Nat'l policy

elaborate the point on control over property and say anything specifically about inherited property.

Rasheda Choudhury said legal experts who will deal with the matter would have to consider the issue not only for Muslim women but also those of other religions.

Also aimed at ensuring women's security at national, social and family levels, and empowerment in political, social and economic sectors, the policy advocates ensuring women's participation in bodies to be formed to formulate new laws and amend the existing ones.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed formally unveiled the policy on Saturday while addressing a function marking the International Women's Day.

Asked about the timeframe for implementation of the policy, Rasheda Choudhury said, "It is not said there in the policy. There have been confusions regarding the policy for a long time and we have tried to remove them.

"There are some short-term steps, some mid-term and some long-term ones. We will immediately initiate the short-term steps while the next governments will have to take strong mechanism to implement the long-term policies," shesaid.

A clause on ensuring women's active and equal participation in all economic activities says women should be given equal opportunity to property, employment, market and business.

To achieve the goal of women's economic empowerment, necessary laws should be enacted to ensure equal opportunity to health, education, training, vocational training, information, income opportunity, property, debt, technology and market management and control over moveable and immovable property earned through market management, according to a related clause.

Besides suggesting one-third representation of women in parliament and direct election to those seats for women's political empowerment, the policy suggests increasing the number of the reserved seats to ensure women's increased participation in parliament.

"Increasing the number of reserved seats and direct voting is already under consideration of the government," reads the policy, which also advocates steps to increase reserved seats in all tiers of

the local government system. It suggests that the political parties should encourage more women to join active politics to pave the way for participation of more and more women in national and local body elections. It also suggests making women aware of their

voting rights. appointment of adequate number of women, if necessary, under related sections of the constitution to the highest level of the cabinet division and the policy-making level of the administration.

The policy advocates establishment of women's human rights, their salvation from the vicious circle of poverty, elimination of discrimination against girls, ensuring adequate nutrition for them and providing enough support to help bloom their aptitudes and talents.

It suggests equal participation of women in every national economic activity beside their male counterparts and proper reflection of women's household works in national statistics.

The policy also advocates constitutional provisions, if necessary, for appointing women in policymaking bodies in the administration, especially at the highest cabinet level.

There should be effective measures so that women can be appointed in foreign missions, universities, the University Grants Commission, the planning ministry and higher positions in the judi-

Stressing the need for addressing matters related to women's health, nutrition, environment and participation in the mass media, the policy suggests that special attention should be paid to the unfortunate

woman victims of circumstances. It also suggests that the government make coordinated efforts at he national, district and grassroots

evels and work with national and

Dr Kamal

FROM PAGE 1 He said it has been proved that a stable democracy and sustainable development of our country can be ensured by transfer of power to a government elected through a free and fair election, and through accountability and transparency of

the government. Separation and independence of the judiciary from the executive would become helpful and meaningful for ensuring the rule of law after sufficient number of courts is set up and judges are appointed in

a transparent way. He also expressed solidarity with the demand for setting up branches of High Court at divisional headquarters, saying it would save justice seeking people's

Barisal Bar Association President Abdul Mannan Akon presided over the meeting. Local lawyers also took part in the discussion.

international non-government

organisations to implement it. Asked about the discriminatory laws, Rasheda Choudhury referred to the Citizen's Act that has several rules that discriminate against women who marry foreigners.

"There were also discriminations against women in case of distribution of khas land," she

Ain O Salish Kendra Executive Director Advocate Sultana Kamal said nothing has been mentioned clearly about three issues related to women's rights--full ratification of CEDAW, uniform family code and equal right to inherent property.

She said as per the constitution and civil laws, all men and women are entitled to have equal rights, but in practice there are a lot of discriminations, which could be reduced greatly by having these three issues in place.

Sultana Kamal, also a former adviser to a caretaker government said the issues of private or personal matters are said to be dealt by family laws that are actually influenced by

religions. "Women in different religions get different shares of propertiesequal in some religions and less in others. Our demand was to formulate a uniform family code giving women equal rights. The issue was not made clear in the policy," she told The Daily Star.

Women's movement leader Maleka Begum, who was involved in preparing the Women Development Policy 1997, said the newly declared policy does not say anything about the formation of a national women commission proposed for implementing the policy.

