tions and mentions that the voices

demanding rights which were heard

most inconsistently in 2007 are those

the government has brought itself

out of the purview of judicial scrutiny

by Emergency Power Ordinance,

enabling the government further to

take suspects in unlimited detention

On the emergency state, it says

of the elite.

the right to seek bail.

ened or vulnerable."

DisabilityWelfareAct.

FROM PAGE 1

threat of application of EPR.

whenever the state has felt threat-

urgent recommendation including

necessary steps for withdrawal of

emergency and full restoration of

rights, steps to initiate investigation

and prosecution of war criminals,

and ensure through public consulta-

tion the enactments of laws on the

right to information, on remedies for

domestic violence as well as amend-

ment of the Citizenship Act and the

would also negatively affect the

Although the country needs

budget's revenue and expenditure.

donor support to pay for the pro-

jected \$4 billion to protect the coastal

belt from future climate change

effects, any "multi-donor fund

would have to work out the govern-

Raja Devasish Roy, special assis-

tant on environment and forests,

echoed the sentiments of the two

advisers, adding that any climate-

change fund for Bangladesh requires

clear government oversight man

support for climate change in

Bangladesh is one of their top priori

ing a "multi-donor trust fund" for

Development Bank along with the

heads of missions and representa

tives from the US, Britain, Japan, the

Netherlands and Denmark gave

assurance of support in a panel

Bangladesh will not go under

water...We're here to assure the

financing to contribute to address

the climate change," Dutch

Ambassador to Bangladesh Bea Ter

Anwar Choudhury said to "charac-

passive bystander in a sequence of

inevitable events, would be gross and

and, indeed, responsibility for lead-

ership in international institutions

and partnership with the UK and

how to "adapt to climate change"

and help demonstrate the urgency of

the issue by showing that climate

change is not just a "rich country

Bangladesh, said as the intensity of

climate change increases the pace of

Chris Austin, DFID head in

concern", Choudhury added.

response must also rise.

Bangladesh can lead the world on

He said, "It would deny their role

British High Commissioner

Tusscher told the conference.

unhelpful misjudgement".

"We want to assure that

The World Bank and Asian

ties and that they are currently mull

long-term assistance.

discussion.

Donors told the audience that

ment-donor relations, he added.

ASK also made a nine-point

New Pak PM sworn in by Musharraf

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's new prime minister was sworn in by President Pervez Musharraf yesterday as two senior US envoys arrived for talks aimed at shoring up Islamabad's role in the war on terror."

Parliament picked Yousuf Raza Gilani, a key aide of slain opposition. icon Benazir Bhutto, as premier on Monday and he will lead a coalition of Musharraf's opponents who won general elections last month.

The volatile situation facing Musharraf, a vital US ally against al-Qaeda and the Taliban, was underscored when Gilani Monday freed judges whom the president detained because they threatened 1971. his grip on power.

Supporters chanted "Long Live Bhutto" after Gilani, who spent five years in jail under Musharraf's regime, repeated the oath read out by the grim-faced president in a ceremony at the presidential palace. In a snub to Musharraf, key

coalition leaders including Bhutto's widower Asif Ali Zardari, her son Bilawal and former premier Nawaz Sharif stayed away from the swear-

Musharraf told state television after the ceremony that he would "always extend my fullest cooperation" to Gilani, saying the country faced a "difficult period" from Islamic militancy.

Gilani, standing at his side, called on all political forces to work together "in unity" for the good of

After the ceremony US President George W. Bush telephoned Gilani to congratulate him on assuming office, a Pakistani official said.

Analysts say the US is desperate to woo the new government despite its hostility to Musharraf, fearing that political instability in the nuclear-armed nation will hurt efforts to tackle Islamic militancy.

US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher held talks with Musharraf for 90 minutes, but they also met Sharif and were due to visit Gilani, officials

Washington has propped up Musharraf, a former general who seized power in a coup in 1999, ever since he supported the US-led invasion of Afghanistan following

Saudi plane FROM PAGE 16

to Dhaka to investigate the incident, he added.

Sources at the ZIA said engine number 3 on the right side of the aircraft caught fire as it was landing at around 2:27 pm.

The pilot of the aircraft however landed the aircraft safely near south taxiway and at the same time informed the ZIA control tower of the fire. The pilot then opened the emergency exit doors for passenger

to the landed aircraft, extinguished the fire swiftly and helped the passengers evacuate the plane. The aircraft has been moved

from the south taxiway to cargo hanger area of the airport.

A security official of ZIA said the accident could have been worse if the engine fire spread to the fuel reservoirs of the aircraft.

