Top terrorists slip

the Public Prosecutor's (PP) office

does not properly scrutinise these charge sheets before forwarding the same to the court.

A section of officials of both the police and the PP office allegedly have understandings with the terrorists.

Finally, the delay in the process at the trial level creates a whole lot of scopes for the terrorists to get acquitted.

An analysis of 389 cases filed against the city's 40 top terrorists between early 1990s and July this year show that only a few minor charges were proven against them. But the authorities could not prove a single major charge like murder. extortion or possession of illegal arms. There were dozen more cases against these terrorists filed before the 1990s, which had lapsed for various reasons

The analysis of the cases against these 40 terrorists also shows that none of these terrorists are being punished for their crimes.

Of these 389 cases, the police have filed 18 final reports. In other words, the police themselves have failed to substantiate the allegations they brought against these criminals in those final reports. Twenty-seven top terrors have been proven not guilty in 63 cases in this manner. Among them, top terrorist of Mohammadpur-Dhanmondi area Tofael Ahmed Joseph got acquitted in the highest number of eight cases.

On the other hand, out of the 40 top terrorists, only seven have been punished, not for the major crimes everyone knows they committed but for the minor charges.

These 40 terrorists are Trimati Subrata Bain alias Shuvro, Sanjidul Hag Imon, Shah Alam alias Sundar Babu or Shada Babu. Golam Mostafa Pappu, Khorshed Alam Rashu, Tarik Saeed Mamun, Sagar alias Yusuf, Touhiduzzaman Tikka (who was allegedly killed by his opponents while he was under police custody a couple of months ago), Jisan Ahmed, Saheen alias Shah Alam Raza, Sanaullah, Shahdat Hossain, Abdus Sabur, Jahangir Sikder, Shahbuddin alias Buddin, Manu Mia Munna, Din Islam Dila, Dhakaiya Ripon, Nasiruddin alias Sukkur Ali, Abu Bakkar Selim alias Zakir or Misir Ali or Hatkata Bakkar, Sarwar alias Biplob, Faruk, Ahmad Ali, Kaiyum, Masud Parvez alias Bomb Babu, Prakash Kumar Biswas, Bikas Kumar Biswas, Sheikh Md. Aslam alias Sweden Aslam, Abdul Zabbar alias Munna, Murad Hossain Raj, Rashed Mostafa alias Raj, Kamal Pasha, Haris Ahmed. Tofael Ahmed Joseph, Sardar Keramat Ali, Aiyub Ali, Al-Amin, Barkatullah and

Shahjahan. Of them, the terrorists who were acquitted of their charges are Imon in one case. Shada Babu in two cases, Pappu one case, Sanaullah three cases, Sabur three cases. lahangir two cases. Buddin seven cases, Munna five cases, Dila three cases, Dhakaiya Ripon one case, Nasir two cases, Hatkata Bakkar three cases, Biplob three cases, Khokan one case, Ahmed one case, Sweden Aslam four cases, Haris four cases, Joseph eight cases, and Barkat in three cases.

In major cases against them, no witness turned up at the court.

Notorious criminal Joseph last Monday got acquitted of a murder case. The plaintiff of the case stated at the court that he had filed no FIR, but the police took his signature in a blank paper. Out of 24 witnesses in the case, only five turned up. Surprisingly, none of these five gave any statement against Joseph.

A probe into other cases of Joseph reveals that he got acquitted in eight cases out of total 23 cases filed against him. He has, however, been punished for 15 days in one case and one month in another.

Yet, there are cases against Joseph for committing murder. inflicting injury, extortion, possession of illegal arms and other such terrorist activities. Eleven such cases are being delayed due to poor

statement against Joseph. Another terrorist, Shahbuddin alias Buddin, is facing 17 cases. He has been acquitted of charges in seven cases, while the final report in another case has recently been submitted. He has obtained bail in all other cases and resorted to criminal activities again.

turn up of witness. A few witnesses

who did appear, did not give any

Top terrorist Sweden Aslam is ar accused in 17 cases. Of these, he has been acquitted of charges in four cases. In another case, no charge could be framed against him. In 10 other cases, witnesses are not appearing regularly to give their statements.