She said besides family laws there are many other laws like the citizenship law, guardianship law and the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act that have discriminatory clauses.

Although female workers, especially those in the garment sector, play a very vital role in the country's economy, they are not given due salaries, promotion and maternity leave and are treated in discriminating ways at workplace, she said.

The policy suggests raising allocation for women in the national budget to meet all their needs including food, clothes, housing, treatment and educa-

The first women development policy adopted in 1997 had advocated direct voting to the reserved seats in parliament and equal opportunity and share to property,

employment, market and business. But the BNP-led coalition government made some amendments

to the policy in 2004. After expiry of the tenure of the coalition government, women and The policy also suggests rights organisations demanded reinstating the provision of direct election to the reserved seats and protested insertion of "constitutional rights" in place of "equal rights" in the policy.

Emon

FROM PAGE 16

Babul stabbed him (Emon) during a fight in Hazaribagh as he refused to let Babul have his motorbike, Emon said adding that he killed Babul in 1993 in Dhanmondi, year after the brawl.

A few days later, Babul's friend Rafiq and his gang shot dead Sumon, the younger brother of Emon, in reprisal, he said.

The CID (Criminal Investigation Department) formed a sevenmember team yesterday for interrogating him and Ishaq Ali, another criminal deported from India along with him on Friday.

The others who fell victim to Emon's wrath are Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Ashru in 2002, Titu in 1993 in Khilkhet, Himel of Mohammadpur, Freedom Party leader Mohiuddin, Awlad Hossain at Rayerbazar and Faridpur BNP leader Liakat Hossain at a community centre at Dhanmondi,

Besides, members of his gang shot dead film actor Sohel Chowdhury at a Gulshan bar in 1998, although he was not present there at the time, Emon said.

"He has almost willingly admitted to us of having connections in seven killings in the city," said a CID official wishing not to be

The top listed criminal also said that his main income was from extortion in different parts of the city, particularly from Hazaribagh, Dhanmondi and Elephant Road areas. His accomplices used to send him the extorted money to

India through hundi, he added. Emon said that he had carried out the criminal activities, including extortion, in close cooperation with Monir Hussain, younger brother of former BNP lawmaker

Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu. He earlier admitted that it was Pintu who had introduced him to the underworld of Dhaka.

Meanwhile, Ishaq told the law enforcers that he turned an informant of the Kolkata police to avoid | lion. arrest and used to supply them information about Indian criminals hiding in Bangladesh.

police arrested infamous criminal Dakat Shahid, also a close associate of Ishaq, from Puri.

FROM PAGE 16 natural biodiversity, the government in a gazette notification declared St Martin's an ECA on April 19, 1999.

As part of establishing a marine park there, the government on July 29 issued another gazette notification prohibiting activities destructive to the flora and fauna of the island.

Extraction of coral, seashell and conch, cutting trees and building structures were also restricted in the gazette.

The government later undertook a project to conserve the biodiversity, establish a marine park and develop ecotourism facilities on the island. The project expired in June last year and since then no government agency is taking care of the island's ecology.

"The government is planning to extend the project for another five years," said one of the former

The hotels and restaurants are being operated on the island without official approval and they are contributing to destroying ecology over the years.

turning a blind eye to the situation. As many as 33 privately owned hotels and restaurants are currently doing business on St Martin's, a 3.34-square-kilometre island with only 5,000 inhabitants and another 1,000 illegal Rohingyas.

Most of these businesses were soon after the government decided to establish a marine park there.

Martin's every year for its crystal clear blue seawaters, scenic beauty, corals, shells, conch and giant crabs. According to Saint Martin's Hotel Owners' Association sources, no less than 60,000 tourists visited the island last year. Every year the

Janakantha editor

number of tourists is increasing.

FROM PAGE 1

Later, the name of Rajuk employee Abdul Latif was dropped from the charge sheet.

The Janakantha editor has been accused in seven other cases including three for building design fraud. He was jailed for seven years on March 6 on charges of fraud in another case.

