FROM PAGE 1

Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff also verdict said the fate of other corruption cases under the EPR hinges on the HC verdict on Sheikh Hasina's writ petition.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday Justice Ghulam Rabbani said it is a simple rule of law that a criminal offence or the procedure to try the offence has no retrospective effect. "I wonder why this basic simple procedural law was forgotten by the persons in the authority who are supposed to have basic knowledge," said the former judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

According to Article 66 of the constitution, a person shall be disqualified for election as or for being a member of parliament who has been, on conviction for a criminal offence involving moral turpitude, sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, unless a period of five years has elapsed since his release.

Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad contested the polls and became an MP by appealing against a trial court verdict that convicted him on charge of corruption. Ershad's membership to the seventh parliament fell vacant when the SC finally rejected his offence.

appeal against the trial court

Separate cases were filed right to seeking bail.

Referring to the constitu-

Article 35 of the constitution says no person shall be convicted of any offences except for violation of a law in force at the | imported there. time of the commission of the act charged as an offence, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than, or different from that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the

being relaxed in phases. "The January 10 like situation no longer exists. The implications and application have reduced. The council of advisers would take the decision regarding its withdrawal," he added.

On holding general elections within 90 days of dissolution of the parliament, Hassan Ariff said it is the responsibility of the Election Commission (EC)

He, however, hastened to add that no timeframe has been fixed for the caretaker government to hand over power to an elected government. "The caretaker government's duty is to assist the Election Commission in holding free, fair and neutral elections."

On whether the government is responsible for the delay in holding the polls, the law adviser said that there is no allegation that the gov-EC'swork.

The government is working contribution in passing the law." towards creating a level playing field so that honest candidates are not kept away by muscle power and black money. "Since corruption said. begets black money and muscle power, the government has launched anti-corruption opera-

Hassan Ariff observed that the situation is much better now than January 10, 2007.

Asked about criticism regarding legality of giving status of minister to a special assistant to the chief adviser, he declined to make any comment. "The government has definitely consulted laws."

Commenting on allegations of torture in custody, the law adviser said the home ministry had already cautioned the agencies concerned about it. If there is specific allegation, the government will look into it, he added.

"The court has power, and it can give direction if it feels necessary," Hassan Ariff said. Asked what he will do as a rights

Bird flu

FROM PAGE 20

Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser for the Ministry of Livestock Manik Lal Samaddar were present.

Sources said the meeting was told that an isolation unit will be set up at each sadar hospital in 64 districts for treatment of any suspected Avian Influenza affected people.

The meeting was informed that 823 suspected patients were examined at the Institute of Epidemiology Diseases Control and Research (IEDCR) but no virus was detected.

Blackout at ZIA

FROM PAGE 1

Air Commodore Sakib Khan Majlish, chairman of CAAB.

Representatives from Poly Cables, the supplier of the cable, visited the scene and offered replacement of all the cables they supplied to ZIA, said CAAB sources.

"There are 17 or 18 high-voltage [11 thousand volts each] cable lines at ZIA and a stretch of four to five inches of one of the cables burned out, causing the Desco line to trip," a member of the probe committee told The Daily Star requesting anonymity.

Though ZIA was established long time ago in 1979, most of its electrical equipment did not undergo any renovation, claimed another probe committee member of CAAB.

In an unprecedented incident alarms over the security of the airport.

Legal experts also said once the detained politicians are tried under the ordinary laws, they have to be allowed to seek bail.

against the detained politicians under the EPR that blocked their | gency cabinet session in Tokyo.

A few detainees have already been convicted under the EPR for offences committed before the promulgation of the EPR.

tional provision, six legal experts appointed as the amicus curiae in the hearing of the extortion case against Hasina submitted | but still ordered the companies their opinion to the HC on Wednesday, saying the trial of a crime committed before the Japan. promulgation of the Emergency Power Ordinance cannot be held under the ambit of the EPR.