Practices 2007" on Bangladesh also

said security forces including

Bangladesh Rifles, military and Rab

committed numerous extra-judicial

killings while the government did not

take any action or initiate any public

that there was a significant decrease

in the number of such extra-judicial

Mahmood Khandkar also said inci-

dents of crossfire came down signifi-

cantly as law and order has been

human rights training workshop for

its officers in cooperation with the

British High Commission in Dhaka

to make them more aware of human

make the force three-dimensional by

expanding its operational capacity

by introducing two helicopters and

several vessels for waterways. Rab

officials said they will also add new

around 200 of them either lost their

2004 through participating in the

Independence Day parade and

started its formal operation of ensur-

ing security for the Pahela Baishakh

They conducted a raid that day to

celebration on April 14 that year.

The Rab emerged on March 26,

jobs or suffered jail.

The report, however, observed

Rab Director General Hassan

Recently the Rab organised a

The Rab authority is planning to

measure to investigate the cases.

killings by security personnel.

under control since January 11.

FROM PAGE 16

the 9/11 attacks on the United

Musharraf's position weakened when he quit as army chief in November and he has become increasingly isolated.

Sharif said he told Negroponte that the government would review Musharraf's cooperation with the United States, saying he wanted to curb militancy but that he did not want the country to become a

Remembering

FROM PAGE 1 exactly midnight to remember those who died on the night of March 25,

Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF), a platform of those who led the war against the Pakistan forces in 11 sectors, and Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the programme, first of its kind since independence.

Later, Nirmul Committee brought out a torch procession that marched to Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University.

as symbolic of journey towards a bright and prosperous future from

that the freedom fighters would chant during the war to summon courage echoed through the campus as marchers demanded immediate trial of the war criminals.

Deputy Chief of the liberation forces air vice-marshal (retd) AK Khandker, former army chief Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah, Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta, Maj Gen (retd) Mir Shawkat Ali, Lt Gen (retd) Harun-ar-Rashid, Lt Col (retd) ANM Nuruzzaman, Shahriar Kabir, Prof Anwar Hossain, among others attended the programme.

Meanwhile, University o Development Alternative organised a cultural function in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to mark the day. Paintings protesting brutalities of the Pakistan army and their collaborators adorned the Manik Mia Avenue as people gathered to attend the programme.

CA-led

package for next April to June The meeting emphasised further

expansion of operation of the Open Market Sale of rice. It was informed that allocation of pice under OMS has been tripled until March from 22, it had 1.16 crore more listed as about 14,308 MT in January. "The expansion of allocation will continue," the meeting observed.

It also discussed continuation and expansion of VGF and VGD progarmmes for making food available to the hardcore poor.

commission at Tk 1.5 per-kg rice instead of Tk 1 per kg presently.

Per-family allocation of rice has also been increased to 5 kilograms (kg) from 4kg.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary

EXTORTION CASES

11 Jamaat, Shibir men sent to jail on surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Crg

Eleven leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami Satkania upazila unit and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir accused in two extortion cases surrendered to a court here yesterday.

Additional Chief Judicial and District Magistrate Abdullah Al Mamun rejected their bail prayers and sent them to jail.

Former Jamaat lawmaker Shahjahan Chowdhury and upazila Jamaat chief Dr Nurul Hoque are also accused in the extortion cases. Both are now in

Those surrendered to the court are Satkania Jamaat General Secretary and Chairman of Kachana Union Parishad Muzaffar Ahmed, upazila Jamaat leader and Alam, Shibir activists Afsar, Nesar Ahmad, Nejam, Osman, Zafar Ahmad, Nesar, Ahmad Mia, Nurul Alam and Abu Musa.

Two local traders--Nur Admad and Jamaluddin--filed two separate extortion cases with Satkhania Police Station accusing 40 Jamaat and Shibir men on May 14, 2007

Nur Ahmed filed a TK 1 lakh extortion case against 20 leaders and activists of Jamaat and Shibir Satkania units while Jamaluddin filed a Tk 3 lakh extortion case against 20 other Jamaat and Shibir leaders.

Sub-Inspector Niyamatul Karim of Satkania Police Station, also the investigation officer of the cases submitted the charge sheets to the court accusing 36 Jamaat and Shibir men in the two cases on March 12 this year.

5.16cr registered FROM PAGE 16

crore voters is projected to be completed on March 26.

However, the number has exceeded the 5 crore mark much before that because of faster pace of enumeration in the last couple of months.

The EC reached halfway to voter listing on February 27 by having four crore people on the roll. Then between February 28 and March voters with the assistance of the armed forces.