The joint forces arrested Masud on March 7, 2007 at Janakantha building in the capital's Eskaton. He has been in custody since then. Asaduzzaman, who is on the

run, was tried in absentia. According to case statement Masud submitted the design of a 10-storey building to Rajuk for approval on March 6, 2000. Rajuk gave approval for constructing a

six-storey building on Mirpur road Later, Rajuk officials SM Asaduzzaman and Abdul Latif prepared fake documents stating that Rajuk had given approval for constructing 10-storey building.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Abul Kashem submitted the charge sheet to the court.

CEC

FROM PAGE 1

had already announced holding of expired city corporation and municipality polls.

"Discussions with the political parties were held and they have no objection in this regard. They might have reservations about holding of the upazila polls. But the Election Commission has not yet taken any decision on the upazila elections. The government did not send any letter in this regard. We'll consider it after getting letter from the government," he said.

He said discussions are being held about upazila elections in May. The commission will take decision whether to hold national and upazila elections together or separately after getting letter from

the government, he added. The CEC said the commission has been reviewing the electoral reform proposals. It will be finalised after holding dialogue with the BNP. Election commissioners Sohul

Hossain and Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain and secretary of the Election Commission secretar iat Humayun Kabir were present.

Biman

FROM PAGE 1 Biman will have to pay \$5,300 to Kabo Air Ltd for per block hour (every flying hour from take-off to

landing)," a Biman official said. "We have sought overfly per mission from Chad, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen and India as the leased aircraft will have to use the skies of those countries to land at ZIA," the Biman official said adding that rest of the formalities is already completed.

Set up in February 1980, Kabo Air Ltd started operations in April 1981, shows its profile.

Biman currently owns three types of aircraft -- four DC10-30s four F28s, and three A310-300s. Of those, only four or five can fly

every day, while the rest are grounded due to technical glitches. Earlier on July 2007, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd purchased an Airbus A-310 from US-based Crane International at \$12.4 mil-

The 220-seater, now considered to be the backbone of the Biman fleet, was earlier leased to Biman Based on his reports, the Indian on October 22, 2003 for four years. Biman had to pay Crane International \$0.25 million a month for the aircraft at that time.

St Martin's Island | Hasina stands in dock

FROM PAGE 1 yet complete examining the evi-

dence. The judge said last time the hearing was deferred on condition that it would not be repeated since there is a deadline to complete the trial.

Regarding her health, the court said if she was not feeling well she might leave, but the hearing must begin and go on. The prosecution said the pro-

ceedings must begin as they have the charges. In their submissions, they said Hasina awarded Wartsila Power

Development Ltd the contract for 24. setting up a 100-MW bargemounted power plant in Khulna for a bribe of Tk 3 crore. In doing so, she and the other accused deprived the lowest bidder New England Power Company (NEPC). According to the prosecution,

her co-accused former energy secretary Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and the then Power Development Board chairman Nur Uddin Mahmud Kamal prokered the deal with Wartsila. The kickbacks were paid

between October 24, 1996 and November 24, 1997 through eight pay orders of American Express, Standard Chartered, Arab-Bangladesh, and ANZ Grindlays On October 8, 1997, Hasina,

then the prime minister, bought a two-storey building on a 19-katha land on Dhanmondi Road No. 32 in the name of Bangabandhu Memorial Trust (BMT).

Summit Group and United Group--the local partners of

Wartsila, paid the land owner Tl 1.45 crore on October 7 and Tk 55

FROM PAGE 16

constitution.

FROM PAGE 16

Powers Act violates the basic rights

of the people guaranteed by the

They lauded the government

move to reform the age-old police

law and called for making the

police force friendly to the people.

Rajshahi poultry

since it was the first case in the

country where the patient was

from an infected farm, we gave it

The specimens were then sent

to the virology department of

ICDDR,B for real-time polymerase

chain reaction (RT-PCR) test and

the results were negative for H5

Paschimpara in the city, had been

taken to RMCH on March 5 and

quarantined the next day on

suspicion of being infected with

the RMCH influenza surveillance

informed the IEDCR of the mat-

On February 20, some 100

chickens of his farm died and he

buried those without taking any

protective measures. Two days

later, the district livestock depart-

ment confirmed the presence of

bird flu virus at the farm and

deputy commissioner and sent its

copies to the chief adviser, army

chief and some other government

demand including a judicial probe

into the fraudulent activities by

some suddenly sprouted NGOs

which have vanished with around

immediate arrest and punishment

to swindler NGO owners and those

among local administration and

people's representatives who

assisted them, and arrangements

The victims from greater

for returning the swindled money.