HC verdict

On lifting emergency, he said it is he would play a motivating role at

the cabinet. Talking about freedom of the EC, Hassan Ariff said that since amendments have already been made, the commission would work independently without influence of any ministry.

"Only the law ministry will provide legal assistance to the commission," he said adding that a gazette will be published soon.

activist in this regard, he said that

Before the gazette notification, there is scope for further modification of the amendments if anything conflicting with the constitution is found, the law adviser said, adding "But we haven't found any such thingso far."

Hassan Ariff said a constitutional commission would be formed to make appointments to constitutional posts. "We need to do it. It'll come later.' The draft of right to information

ernment created obstruction in act is now under review, the lay adviser said. "I want to make a

The formation of Truth Commission is being discussed to see the "pros and cons" of it, he

Munshi Anwar

FROM PAGE 1

approval of the establishment

Anti-Corruption Commission Assistant Director SM Shahidur Rahman filed the case with Gulshan police station against Anwarrul on June 26, 2006.

Charges were pressed against him on October 30 last year.

Sircar

FROM PAGE 20

About the rift within BNP, Sircar said theirs is a big political party and it is quite natural that there might be some dispute. "You'll see us united under Khaleda Zia by the time is announced an election schedule," he added. Replying to a query, he said,

"Secretary General Khandakar Delwar Hossain is in favour of unity and so is Major (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed.'

Referring to a recent statehe leaves the issue for the court to decide."

Responding to another query, he said, "Only the people will decide who will form the next government. They are going through a suffocating situation. They do not own this government as it does not represent

He asked those attending the milad to pray for release of Khaleda, her sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koco.

Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Nazrul Islam Khan, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, Selima Rahman, Mohammad Shahjahan and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed were among hundreds of BNP leaders and activists present at the special prayers.

BB appoints

FROM PAGE 1

Naba Gopal Banik and General Manager of Training Department Abdul Awal were appointed observers for IFIC Bank and UCBL (United Commercial Bank

Bangladesh Bank sources said the appointment of such observers is not unprecedented in the banking system. The central bank on Sunday night, ZIA ground to a appoints such observers for virtual standstill, raising banks that remain in the early warning system category, the source added.

Chinese dumplings trigger food scare in Japan

AFP, Tokyo

China and Japan scrambled to ease public alarm Thursday as hundreds of Japanese reported feeling ill from eating Chinese-made dumplings, triggering an emer-

The cabinet met to discuss a response as television networks broadcast the stories of people who said they vomited, passed out and felt near death after eating the frozen meat dumplings.

China -- Japan's largest trading partner -- said pre-export tests had found no pesticides in the product, which made them to halt production and recall similar items from

Meanwhile South Korea's food and drug administration ordered checks on all dumplings from China, although officials said none of the brands at the centre of the Japan scare appeared to have been

Whatever the origin, the health scare is another public relations blow for China, whose rapid growth is linked to its status as the world's manufacturing hub.

Scandals over a range of Chinese-made goods, including pet food, toothpaste, toys and other products have led to boycott calls in the United States.

Japan is heavily dependent on food imports, with China its second biggest supplier after the United States.

MK Anwar

FROM PAGE 20

policemen between December 2005 and January 2006.

"MK Anwar implicated me in the cases being incensed by a series of reports I made against his evildoing," the Inqilab reporter alleged.

Salauddin was sentenced to 34 years and three months imprisonment in 11 of the 30 cases on September 8, 2006. He came out on bail on January 14 this year after serving 16 months in jail.

Besides, the plaintiff also said the associates of MK Anwar, at his behest, attacked his Daudkandi residence, ransacked it and looted valuables worth over Tk 2 lakh on August 3, 2005.

"Anwar's associates also assaulted my mother and sisters when they came forward to resist them," the reporter stated in the case statement.

