive matter as involving the armed forces (we have reliably learnt that the army was not in the know of it). In fact, we have a very serious problem here. In the meeting of the council of advisors, with the President/CA presiding, the home secretary was taken to task for having issued such a notification. However, to the Voice of America and the BBC the home secretary stated that he issued it under instruction from the President/CA himself. So far there has not been any denial of this claim from the President's office. So who is telling the truth? Once again, questions have arisen about the transparency and work-

ings of the President/CA's office. And now comes the latest act of the inexplicable delay of receiving the adviser committee's report by the President/CA that we started our commentary with. What are to make of all the points raised above? As we said several times before, the President/CA is our last "hope" to make democracy work. But increasingly and alarmingly he seems to be quite oblivious of his task and even nonchalant about his responsibility. If this is deliberate, and has to do with his partisanship, then he is playing with the future of the nation for which history will judge him most harshly and in a most unforgiving manner.

We have pleaded with him earlier, and we do so again and urge him to rise up to the occasion. Save democracy, give the nation a free, fair and credible election that will give us a truly representative government. Remember that flawed elections create illegitimate governments that fall under public wrath. Such an election will not solve our problem. It will only complicate matters further. We plead with the President/CA to wake up to the enormity of the task, the complexity of the situation and the urgent need for its solution. This is the worst possible time for a four-day rest. Please see the committee report today and decide on a course of action that will save us all from a lot of anxiety, trouble,

clashes and economic loss. In the meantime we appeal to the opposition to opt for a form of political agitation that does not cripple the economy, imprison people in their homes and create street violence. We plead some

more patience.

Barrister Zia

FROM PAGE 1 The LDP president said "The BNP bid to force Barrister Zia to the party is an ethically immoral act and a

legally punishable offence." LDP leaders also accused BNP of offering money to LDP men to quit the party. The LDP president named a top BNP leader who, he said, is

also doing this. On the siege to his residence, Zia said, "They (BNP) misguided the people of my constituency saying that I am returning to BNP. Thus they were brought to Dhaka from

Dhamrai.' He went on, "Ehsanul Haq came to my house on Thursday without informing me and pressured me to go Hawa Bhaban to express all my grievances to madam (BNP chair-

person). But I refused to go telling

him it is all over, I am in LDP now."

Bush

FROM PAGE 16 "We're not leaving until this job is

visit Vietnam since searing images of US helicopters taking off from a Saigon rooftop went around the world in 1975. John McCain, a Republican senator and presidential candidate,

after meeting Howard. In Vietnam, where the conflict is called the American War, the past is no longer an issue -- the communist country is too busy steering a boom that has made it East Asia's second-

Still, Hanoi strongly condemned the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, when a number of Vietnamese war veterans predicted a drawn-out conflict dominated by an interminable guerrilla campaign and heavy

the 2,900 mark.

Bush himself admitted last month that the spike in unrest in Iraq could be likened to the 1968 Tet offensive, which helped crystallize US public opinion against the Vietnam war.

since then. "Historical parallels of that kind are, I think, not very helpful, and I don't think they happen to be right," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters en

done, until Iraq can govern, sustain and defend itself. Bush's predecessor Bill Clinton was in 2000 the first US president to

was shot down near here while a naval aviator during the war, a point Bush mentioned in his comments

fastest growing economy after

Three years on, US troops are still committed in Iraq as it slides toward civil war and where the US military death toll is heading towards

US officials have back-pedalled

a voter roll," said ASM "I know all the advisers are

to waste," he said.

the advisory council.

Bangababan now."

any change to the Election Commission (EC).

create a constitutional crisis.

rice, pulses, oil, salt and sugar. One Abul Kashem from Mirersarai. Naziruzzaman from Sitakunda. Kamal Pasha from Sandwip and Jahidul Islam from Raozan led the

Hazi Kashem, ABM Quamrul Islam, Mosharraf Hossain, Nurul Islam and Towhidul Islam led the group under the banner of Barisal Nagorik Samaj. After a while, a 22member team of Sirajganj Babashayee Samannoy Parishad,

Dartur

Central African Republic.

17,000 troops and 3,000 police.

the African Union troops."

European

FROM PAGE 1 the voters will feel genuinely free to

They urged the authorities to

international experts.

They welcomed the commisforthcoming general elections.

left home for his shop.

voter list by such institutions would make the list more faulty and urged the press owners to refrain from printing the list. They said if the faulty voter list is printed, it would not only cause financial losses to the country but

the meeting.

FROM PAGE 1 animals gradually became a part of the family.

the country's wildlife activists.

President Salim himself, in the name of Baira, rented an office where he had only 10 percent share while three Malaysians held the rest

workers. Some recruiting agencies

The Baira general secretary said

action against Salim personally if he is found guilty. But Baira should not suffer for it." Ali Haider added.

examine the papers properly due to 'disturbance' in computers when the women passed their office Officer-in-Charge of Airport Police Station Shafigur Rahmand said the immigration department informed him

of the matter but no case or general

diary was filed with the PS as of filing of

Amena Begum, wife of Sirajul

this report yesterday evening.

Meanwhile, the ministry officials

under interrogation said they could not

Islam of Gafargaon, said she sold her land to pay Tk 80,000 to her broker for "I cannot go back to village now. All the family members will starve to death if I cannot go abroad," said Amena

Khatun from Comilla -- who sold their lands to go abroad. "Will they return our money? What shall I answer after returning home?'

Similar is the condition of Saleha

"I do not know the broker who worked to send me abroad," was the The brokers also went 'missing'

after the incident yesterday morning.