Rajshahi districts started gathering

in front of the Sadar upazila nirbahi

officer's office in the morning. As

the police dispersed them several

times due to the state of emer-

DC office at around 12 noon.

field and held a rally.

the fraud NGOs.

Musharraf.

still silent on the issue.

gency, they marched towards the

A group of seven of the victims

entered the DC office to submit

their memorandum. The protest-

ers later marched to Natore helipad

police as well as administrative

officials and people's representa-

tives assisted the fraud NGOs to

they had taken loans to invest with

roaming around for the last several

days but the local administration is

Pak parties agree

He denied accusations that he was

delaying calling the new parliament,

and said Friday the new assemblies

personal against the embattled

agenda ... We are hoping that every-

body will work together in harmony

in strenghthening democracy," he

But Sharif, a former prime minis

"I don't think we have recognised

ter, said they considered him to be an

Musharraf's existence, we consider

him unconstitutional and illegal

president and would not like our

sacrifices that we made during last

eight years to go down the drain,'

said Sharif, who was ousted when

Musharraf seized power in a blood

Sharif and his party have been

However Bhutto's PPP, which is

Meanwhile police fired teargas at

Lawyers are observing a "black

outspoken in their calls for him to

more moderate than Sharif's party

has said it has no immediate plans to

supporters of Chaudhry protesting

outside his residence in Islamabad,

flag week" to press for the reinstate-

ment of Chauhdry and other judges

whom Musharraf sacked on

Khulna mayor

Moshiuzzaman, Kamrul Islam and

of Jaipur village in Khulna filed a

first information report (FIR) with

Khulna Police Station against the

KCC mayor and seven others on

submitted charge sheet to the

Businessman Ali Abdullah Elin

unconstitutional president.

less coup in 1999.

seek his removal.

witnesses said.

November 3.

FROM PAGE 16

Bulu -- are on the run.

Zardari said they had nothing

"We don't believe in personal

would be convened within 10 days.

They alleged they have been

The speakers said a number of

They also demanded financial

Their other demands include

The victims made a six-point

NGO victims

culled 600 chickens.

FROM PAGE 16

high-ups.

Tk 500 crore.

The surveillance physician of

the avian influenza H5N1 virus.

a top priority," he said.

cution said. Hasina approved the project summary on October 11.

lakh the following day, the prose

A power purchase and implementation agreement was signed between Khulna Power Company Limited (KPCL) and PDB on October 16 the same year, the prosecution said.

Wartsila had the United Group enough evidence in hand to prove and Summit Group in forming the KPCL.

The owner of the land was paid another Tk 1 crore on November

THECASE

ACC Deputy Director Sabbir Hasan lodged the case with Tejgaon Police Station on September 2 last year, accusing Hasina and six others of abusing power to help a foreign company and its local partners win the deal for setting up a barge-mounted power plant.

Former energy secretary Dr Toufig-e-Elahi Chowdhury, for mer PDB chairman Noor Uddin Mahmud Kamal, Managing Director of Summit Industries and Mercantile Corporation Private Ltd Aziz Khan, its Director Farid Khan, United Group Chairman Hasan Mahmud Raja, and its Director Abul Kalam Azad are the other accused.

Morshed Alam, deputy director of the ACC, submitted charge sheet on January 10, including BMT Curator Siddiqur Rahman as another accused.

Saifur rejects

FROM PAGE 1

The BNP standing committee at the meeting on October 29 decided to appoint Saifur as the acting chairman and Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed as the acting secretary general of the party.

"They [Hannan Shah and the pro-Khaleda faction] say that decisions regarding reforms would be taken at the council of the party, but we all know what happens at the councils," he said adding that Chhatra Dal, Jubo Dal and Mohila Dal always mount pressure during the councils so that the party followers cannot speak their mind.