The 12 other accused are BNP Comilla (north) unit vice president M Jahirul Islam, former Muradnagar ASP Humayan Kabir, former Homna OC Mohiuddin and sub-inspector Rafiqul Islam, former Daudkandi OC Jalaluddin Ahmed, former OC of Meghna Police Station Nirmalendu Bikash Chakraborty, former subinspectors of Daudkandi Police Station Rafigul Islam Selim, Murtaza Ali and Shahid and ASI Mijanur Rahman and constable Shamsu, and former sub-inspector of Homna Police Station Mujibur Rahman.

RMG worker

FROM PAGE 1 Wednesday.

He said they came out late as they had to go to toilet. All their fellow workers had already left the factory by then, he added.

Mirpur police said several officials and security guards of the factory beat them up suspecting their link with the theft of Tk 22,000 on Wednesday. The security guards called the

high-ups after capturing them.

"Later, they took us to upper not take them to hospital immedi-

Security guard Mosharraf Hossain at about 2:15am yesterday took Khokon to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the onduty doctor declared him dead.

Khokon's body was sent to his ancestral home in Panchagarh last

The garment workers came to the factory yesterday morning but found it closed. The authorities asked them to return home saying that the factory had to be closed due to power disruption.

Hearing the news of death of their fellow worker, a group of 60 workers gathered in front of the factory at about 11:00am and tried to stage demonstration. But police foiled it.

A case was filed with Mirpur Police Station. A large number of policemen had been deployed at the factory to

BGMEASTATEMENT Bangladesh Garmen Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday said the security guards of the factory found the two workers in

Later, the security guards beat them up leaving one of them dead. The BGMEA also said the factory authorities decided to give the victim's family Tk 5 lakh as compensation and already paid them Tk I lakh.

his ancestral home for burial

Ekushey Book Fair

FROM PAGE 1 festoons and placards, upholding the spirit of Amar Ekushey. The entire venue is free from smoking

and polythene. The fair management committee led by Fazlur Rahim, director (institutional planning and training department) of the academy, has completed all preparations including allocating stalls and taking tight security measurers to avertany untoward incident. A total of 362 stalls consisting of

up to maximum three units have been allocated to 236 institutions and publishing houses this year. A few stalls have been allotted to different socio-cultural, nongovernmental and voluntary organisations. The fair will remain open for all from 3:00pm to 9:00pm every day.

start at 11:00am and have a twohour break from 12:00 noon. On February 21, the International Mother Language Day, the fair will start at 8:00am and continue up to 10:00pm without

On holidays, however, the fair will

any break. There will be two entrances to the fair with six archways, two each of which will be reserved for women and children. The middle gate of the academy leads the exit from the fair.

February 21 commemorates the Language Movement, protesting the then Pakistan government's decision to establish Urdu as the only state language of the country although Bangalees were majority.

Rafiq, Salam, Jabbar, Barkat, Shafiur and many unknown others sacrificed their lives on that day in 1952 as the law enforcers fired on processions demanding recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages.

In 1997, the UN declared February 21 as the International Mother Language Day.

Bangla Academy has been organising the book fair since 1972 and in 1984 it was named Amar Ekushey Book Fair.

7 JMB men

FROM PAGE 1

Shakhawat Hossain Ziad, Abdullah Al Mamun Nasim, Hafez Ali Akbar Riaz, Shafiullah Shahid and Hafijur Rahman Dalim. The last two are in hiding.

JMB kingpin Shaikh Abdur Rahman, second-in-command Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai and Abdul Awal were also accused in the case, but their names were dropped since they were executed last year. The militants started chanting religious slogans after the verdict

they were taken out of the court to Tufan, a bomb expert and trainer, hit Zahid Hasan of Banglavision television channel as the latter was taking video footage of the militants. He damaged Zahid's camera. Minutes later the militant, although tied with a rope, knocked journalist Abdullah Iqbal to the ground, also damaging his

and attacked the two journalists as

Tufan shouted, "We did not do anything wrong. It's you (journalists) who are the real culprits. You thwarted all our plans, everything..." The militants tried to break out of police cordon five times and threw their sandals at the

Court inspector Mahbubul Kuddus Siddiqui told reporters that the militants got hold of the two newsmen because they got too near them.