Subrata Bain alias Shuvro is notorious in the capital for his terrorist exploits and currently facing 17 cases. He has obtained bail from the High Court and now, as per a police statement, is 'absconding'.Shuvro has been sentenced to six months in jail in only one out of the 17 cases. In another case, it is alleged that the police have submitted the final report. Of 15 other cases, four are under investigation while he is or bail in dozen others. Like other cases, the cases against Shuvro are not progressing due to lack of witnesses.Till July last, only six witnesses out of 107 in 11 undertrial cases appeared before the court. Ironically, these cases are under trial since 1996. In total, out of 253 under-trial cases against these forty terrorists, 189 are getting delayed due to lack of witnesses Other cases are delayed due to different reasons including lack of police report, delay in scheduling of hearing of the cases, and lack of progress in the investigation of the absconding accused. Once accused in cases, the terrorists harass the witnesses, who, as a result, refrain from appearing before the court. Those who are involved in the trial process and the government policy makers know this fully well. And though this issue has been discussed many a time, the government never took any real steps to encourage witnesses to come to the court.Moreover, a few of the witnesses who give their statements before the court do not accuse the criminals. As a result, the terrorists do not get punished even after mitting crimes one after another.In the last 10 years, these top terrorts

Bomb in Ctg

on charges of murder.

FROM PAGE 12 pistol from his possession.

A patrol team of Kotwali police arrested one Titu, son of Shamsul Islam of Brick Field Road at Patharghata with one single barrel

have been involved in murder

everyday. Yet, there is no instance

of any punishment to such terrorists

Sixty others including 24 accused were arrested from different parts of the city on various charges, sources said.

gun and seven rounds of cartridges.

Clarification

FROM PAGE 1

Under the above circumstances, it becomes clear that the report published in The Daily Star on October 18 lacked proper information and did not reflect the actual situation the Biman claimed.

But the flight operation department, when contacted, told this correspondent that the Biman rescheduled its Jeddah flights following phone calls from the health minister's office. Other Biman officials also confirmed the information when cross-checked

Poll camps

FROM PAGE 12 Moklesur Rahman claimed to have ensured before the election that a candidate cannot have more than

one camp in one ward. The additional police commissioner, however, said the DMP could have demolished the camps two days or soon after the election, if most of the police forces had not been engaged in tackling the postpolls situation.
"The electoral rules allowing the

police to demolish the structures are not valid anymore," he said adding that now the authorities concerned like the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) are supposed to demolish the illegal structures. "We are now ready to help the DCC, if need be."
The DMP is likely to launch

eviction and demolition drives soon, the police official said.
The DCC that launched a drive to demolish illegal structures in the metropolis during the tenure of

caretaker government has so far

taken no such step about the election camps.
During the tenure of Awami League (AL) government, most of the illegal offices built in the city

belonged to the AL's different units or wings.
The DCC initiated a number of drives in the last five years, but some of such illegal offices were still there because of political pressure. Most of them were used as election camps for different candidates of the AL in the city. When contacted, Fazle Elahi,

chief estate officer of the DCC, said the corporation did not take any step to demolish the illegal structures in what he called a transitional period. He, however, gave an assurance of the demolition drive by next week.

Akbar Imam FROM PAGE 12

During his journalistic career, he worked for weekly Holiday, the nowdefunct Morning Sun, and the New Nation. He was content editor and developer of Homeview Bangladesh, a website magazine.

His first ianaza was held after zohr pravers on the Roval Housing premises at Free School Street. Hatirpool. The second janaza was held at the Jatiya Press Club after Asr prayers. He was laid to rest at Azimpur graveyard.

BNP Chairperson's press advisor Reazuddin Ahmed placed wreath on the coffin on behalf of

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Leaders of the press club also placed a wreath on the coffin as a

mark of respect to the late journalist. Minister Harunar Rashid Khan Monno who attended the janaza on the press club premises said the Monno Welfare Foundation would bear the educational expenses of

late Imam's children. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock at the premature death of Akbar Imam

In a condolence message, she recalled the contribution of late Imam in the field of journalism.

Khaleda prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday condoled the death of Akbar Imam.

In a message of condolence, BFUJ president Igbal Sobhan Chowdhury and secretary general Akhter Ahmed Khan, DUJ president Altaf Mahmud and general secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan recalled the contributions of Akbar Imam in the field of Journalism.

Press Club managing committee condoled the death of Akbar Imam. who was an active member of the club, and conveyed sympathies to the bereaved family members.

Dhaka Reporters' Unity President M Anwarul Haq and General Secretary Motaher Hossain Masum mourned the premature death of Akbar Imam, a founder

member of the organisation. Imam's qulkhwani will be held on Saturday after Asr prayers at his family residence at 383/2 Free School Street, Hatirpool.