Officials engaged in enumeration say if things go according to plan, voter registration will defi nitely be over by June and the final voter roll with photographs ready by early October, the deadline set in the electoral roadmap.

The commission in association with the army undertook the work of preparing a national voter list with photographs last year under a UNDP project. The overall cost has been estimated at Tk 424 crore with Tk 274 crore of it coming from donor agencies and development The field level task began in

August last year and got on full throttle in November.

Underground

FROM PAGE 1

In Germany, coal mine compa-

nies practise a cheap, simple yet intelligent method to recharge their sub-soil water reservoirs depleted because of mining. According to the German

hydrologists, water is pumped back to the underground reservoir using simple infiltration wells and The topsoil of the land that

grows trees retains water. As a result rainwater cannot recharge a depleting sub-soil water level. The topsoil also retains water from the rivers and ponds.

Beneath this level of soil is the sand and silt zone which easily absorbs water and send it to the water reservoir beneath.

The German infiltration wells designed by leading mining company RWE are dug like a traditional well through this topsoil, which may be typically 20-30 feet deep. Once the well hits the sand zone, it fills up the well with sand. When water is poured using pumps, the sand absorbs it instantly and sends

it to the sub-soil water reservoir. Such a well can pump in millions of cubic metres of water every

This method can also greatly

According to Dhaka Water tube wells of which Wasa owns 800-1,000.

The present highest sub-soil water level of Dhaka lies at a depth of 210 feet, which used to be less than 50 feet two decades ago,

The Bangladeshi topsoil--called Madhupur Clay Layer -- is 10-45 feet deep. Beneath it lies the sand and silt zone called Dupi Pila.

Infiltration wells can be dug at a very low cost and these could greatly speed up the water recharg-

HR records

FROM PAGE 16

The report in a cooperative analysis says rights appear to be violated in the pursuit of a law and order agenda and the prevention of corruption when it happened during the tenure of previous political governments to serve the interests of corrupt individuals or political parties or some other

Questions have been raised over neutrality of the military-backed caretaker government in relation to Islamist groups, as right wing religious groups have been able to stage street demonstrations on occasions with impunity.

On the other hand, garment workers and farmers were not allowed to voice protest and even were killed in the name of breaking Emergency Power Rules (EPR) when they went on streets protesting sudden shutdown of industries, nonpayment, and dearth of fertilisers, thereport mentions.

Besides criticising the state of emergency, the report titled "Contradictions and Continuities, Challenges and Concerns" also Madarsha UP Chairman Faridul | mentions the government went beyond the stated goal of restoring conditions conducive to holding free and fair elections by shutting 'unprofitable' jute mills that led to retrenchment of 50,000 workers.

The report also observes many state structures and practices from the past remain embedded in the system ensuring impunity for perpetrators of human rights violations, power abusers, preventing effective redress for violations.

It also says though received with greetings by civil society members and citizens against the backdrop of confrontational politics, popularity of the military-backed caretaker government ebbed over different issues including its role in handling university riot, food prices, poor performance of advisers and poor handling of cases against highprofile politicians.

The report reviews legislative and institutional development, which has impacted on human rights during the emergency state.

It particularly focuses on rights to life, liberty, freedom of expressions, fair trial, and rights of women, workers, religious minorities, indigenous people, prisoners and persons with disabilities. A summary of the report was

presented at a press briefing at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday to have more discussions on the points it focused on. The report has been prepared through ASK investigations and with the help of news reports and reports from other private organisa-

Under the subhead "Background", the report says four advisers resigned in mid-December in 2006 as they were unable to work terise Bangladesh as a victim, a mere towards a fair and free election due to political pressure under BNP-made President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed and also protested the president's unilateral decision to call military in aid of civil authority.

It adds that doubts, however, remain in force about the substance of some of the institutional changes brought namely in Anti-Corruption Commission, Election Commission and Public Service Commission whether they represent actual structure reforms or merely constitute changes in personnel. It also expresses concern over

militarisation of different institu-

The court also asked six other

Assistant Attorney General

accused in the case to appear

FROM PAGE 16

before it the same day.

Rice standoff

FROM PAGE 1

of rice with export bills signed after March 6 should be set at \$ 650 per tonne, said Petrapole Customs Division Deputy Commissioner Anwar Hossain.