JMB militants rocked the country with synchronised bombings on August 17 three years ago. One man succumbed to his injuries in

Bangla Academy authorities have set up an information centre in the west corner of the Burdwan House, the historic building where the chief minister of the then East Pakistan would reside. Bangla Academy was first established in this building. It was also the place

where recognition of Bangla as a

state language was earlier

opposed. The authorities will declare the Ekushey Padak this month. This year the award will be given in three categories instead of six given in

the previous years. On the occasion of the fair, host Bangla Academy has already published 40 books and will bring 15 more books, including a biography of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a dictionary of Bangla spelling, a compilation of Dhan-Shaliker Desh, the academy's magazine for children, and a number of textbooks.

The budget of the fair this year is Tk 25,35,000. Brac Bank is assisting Bangla Academy in organising the fair, which will help the academy saveTk15lakh. Two banks will set up temporary

branches and an ATM booth on the fair premises. The authorities will arrange a

number of competitions, including painting, for children.

A seminar styled "Bangladesh's achievement in art and literature in three decades" will be held on the central stage beside the Burdwan House every day until February 19. There will also be cultural programmes.

On February 21, Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam will deliver the Amar Ekushey Speech.

Gen Moeen

FROM PAGE 20 Moeen said, adding that the small-scale dairy farm cum biogas project "is an example of what we can do with modicum resources".

He noted that the country incurred huge losses due to cyclone Sidr and two consecutive floods. All should work together to recoup the losses. "Hence, even an inch of land should not be left uncultivated during current Boro season," he said.

He said the government will ensure fertiliser, fuel and electricity for the farmers. The army chief assured the

farmers that there is no fertiliser crisis in the country. He urged them not to store fertiliser. Deputy Commissioner Shamsunnahar Begum also spoke on the occasion. GOC of 19 Infantry division Major General Mohammad Mojahid Uddin,

other military officials and public

representatives were present on the occasion. After inauguration, General Moeen distributed 24 cows among 20 poor families and blankets and relief goods donated by Red Crescent among 300 destitute families.

The 20 families are expected to be self-reliant through the dairy farming and 100 other families will get power facility for 4-5 hours daily trough energy-saving bulb. Besides, 30 families will be able to use fuel gas in their cook-

The helicopter carrying the army chief landed at a helipad on the bank of the Brahmaputra at about 10:40am. He left for Ghatail Cantonment after visiting Saikat cluster village.

He went round the village and talked to the inhabitants.

Local commander of joint forces Lieutenant Colonel Mujib briefed the army chief about overall situation in the district.

Gangs active again

business establishments issuing

similar threats over phone. In some cases in Mirpur and Pallabi they had even shot people refused to pay the demanded money, leaving them injured or even killed.

facing serious problems in tracking down the callers because the SIM cards they use were sold earlier without verifying the subscribers' addresses. "If we receive any allegation, we collect callers' list immediately from the operators concerned and

launch an investigation. But finally

we find that the SIM card was

drawn using the address of a rice shop and so on," says Anwar Hossain, deputy commissioner of DMP, Mirpur Zone. Most of the times one of the petty criminals calls a target and hands over the set to another saying: "Now talk to Subrata Bain."

The gangs also use the names of two other top criminals. The second man waiting nearby introduces him as Subrata, Khandaker Tanveer Islam Joy or Shahadat -- who are now believed to be hiding in India -- and asks for toll and threatens with dire conse-

quences for refusal. Asked about such crimes, lakh to Tk 10 lakh from owners of They also sent Khokan's body to Officer-in-Charge of under-construction building and Mohammadpur Police Station businesses.