Khaleda: No interference

"Criminals, anti-socials and terrorists can never be friends of the administration," said Khaleda Zia, who led her four-party coalition to an overwhelming victory at the October 1 polls pledging to curb tyranny of terrors and corruption

In her first meeting with them

after her return to power, the BNP chief cautioned the district administrations against being led astray by bribes, corruption, nepotism and irregularities. Turning to the post-election

violence, the prime minister said some terrorists and a section of conspirators, taking advantage of transitional period, are making attempts to disrupt the peaceful

"Take immediate measures. if anyone is involved in such activi-

FROM PAGE 1 registered marijuana growers

cultivated the profitable crop on

This was reported in the Agro, a

regular information newsletter

brought out by Syngenta

highly readable agriculture bulletin, also informs that after the 1989

Geneva Convention, ganja cultiva-

tion was banned worldwide. However, the Ganja Society of

Naogaon still exits and has seven

staff directed by an ad-hoc commit-

tee, which is headed by the Deputy

Currently, the Society has 226 maunds of finished ganja in stock

and 350 maunds of ganja dust under

The Society wants to go for other

commercial activities on its 75-acre

land and assets, but the government

has not given any permission in this

regard as yet, thanks to a befuddled

Terrorists stab

Miscreants stabbed a shopkeeper

at West Talla in Fatulla thana on

mastaans allegedly led by Suzon

stabbed the shopkeeper, Kabir, 35,

with chapati as he refused to hand

over cigarette and tea to them

Kabir was taken to Dhaka in a

Bangladesh. That is the progress

Everybody knows this is for the

first time when a large number of

minority voters perhaps voted for the BNP instead of the Awami

League being equally frustrated

with the performance of the AL like

understanding it could be a golden

opportunity for the BNP to make a

permanent minority vote bank

dealing with them a bit respectfully.

The AL got 40 per cent popular vote

which certainly cannot come fully

from the minority voters. Then, why

are the large numbers of Muslim

voters who voted for the Al being

spared? The simple conclusion is

that they are Muslims. Since Hindus

and other minorities here are weak,

scattered unorganised vulnerable

therefore it is easy to attack them,

rape them, kill them and then get rid

has been facing in America is far

less worse than what we have been

experiencing here on our own soil.

Though the horrendous crime of

September 11 had been perpe-

trated by those using (or malign-

ing?) the name of Islam, average

Americans are not as irrational and

inhuman as the people here to start

ransacking your houses, killing your

friends, raping your daugh-

ters/sisters, ousting you out of their

land. I have been in America and I

I can assure Dr Ahmed what he

of the crimes easily!

we made in last 30 years!

majority Muslim voters.

Alien in homeland

Local people said a gang of

bureaucracy, writes the Agro

shopkeeper

UNB, Narayanganj

Wednesday.

without money.

critical condition.

Commissioner of the district.

lock and key.

Sarwar Ahmed, who edits the

Marijuana

1000 acres of land.

Bangladesh Limited.

League rule, Khaleda Zia reminded that the people gave verdict to her party against "intolerable terrorism. corruption, politics of grabbing, lawlessness and economic mismanagement". The prime minister asked the

administration officials. She asked

them to take all possible measures

in particular, and, people in general

in the past five years of Awami

Criticising lack of the rule of law

so women, children and minorities

do not fall victim of terrorism.

members of administration, who are directly involved with maintaining public order, to use their position not as power but as a pledge to serve the people for their welfare with respect and sincerity

Pointing at the election pledge of BNP, the prime minister said, "We

EU investment

for free discussion during which a number of deputy commissioners and senior police officials spoke on

FROM PAGE 12 taken "stern action against the FROM PAGE 12 miscreants".

The team of envoys, led by Danish ambassador Niels Severin Munk, appreciates Bangladeshi's position on global consensus to combat terrorism and on various international issues

On a query on human rights violation, the foreign minister said the government would set up an Independent Commission, which was pledged in the election mani-

Other envoys present in the meeting were British High Commissioner Dr David Carter French ambassador Michel Lummaux, German ambassador Dietrich Andreas, Netherlands ambassador Sjef Ijermans, Swedish Charge d'Affaires Anders Granlund and JV Ketelsen, Charge d'Affaires of EC delegation.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman and foreign secretary Mohsin Ali Khan were present.

Lending rate FROM PAGE 1

rate with huge non-performing loans stuck up with the SOEs and high administrative cost.

Although the meeting could not devise any immediate plan, the bankers decided to sit again in the near future.

Earlier on Monday, Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman at a meeting with the bankers termed the existing lending rate 'too high' as about Tk 500 crore in excess liquidity was lying with the banking system.