"We don't need such a council where it will be decided that the chairperson will take all the deci-

sions," said Saifur. Asked whether he would take any decision to unify the party, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, the December 26 as per its tender Khaleda-appointed secretary general of the party, several times over phone, but they [the pro-Khaleda faction] were not willing to sit for a discussion to resolve

the issues. over the past few weeks and discussed unification, but he has sent me a letter asking to cancel the October 29 meeting," Saifur

According to party leaders, the pro-Khaleda faction leaders had prepared the draft proposal for the reconciliation of the two factions following discussions with pro-Saifur leaders. The draft proposal was then placed before Khaleda Zia, the chairperson of

the party, through her lawyers. Khaleda did not approve the proposal and sent it back, asking the organisers of the proposal to include the issue of the October

29 meeting in it.

According to party insiders, the draft proposal did not mention anything about the October 29 meeting and it proposed that the previous committee that was formed through a council would

run the party. Following Khaleda Zia's advice on the proposal, Hannan Shah, an active leader of the pro-Khaleda faction and an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, sent the letter to Saifur, urging the pro-Saifur faction to cancel the decisions made at the October 29 meeting of the BNP standing committee.

Rupali sale deal

FROM PAGE 1 served a legal notice on the Saudi prince in December 2007, asking Saifur said he had spoken with him to deposit \$458 million within participation rules for taking over

Rupali Bank. But the prince did not reply to

the commission. The commission in a letter had earlier informed the chief adviser "I even talked to Hannan Shah that after the two-week period of the notice the prince will be liable to forfeit \$100,000 in security

The commission wasted over Th 17 crore of public money violating privatisation regulations in the process of making the now uncer-

The government had earlier decided to privatise Rupali Bank as part of the financial reforms and

banking sector modernisation. The commission had also invited bids from seven selected organisations listed through scrutiny from among those inter ested, both from home and abroad

MPs' influence

FROM PAGE 1

tions and some are in favour of holding the upazila elections in segments. The decision has not been made yet," the CEC told reporter at the EC Secretariat. The EC in its electoral roadmap announced on July 15 last year said

the long overdue elections to upazila parishads will be held between November and December this year. likely to discuss ways to ensure environment conducive to holding polls to four city corporations and

seven municipalities at the end of April or early May, sources said. The EC had earlier asked the caretaker government to create the environment for holding polls to city corporations and municipalities either by lifting or relaxing the state of emergency in the areas. AMENDMENTTO

UPAZILA PARISHAD ACT The council of advisers on January 27 this year approved a proposition

Section 25 of the current law Parishad Act, 1998. However, elecempowers lawmakers to become

advisers to upazila parishads bind ing it to accept their suggestions.

approved a proposal for empowering the EC again with the authority to announce election schedules for upazila parishads, moving the authority back to the commission from the government.

In the wake of a long-standing demand for repealing the authorities of lawmakers over local government institutions, the caretaker government made the decision in a bid to strengthen the local government system, making it free of interference from the central government. The first election to upazila

parishads was held in 1985 after its introduction in the local government system during the regime of HM Ershad. The very existence of upazila parishads was threatened after the second election in 1990, when Ershad stepped down in the face of a mass movement.

1991 and dissolved the upazila system. The Supreme Court in a judgment in 1992 directed the government to hold elections to upazila parishads within six months. But the BNP government did not hold the polls during its

court on December 24 last year. Assuming power in 1996, Awami League passed the Upazila tions were not held.

Make 'crossfire'

Procedure Code (CrPC). They said detention under the Special

Association at Sonamasjid Land Port Kabirur Rahman told our correspondent that they urge the government to immediately embark on a negotiation with the Indian government to bring a resolution to the crisis.

of Tk 1,050 to Tk 1,070.

for Tk 1,070 to Tk 1,080 a maund 1,040 to Tk 1,050. Ashraf Hossain, a poultry farmer of Terokhadia

> price of Tk 1,500 to Tk 1,550 on wholesale markets, traders said.

earlier price of Tk 1,080 to Tk 1,160. Retail prices of coarse varieties in the capital yesterday ranged between Tk 30 and Tk 32 a kilogram (kg) compared to their previous range of Tk 29 to Tk 31 while the retail prices of finer varieties ranged

Tk 43, market operators said. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday about the fresh price hike of rice on local markets, General Secretary of Badamtoli and Babu Bazar Wholesale Rice Traders' Association Nizam Uddin said the prices went up mainly due to a decline in domestic