Shibli Noman said on Thursday they did not receive any such com-

However, The Daily Star has managed copies of at least two general diaries filed with the same police station on January 19-20. Engineer Sardar Amin, manag-Law enforcers say they are ing director of Suncity Developers

of Lalmatia, filed a GD with the

police station on January 20 after a

caller identifying him as Shahadat demanded Tk 10 lakh. The caller even threatened him with death if he failed to pay the sum. A resident of Sobhanbagh filed a GD with the same police station on January 19 after an anonymous caller using the name of Subrata demanded Tk 1 lakh. The caller threatened to cause serious harm

A businessman of Sobhanbagh filed a GD with Dhanmondi Police Station on Sunday mentioning that unknown callers demanded a hefty amount and threatened him with dire consequences. Rab officials say they arrested

to his family if he did not pay the

seven so-called members of The missile hit a house in the Shahadat gang in Mirpur on January 14. Quoting the arrestees, the elite

force says the criminals use Shahadat's name and demand Tk 1 near the town of Mir Ali.

Tarique

FROM PAGE 1

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddiqui told The Daily Star: "The other VIP prisoners will be taken back to the jail gradually," He said Tarique was taken to the

hospital by a prison van at about 1:30pm as he has been suffering from waist and neck pain for some days. "He has been given Cabin 18 of Ward I where doctors of the hospi-

tal's orthopaedic department will treathim.' Earlier on January 29, the medical board headed by Prof Sirajuddin Ahmed, chairman of BSMMU orthopaedic department, was formed to

check up his health. After medical checkups, the board asked the jail authorities to shift him to a well-equipped hospital where all types of healthcare facilities would be available.

The joint force arrested Tarique at their cantonment residence on March 8 on charge of corruption, as a countrywide purge went in the interim period. He was sent to jail on March 12 when he was hauled before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka. At least 19 VIP prisoners were staying at the prison cells for a long

time to enjoy better facilities apparently by convincing some doctors. The jail authorities decided to take them back and asked the BSMMU authorities to immediately discharge The hospital authorities also

decided to verify their physical conditions and send those back who are not much sick.

16 doctors

FROM PAGE 20

incentives, deputation allowances, earmarked residences and other facilities. If the facilities are not increased, their number may further decrease."

He however said they have submitted proposals to the home ministry, which is carrying out an enquiry into it.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG-Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique said: "The hospitals without doctors have paramedics, while the jails which have no hospitals have single rooms for sick prisoners. Inspector General of Police (Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hassan

said: "It's really tough to bring the

doctors on deputation. Of the 16

existing doctors, five have already applied for transfer. "We have submitted a proposal to the government to appoint the required doctors, increase the numbers of posts and enhance treatment facilities. But it seems that it would take not less than five

nurses so there is no possibility to appoint any. So, nursing would be carried out by the convicts as | bank. The sources said the Dhaka jail has a 172-bed hospital always

"The TOE (table of organisation

and equipment) does not include

crowed with 250-300 sick prison They added that many of the prisoners get hospitalised to enjoy better facilities and pay the doctor concerned and some jail officials to thatend

The high-profile prisoners

receive treatment at Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujib Medical University

(BSMMU) prison cells. Showing the cause of inadequate treatment facilities, at present 15 detained bigwigs are staying at the BSMMU. A number of other bigwigs have also been admitted to different private and posh hospitals at their

own cost. Detained Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil is now undergoing treatment at private Labaid Hospital. BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury was admitted to Birdem and Mirza

Abbas to Apollo Hospitals. Home adviser

for quick disposal.

FROM PAGE 20 He directed them to prepare lists of sensational cases and send those to the Home Ministry Monitoring Cell

Matin claimed that the coun-

try has now got rid of extremism

and terrorism completely Besides, remarkable success has been achieved in checking corruption. Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Hossain Jamil chaired the meeting attended by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Chittagong Shahidul Huda, Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner M Akber

Ali, Deputy Commissioner Ashraf

Shamim, Superintendent of

Police Quamrul Ahsan, other

high officials of police and the

district administration. Top al-Qaeda

But security officials in Pakistan said yesterday that a clutch of al-Qaeda militants, including seven Arabs and six Central Asians, were killed this week when a suspected US missile hit their hideout in Pakistan.

troubled tribal district of North Waziristan late Monday. Residents had reported that a drone of the type operated by US-

sexual offences in a national sexual offender registry that turns them led coalition forces based in into social pariahs with little Afghanistan was seen flying over chance of finding employment or the area shortly before the strike, housing, and making them the target of violence.