He had also directed the bankers to devise a plan to cut the banks' lending rate and fix it at a 'reason-

know that they could at best point

their fingers at you and that would

be enough there to feel bitter like

anything. Moreover, the govern-

ment is there to stand by you to protect your right. In contrast, here

turning a blind eye as if nothing has

happened or is happening! What a

shame! Now assume the degree of

bitterness we are feeling here. The

most sad thing with us is that people

here go abroad but learn not a bit of

their sense of humanity, individual's

rights, love and respect except

some arrogance and selfishness

And then after coming back home

they start using and manipulating

common people's sentiment to

act in the same way. What a great,

sensible and responsible Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is! When a

section of her men are out to devas-

tate the lives of thousands of people

around the country, when mothers are crying for their children and

women are crying for dignity, she

has taken far too long to get her

government organised, spending

four days on a visit that could have

been made shorter and taken later

Can Mr. Bush in America, whatever

type of person he may be, act this

way? In fact, this is the difference

between here and there. I am not in

praise of America, I am just trying to

comprehend the situation and make

a link that the sufferings of minorities

Now, it is the turn of the BNP to

attain wealth and power.

Bangladesh administration is

AL: Movement

Awami League Genera Secretary Zillur Rahman said that through a blueprint his party was defeated in the October 1 election and the pro-liberation force was not

Mohammad Nasim said the present government was carrying out repression on people as they did not vote them to power. "A sure victory of Awami League was snatched through a conspiracy of six-party alliance.'

By six-party alliance the former home minister meant the BNP-led four-party alliance on one hand and the caretaker government and the Election Commission on the other.

Blasting the ex-chief of caretaker government, he alleged that Latifu Rahman defiled the office of Chief Advisor and people of Bangladesh would remember his name along

to temptation," Nasim said calling him a traitor next to Khandaker Mustaque Ahmed. Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad

"starts its journey with bodies" has no right to stay in power. He said even after such conspir-

acv Awami League secured 41 per cent of the votes and warned that people unitedly would bring down this government. The mayor called upon the people to prepare for a movement. The meeting was also addressed

have pledge to establish the role of

law in the country and ensure a

Khaleda Zia stressed the need

"You have direct interaction with

for an effective coordination among

all the government officials for

the people at all levels and the

image of the government largely

depends on your honesty, skill, sincerity and fulfilment of your

duties," she told the officials, adding

that every official will be held

accountable and their performance

After the formal speech of the

prime minister, the floor was opened

the ground situation prevailing

duly evaluated.

across the country.

serving the country and the people.

corruption-free administration".

supporters and members of the minority community was to distract people's attention from the fraudulent October 1 election.

allowed to come to power.

with Mir Jafar. "Latifur Rahman has succumbed

Hanif said the government that

by, Suranjit Sengupta, Abdul Jalil, Tofail Ahmed, Abdur Razzak and

are universal though might differ so

much in degree. The Muslims in

Bangladesh even cannot truly

understand Dr Ahmed's suffering

the way I do. However, it is certainly

unbearable here, as it is the place

where I belong to. On the other

hand, the US is not Dr Ahmed's

homeland. How one feels when

his/her own countrymen stand

against him/her without any under-

standable reason? How will I be

able to trust and depend on my

friends and colleagues and

acquaintances any more who I was

coming along so long and suddenly

find them surprisingly silent over my

suffering and harassment! Dr.

Ahmed you are fortunate enough

than I am, because there are people

in America who are urging not to

equate Islam with terrorism and not

to be vindictive to Muslims in gen-

eral. Here even for this piece of

writing I could be a target of violent

reminds me that nothing goes

unchallenged. Minorities here also

have the limit of patience! If the

minorities are forced to feel totally

insecure, then they will naturally

adopt steps for self-protection like

other minorities in the region. When

that happens, the majority will

become the bigger loser. We must

all work together to avoid that from

PChowdhury is a teacher.

happening.