"A decline in prices of rice on local markets is dependent largely on the government's decision and on the supply chain from India," Nizam

Petrapole, resulting in the price hike of rice both on wholesale and retail

to the emergence of a fresh uncertainty in rice import from India.

reschedule the prices of edible oil. Hoarding of soybean oil on Saturday was so bad that the commodity was not at all available on any market in the city until yesterday, despite adequate supply of it. Meanwhile, the essential commodity had been sold in a secretive fashion at different markets in the city for astronomical prices on Saturday, the effect of which was still haunting the

FROM PAGE 16

saying. Abdullah added he would be

the National Front had secured a simple majority in the 222-member

the first time since 1969 and slumping from its 2004 landslide victory when it won 91 percent of the seats.

coalition and the country. "The prime minister has a full

Cabinet," Ahmad Zahid told The Associated Press. "There is no one person to blame for what happened We all are taking the collective responsibility.

for the boss," said Abdullah's spokeswoman, Wan Esuriyanti Wan Senior government lawmaker Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said the National Front faced "a period of

experienced before." "This is a historic crisis," he said. "To begin immediately the process of restoring ourselves, the leadership team must wake from its slumber, face the truth and accept full respon-

Simultaneous ballots for 12 state legislatures culminated in the National Front losing control of the assembly in northern Penang, the only state where ethnic Chinese are a majority. It also lost control of Selangor, Kedah and Perak states for the first time, and failed to wrest Kelantan state back from the opposi-

unprecedented in our nation's history," said opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim. "The people have voted decisively for a new era where the government must be truly inclusive and recognize that all Malaysians, regardless of race and color, culture and religion, are a nation of one."

Rice, edible oil prices

FROM PAGE 1 were stranded on the Indian side of the border at Hili port while according to another report no rice-laden truck could enter Bangladesh yesterday through Bhomra port in Satkhira

President of Exporters Importers Market sources in the capital said

of swarna rice was selling for Tk 1,080 to Tk 1,100 a maund yesterday compared to the variety's previous price On wholesale markets guti, a coarse variety of rice, was being sold

on wholesale markets Indian variety

compared to its previous price of Tk A finer variety of miniket was selling for Tk 1,580 to Tk 1,600 a maund compared to its previous

The traders also said paari was selling for Tk 1,100 to Tk 1,180 a maund yesterday compared to its

between Tk 40 and Tk 45 a kg compared to their earlier range of Tk 38 to

supply and in supply from India.

He said more than 1,000 riceladen trucks were stranded at

Some shoppers complained that some unscrupulous traders are stockpiling sacks of rice speculating further price hikes of the staple due

Meanwhile, prices of edible oil also shot up abnormally in the city due to hoarding by a section of large scale traders, based on speculation that the prices of the commodity would go up again as yesterday was the deadline for the government to

consumers yesterday.

Soybean oil was selling for Tk 114 to 1k117 a kg yesterday on wholesale markets compared to its prices of Tk

Badawi rejects

sworn in on Monday at the national palace for a new five-year term. Abdullah kept away from the public eye following a brief news conference at which he confirmed

Parliament. The National Front won only 140 seats or 63 percent of the constituencies losing its two-thirds majority for

Coalition leaders were huddled in meetings Sunday to contemplate their next step, but they sought to show a united stance. Deputy Information Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said "there is no doubt or question at all in the top ranks" that Abdullah should continue to lead the

mandate. He will appoint a new

Dozens of National Front officials gathered at Abdullah's official residence in the administrative capital, Putrajaya, to "express their support

uncertainty such as we have never

sibility for this debacle.' tion.

"This is a defining moment,

107 to Tk 108 prior to the ultra hoarding of it on Saturday, while super palm and palm oil were being sold for TK 105 to Tk 107 a kg compared to

Retail price of soybean oil was Tk 120 to Tk 130 a kg yesterday com-

pared to its pre-Saturday price of Tk 108 to Tk115, traders said. Retail prices of super palm and palm oil were Tk 110 to Tk 112 a kg yesterday compared to their previ-

traders said. A section of small traders in the city's Moulvi Bazar said prices of edible oil registered a fresh hike on local markets due to hoarding of the essential commodity by a section of big traders and oil mill owners on speculation that the prices would be set higher by the government yester-

day regarding edible oil prices. fixed maximum retail prices of soybean oil at Tk 106.50 a kg and of palm oilatTk98.50akg.