White House races

FROM PAGE 20

shine since, limping in third in all the other primaries so far.

He even admitted to getting his "butt kicked" in Nevada, where Clinton triumphed adding to her victories in New Hampshire and Michigan.

A hefty defeat in Florida late Tuesday proved to be the final blow for the former senator, who also lost his 2004 tilt at the White House.

Hillary Clinton coasted to a symbolic victory in Florida with 50 percent, in a boost to her campaign ahead of next week's Super Tuesday when 22 states will vote for their party candidates. Veteran Democratic strategist

Donna Brazile said both remaining candidates could benefit from Edwards's withdrawal: Obama might pick up those backers eager for change to add to his wins in Iowa and South Carolina, while Clinton could grab some of his heftylabour support. "But long term, the candidate

who talks about the plight of the poor, that champions the middle class, that talks about trade and health care ... will benefit from the support of John Edwards," Brazile told CNN. Obama paid tribute to Edwards

fighting to give voice to the voiceless and hope to the struggling, even when it wasn't popular to do or covered in the news." And Clinton said Edwards "ran with compassion and conviction

saying he "has spent a lifetime

and lifted this campaign with his deep concern for the daily lives of the American people." Clinton, 60, and Obama, 46, who have fought a bitter battle for voters, will again square off in a Democratic debate scheduled for

Thursday in California. Republican front-runners McCain and Mitt Romney were due to face off in a debate at the Reagan Library outside Los Angeles later Wednesday.

Arizona Senator McCain, who was once given up for lost after

Banks asked

FROM PAGE 20 According to the BB instructions, location and physical structure of a bank must be consistent with those of safety vaults and safety rooms. The banks should review the existing security system on a regular basis. The security procedures

trained up. The central bank instructions say security agencies must give undertaking that if a bank suffers a loss due to vandalism, theft and burglary, they will be liable to make good the losses up to a certain limit to be decided by an individual

should be well documented and

the staff concerned properly

immediately by the bank as per the claims within the insurance ceil-Later, the bank shall claim the

According to the directives, in

case of any loss due to breakages

and damage, the client will be paid

amount from the insurer. US flaunts

FROM PAGE 20 After the 2006 legislative elections that put Democrats in charge of also carried out that attack. both houses of Congress, a bill restoring Guantanamo prisoners' right to habeas corpus was pro-

HRW said in its report that by

announcing in April that a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) prisoner had been transferred to the blast missed the bus, officials Guantanamo, the Pentagon made said. it clear there still were US detention facilities around the world. The rights group said it believed 39 people were being held in US

posed but has yet to be approved.

had admitted to holding 100 prisoners in all. "Under international law those persons remain unlawfully 'disap-

peared' until the United States can account for them," the report said. And despite congressional pressure forcing the Pentagon to adopt new rules for prisoner interrogations to preclude torture-like abuses, HRW said the US government continues to justify such foreign nationals.

techniques in certain cases.

bound by these rules, and the (US) administration has gone to great lengths to justify the CIA's contin- in style to the Taliban's regular fare ued use of certain techniques of suicide and roadside bombings. banned for use by the military," said the report. On the domestic front, HRW said 2.2 million people were imprisoned in 2007 in the United

States, a 500 percent increase over

the past 30 years and equivalent to

five times the entire prison population of Britain. In addition to having the largest prison population in the world, the report added, the United States imprisoned blacks at a rate 6.5 times higher than that of whites.