However, in the end, history

cost. In the recent past, the government paid for the printing of primary level books, which are distributed among the students free

weekly Économic Times Munirul

Hug and Director General of BTV

Nazmul Alam Siddiqui spoke on the

Asked about the delay as regards printing of textbooks, a top official of the NCTB said, "We have sought permission from the

DU halls

terrorists despite the large-scale deployment of police on the campus. Criminals from across the city frequent the campus and stay at the

Rashid said, "Now we are waiting for what steps the new government will

"I sat with the JCD factions twice to defuse tension at my hall." He dentified the row among the JCD factions over establishing domination as the main reason behind it.

went to the tension-gripped Ziaur Rahman Hall and warned the outsid-

time on Wednesday

Ministry for awarding the job and as soon as we get permission, we shall do it without any delay.

firms have been enlisted for printing, binding and distribution of secondary level books and the process is in the final stage.

districts, but there is nothing to be worried as there are books in buffer stock in different districts." he said. Another official said the docu-

ments relating to awarding the job of primary level books have been forwarded to the Prime Minister since she holds charge of educa-

were badly hampered as hundreds of thousands of students of primary and secondary levels did not get

about eight crore textbooks to three concerns of Beximco GroupsFree Press, Sukhtara and Pustaka.

It was alleged that inexperienced Beximco concerns were given the job ignoring about 750 experienced printing firms.

However, NCTB maintained it had awarded the job to the lowest bidders.

More tales of minority plight

campuses.

suited Ziaur Rahman in the back-

Perfectly painted portraits of AL leaders on the walls at strategic points of the town still bore the

legacy of AL rule. The authorities at the Barisal Medical College Hospital and the famous BM College were trying to bring back students to classes. For over three months these institutions had remained almost inactive. AL student wings had left the dormitories 'without firing a shot' and in the absence of an adversary, 'peace' prevailed in the once turbulent

"At present there is no problem in Barisal," said a pharmacist at the Sadar Road. "But we are afraid clashes might erupt between the Shibir cadres and the ousted gangs once the election heat is over.

At Ashukathi under Gournadi thana, about 25 kilometres away from Barisal, a petrol pump manager told this correspondent how he had to pay three lakh taka to AL men for starting his business in April.

"We had invited the Chief Whip and his men but were not spared from extortion, eventually we had to pay to a gang of AL men for starting our business," he said.

People in Gournadi talked more about atrocities on the Hindu com-

munity at Agailihora, a few kilometres away in the west, than the election results. Several men at a tea stall in Gournadi said they had seen Hindu families fleeing Agailjhora towards Kotalipara.

"Among those families there were many AL activists and I think they were going to their relatives in Ramshil in Kotalipara," said an elderly man claiming that most Hindu localities were deserted in Agailjhora as gangs of BNP hoodlums kept intimidating the community demanding huge tolls.

The earthen road by the river Modhumati led into the small bazaar of Ramshil. Dozens of men and women roamed the market where most shops were closed at around 1:00pm. Some elderly people gathered under a large roof and discussed about the 'refugees' arriving in the village. They said that every house of the village was sheltering displaced Hindus from

Dashar College had left Agailjhora on October 2. Fleeing with his family members in fear of reprisal from BNP cadres, he said his 'only fault' was that he had been an AL activist. Siddeshshar Bepari, who had

Agailjhora and other places. munity was victimised because the Mithu Biswas, a student of

taken refuge in Ramshil with his five children, said he had never witnessed such repression since the

Liberation War in 1971. Chairman and members of the Raziar Union of Agailihora also took refuge in Ramshil with their families to escape atrocities.

Ramesh Chandra Das, the chairman, narrating how he had escaped the wrath of the BNP terror, said he first took refuge in a friend's house at Agailjhora on October 6. His friend then learnt that the hoodlums were coming to grab

"At around 3:00am I took a rickshaw and left the village. But when I arrived at Kodaldaho, a BNP manned roadblock stopped my rickshaw and they dragged me down." Das added The gang beat him up before

save him. Das said he then came to Ramshil as he had heard that many of his friends had taken refuge in the village He said that entire Hindu com-

some elderly people intervened to

majority of them supported the AL. Shefali Sarkar, the UP member

of Raziar in Agailjhora, fled with six members of her family. Shefali said she was attacked in her house early October 2 morning. She immediately left the village in a country

Local people in Ramshil said that most of the houses in the village had

sheltered displaced persons. Some of these displaced persons felt "ashamed and guilty" because their hosts would not accept any money for providing this unexpected hospi-

Officer-in-Charge of the Kotalipara police station, Mohammad Tajul Islam who had deployed half a dozen policemen in the village was present when this correspondent arrived. Islam said that they had conducted a "rough survey" on the displaced persons and estimated that about 500 people had taken refuge in the area.

"I won't be able to say what measures will be taken to encourage these people to return home That depends on the higher authorities," Islam said.