Talking to The Daily Star, President of Bangladesh Edible Oil Refiners' Association MA Rouf Chowdhury said the prices went up despite a good supply because of a price hike on the international mar-

"Price hike of petroleum oil on the international market affected the prices of edible oil both on domestic and international markets, because production and transportation cost

more than 1 lakh tons of edible oil is scheduled to reach Bangladesh this month and the current stock is also at a safe level. "It might be partially true that prices of edible oil went up on local markets following speculation that

Palm Oil Council Fakhrul Alam said

Democrats criticise Bush's CIA-bill veto

AP, Washington

Democrats and human rights advocates criticized President Bush's veto of a bill that would have banned the CIA from using simulated drowning and other coercive interrogation methods to gain information from suspected ter-

critics likened some methods to torture and said they sullied America's reputation around the "This president had the chance to end the torture debate for good, yet he chose instead to leave the door open to use torture in the

member of the Senate Intelligence Committee. She said Bush ignored the advice of 43 retired generals and admirals and 18 national security experts, including former secretar-

ies of state and national security

"Torture is a black mark against the United States," she said. The bill would have limited the CIA to 19 interrogation techniques that are used by the military and spelled out in the Army Field Manual. Bush said he vetoed the measure because it is important for the CIA to have a separate and classified interrogation program

for suspected terrorists who pos-

FROM PAGE 1 vesterday recommended forming a medical board with all seven per-

ined her in the last few days.

some comprehensive recommendations for the jail authorities," Dr Millat told The Daily Star. The prisons authorities however do not seem much interested in

forming a board, said sources.

"We who have been seeing her

lately want to sit together to make

night, "We are considering getting her admitted to a hospital as recommended earlier by four doctors." Queried if they would set up a medical board, he said, "The doctors have told me they want to sit

About the possibility of sending Hasina abroad, the DIG prisons said they have nothing to do in this regard.

together, but we have yet to decide on

admitted to a hospital and only then things will come out through examit nations, "he observed. Prof Modasser Ali said Hasina's overall physical condition at this moment does not require her to be hospitalised. Dr Millat suggests that

Chakravarty--examined her condition and recommended that she should be hospitalised. Home Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin on March 4 told reporters, "If necessary, we will form a high-

powered medical board and take measures in line with its recommen-He added, "Even we will send her

abroad if the board recommends so."

time and cost.

project directors.

The government is however

launched in the last eight years Thousands of tourists visit the St

disappear with public money. relief for one year for paying off debts to other NGOs from where

money paid to it.

tain deal of Rupali Bank sale to the

upazila parishads when the government so suggests. "Some are saying that it can be held along with the national elec-

Today the council of advisers is

for amending the current Upazila Parishad Act, 1998 repealing a provision that allows local representatives to the parliament to interfere in the activities of upazila parishads.

The cabinet at that meeting also

November 3 last year. He said Tayebur and seven others received Taka 4.5 lakh from The BNP assumed power in him promising to provide his nephews Nurul Huda and Jahangir with jobs in the city corporation. But the mayor neither gave them job nor returned the money. Sub-inspector Tipu Sultan o Khulna Police Station, also the investigation officer of the case,

> Tayebur, who was arrested at his Dhaka residence on November 2 night last year, was accused in nine extortion cases.

their previous prices of Tk 104 to Tk

ous prices of Tk 107 to Tk 108, the

day. But there was no new announcement from the government yester-On February 25, the government

had gone up," Rouf Chowdhury said. Country Manager of Malaysian

higher prices would be set by the government despite adequate supply," he added.

rorists. Bush said such tactics have helped foil terrorist plots. His

future," said Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, a

advisers, who supported the bill.

sess critical information about possible plots against the United

Hasina sonal physicians who have exam-

prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddigui told The Daily Star last

Deputy Inspector General (DIG-

"At first, she would have to be

she should be sent to the US within a couple of days. Earlier, four of the AL chief's personal physicians--Prof MU Kabir Chowdhury, Dr ABM Abdullah, Dr Shaila Khatun and Dr Baren

dations.