HRW also found that undocumented foreigners faced greater risk of arrest in the United States, had difficulty in asserting their legal rights in court and were imprisoned under sometimes abusive conditions. The report also criticised US

laws listing people convicted of

almost running out of money in mid-2007, was celebrating after winning in Florida late Tuesday, to become the clear Republican pace-

McCain, 71, beat former Massachusetts governor Romney to take 36 percent of the vote, over 29 percent for Romney, Giuliani

ordained Baptist preacher Mike Huckabee won 13 percent. Meanwhile, in a move, which could cause shockwaves in the Democratic camp, veteran political activist Ralph Nader said he was

came in third with 15 percent, and

mulling aWhite House bid. He told AFP he had launched a presidential exploratory committee "to test the waters to see if we can get enough contributions and resources, such as skilled staff" to

run as an independent. Nader, widely blamed by Democrats for defeat in the 2000 elections, said he wanted to fight "the injustices, deprivations and insolutions that the candidates are ignoring" such as failing to address the need for a living wage, health care for all and the "enormous, bloated, wasteful military budget."

Donors propose

FROM PAGE 1 ERD sources said the donors had already accepted aid commitment of \$ 685 million from bilateral and multi-lateral donors. Of this, the WB, Asian Development Bank and Japanese government committed \$ 147 million as budget support.

The mission's assessment report would be sent to the ministries and departments concerned for their opinions by February 10, and it would be finalised by February 22 incorporating the opinions, sources said. The donors said at the meeting

in future they would provide assistance to Bangladesh on the basis of the \$ 4 billion programme proposed yesterday.

HC wants

FROM PAGE 1 side's request for final preparation.

panel of amicus curiae appointed by the court, Additional Attorney General Mansur Habib submitted that the authority of government approval relates to procedural "The question of giving retro-

spective effect of any offence com-

mitted prior to promulgation of the

Opposing the arguments by a

Emergency Power Ordinance is a part of the legal process," heargued, citing case laws. Earlier, six legal experts appointed as amicus curiae in the hearing of the case identically viewed that trial of a crime which had been committed before the promulgation of the Emergency Power Ordinance 2007 that came into effect from the day it was

the ambit of the EPR. Afghan governor

promulgated cannot be held under

FROM PAGE 20 bombing in the capital Kabul killed a civilian and wounded at least four other people.

It was aimed at an Afghan National Army (ANA) bus taking staff to work in the city, the defence ministry said. A civilian in a taxi was killed and a handful of people, including an

army officer, were wounded, but

Mujahed said the Taliban had

"The ANA vehicle drove away. In a taxi passing by, one civilian was killed," Bashary told AFP.

secret detention facilities and had been sitting in a nearby

Teenager Mohammad Sharif

recalled that the US government "I ran out. Police at the roundabout starting shooting in the air. I saw a man screaming, lying on the road with his bicycle," the 16-yearold said. The Taliban were also behind a

previous deadly attack in the capi-

tal, a January 14 assault on the five-

mosque when he heard the explo-

star Kabul Serena hotel that killed at least eight people, three of them That brazen attack -- which "The CIA contends that it is not involved suicide blasts, gunfire and grenade explosions -- was the first of its kind in the city and different

> The insurgents usually direct their attacks at military targets and last year carried out several bombings on buses taking either army or police staff to work in the capital. They also target pro-government officials.

> > In June a suicide bomber

boarded a police bus in the heart of

Kabul and killed 35 people, many of them trainers at the police acad-Last year was the deadliest in the insurgency, launched soon after the Taliban's five-year government was ousted in late 2001 in an invasion led by the United States

movements. Around 6,000 people were killed, most of them insurgents but also including 1,500 civilians. US experts warned in separate

backed by anti-Taliban Afghan

reports Wednesday that Afghanistan risks becoming a failed state if urgent steps are not taken to tackle deteriorating security and lacklustre reconstruction and governance efforts.

the attack. ment of Hafiz, acting secretary floor and started beating us mercigeneral appointed by the standlessly," Malek said adding that ing committee, he said, "I think although they were seriously Hafiz himself is in doubt if he injured the garment officials did really is the secretary general as

avert any untoward incident. the toilet where they hid them-