Local people said that they estimated that more than 5,000 Hindus had taken refuge in the Kotalipara area

Many Hindus in Ramshil were demoralised about their future and said that if the situation didn't improve, many would leave for India. For millions of innocent Hindus in this country the road to India might also be closed, and uncertainty may haunt them for a long time to come.

EC: Upazila polls

He also asked them to submit

reports on the present status of local government elections.

The EC is going to ask the government to place a bill in the ensuing Jatiya Sangsad session seeking to restore the EC's authority to hold upazila parishad elections without government interference, officials

Meanwhile, the CEC has discussed the issues of election to local government bodies with BNP Secretary General and Local Government and Rural Development Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. The minister met he CEC for the first time yesterday after the October 1 general election

During the nearly a half an hour they discussed various aspects of the long pending election to the city corporations paurasavas, upazila parishads and union parishads-- the four tiers of local governments.

Moyeen Khan

criticisms as enmity toward the

The information minister said the

FROM PAGE 1

government.

guidelines, given by the new gov-

ernment for running the BTV and Bangladesh Betar, have been

yielding positive results. He hoped the editors as well as his party will extend cooperation to mplement those effectively

Dr Moyeen Khan said the new government is aware of the accountability of the electronic

media, run by the taxpayers' money. He opposed the idea of treating a ournalist as a criminal when any complaint is lodged against him. Át the same time, he said the press cannot be made objective or

esponsible only by framing laws. The minister said regulations to ensure objectivity of the media will not be needed, if the Press Council and the civil society play their due role and the newspaper editors go by their conscience

Dr Moyeen Khan said he would ike to sit with the editors on a reguar basis to discuss any problem relating to the media.

entire family had been wiped out in Editor of weekly Holiday Enaeyetullah Khan, Editor of the Sangbad Bazlur Rahman, Press Advisor to the BNP Chairperson Reazuddin Ahmed, Editor of Ajker Kagoj Kazi Shahed Ahmed, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, nature of the campaign was imminent came at a California airbase on Chief Editor of Mabobzamin Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, Editor of Finance Express Moazzem Editor of Banglabazar Potrika Mohammad Zakaria Khan, Chairman of ATN-Bangla Mahfuzur Rahman, Director of Channel-I for friendly troops on the ground to Shaikh Siraj, Editor of Weekly Robbar Syed Tosharraf Ali, Editor of

ent government would extend all cooperation to the EC in conducting the elections properly.

The CEC, meanwhile, has

directed officials concerned to prepare a draft bill seeking revival of the EC's authority to conduct upazila parishad elections. On completion of the draft, it would be sent to the Ministry of Law for its vettina

Upazila parishad sytem was introduced in mid-eighties by the Ershad regime, but it was abandoned by the then BNP government following the fall of Ersahd. It was revived by the Awami League gov-ernment in 1997, giving the authority of holding election to the EC.

The EC did not go for holding the elections even in three years after revival of the system and the government got the original Upazila Parishad Act amended, withdrawing the EC's authority to hold elections. At that time, the EC had opposed

the government move. The CEC had written to President Shahabuddin Ahmad and then to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina not to take away the EC's authority. However, the AL government could not hold upazila parishad elections ahead of the general

election, although it wanted to

Bush

FROM PAGE 1 the rubble of his house in Kalae Zaman Khan, five kilometres east of the centre of Kabul. It was the worst toll of civilian

tral witnesses since the US bombing began on October 7. Taliban officials have said the civilian death toll has reached 400, a figure hotly disputed by the United

casualties to be confirmed by neu-

states and impossible to verify. The Taliban claimed at least 70 eople had been killed in raids since Wednesday morning, 47 of them in Kandahar.

Militia officials also reported an

the bombing of a truck in which they were moving their possessions out of the eastern city of Jalalabad. It was the second incident of its kind reported by the Taliban in 24 hours. Bush's hint that a change in the

his way to China for talks with other Pacific rim leaders. "The enemy's air force and air defences are being demolished," Bush said. "We're paving the way

slowly but surely tighten the net to bring them to justice. US planes bombed Taliban positions on the frontlines of . Afghanistan's civil war for the first

Textbook crisis

FROM PAGE 12

When contacted, Provost of the Salimullah Hall Prof. RIM Aminur

Prof. Al Mahbub Uddin Ahmed, the provost of Ziaur Rahman Hall. said such a situation would not have been created, if the law enforcement agencies had taken

On Tuesday night, JCD President Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu

He mentioned that 336 printing

"We are vet to fix the time-limit as to when the books will reach the

This year, academic activities

books even four months after the academic year began. The NCTB in an abrupt move had awarded the job of printing