At present, around 3,000 trucks loaded with rice are waiting to enter Bangladesh at Petrapole land port in India as Indian authorities on March 5 imposed restrictions on export of Indian rice at prices below \$ 650 per Meanwhile, a correspondent

with or without charge and without from Chapainawabganj reports: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) has offered Regarding control of the CG over in writing to purchase 600 tonnes of media the report mentions the rice from Panama Port Link Ltd that government has employed indirect imported the rice yesterday through modes of censorship by invoking the Sonamasjidland port. Our Correspondent from "At the same time daily talk shows

Dinajpur reports: The import of rice on private television channels, some through Hili land port could not of which are openly critical of the resume yesterday due to complicagovernment have proliferated. These tions in the tender documents. PRICEOFRICEINCREASED have been targeted for censorship

After being stable for the last two days, the price of rice in most retail markets in the capital increased by Tk I per kg. Retailers blamed price hike at the wholesale markets for the rising trend at retail markets.

The prices of different varieties of coarse rice were Tk 33 to Tk 36 a kg

The rising prices of essentials have been compelling the people from low and middle-income groups to queue up at open market sales (OMS) outlets and BDR fair price outlets.

(Our correspondents from Benapole, Chapainawabganj, Dinajpur and Satkhira contributed to this item)

Dhaka jail FROM PAGE 1

The punitive measures were taken against them for violating the jail code in various ways, including use of cellphones and ipod.

According to jail sources, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, political adviser to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, was moved to Bogra jail, former BNP lawmakers Mossaddak Ali Falu to Panchagarh jail, Salauddin Ahmed to Bandarban jail, Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu to Lalmonirhat jail and former Jamaate-Islami MP Abu Taher to Narsingdi

As a punitive measure, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury was moved several times before between Kashimpur, Sylhet and Narayanganj jails for violating the jail code. Meanwhile, former state minister

for home Lutfozzaman Babar, former Dhaka Club president Selim Bhuiyan and former Chittagong Port Chairman Sahadat Hossain were moved to prison cells from the cabins of BSMMU. Deputy Inspector General (DIG

Prisons) Mai Shamsul Haider Siddique yesterday told The Daily Star, "All the VIP inmates guilty of breaking the jail code have already been sent to different district jails from the Dhaka Central Jail and to prison cells from cabins." Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury,

Mossaddak Ali Falu, Salauddin Ahmed, Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Abu Taher were taken back to Dhaka Central Jail on Monday and Sunday from BSMMU prison cells after mobile phones, SIM cards and an ipod was seized from their posses

On Sunday, jail authorities seized the cellphone of a BSMMU doctor when Tarique Rahman, son of Khaleda Zia, was found using it in the prison cell of the hospital. On Monday, the jail authorities decided that the prisoners who violated the jail code will have their privilege of meeting their visitors restricted.

The DIG said the authorities are also verifying the necessity of some VIP prisoners' stay in the prison cells of the hospital.

They are also investigating the involvement of jail guards, police personnel and attendants in helping inmates break the jail code. The authorities have already

taken punitive actions against at least 15 high-profile prisoners for breaking the jail code, sources said. Among them, former ministers

air vice-marshal (retd) Altaf Hossain Choudhury and barrister Nazmul Huda, and former state minister Aman Ullah Aman were sent to Narayanganj jail. Former minister Mirza Abbas was sent back to Dhaka jail from Apollo Hospital for breaking the jail code, the sources said.

Mobile phones were also seized from the possession of former state minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir Sigma Huda, wife of Nazmul Huda, Sabera Aman, wife of Aman Ullah Aman, and Khusnud Lobi, wife of former lawmaker Ali Asghar Lobi.

The government has decided to install cellphone jammers at 67 prisons across the country.

Potato farmers

at Munshiganj deputy commissioner's office. Deputy Commissioner Monir Uddin presided over the meeting while Brigade Commander of 9th Infantry Division of Bangladesh Army Col Nasim Akter was the chief guest.

Col Nasim praised The Daily Star for publishing a report the day before about potato farmers being compelled to sell potatoes, a bumper harvest this year, at nominal prices after being unable to preserve the crop in cold storages due to unavailability of space at local cold storages.

A section of unscrupulous middlemen had deliberately rented huge spaces at cold storages long before the harvesting of A large number of people will potato, forcing the farmers to sell potatoes at lower prices, said the

report in The Daily Star. The price of potatoes decreased by more than 25 percent in the area in a month as the farmers have no other means to preserve their crop, the report mentioned.

BB notice on Dr Iqbal, Kaiser to cancel bank directorship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday served notices on Premier Bank Chairman Dr HBM Iqbal, Director Nawrin Iqbal and Chairman of The City Bank Limited Aziz-Al Kaiser, asking them to explain why their directorship in the two banks would not be cancelled

The show-cause notices came

as the trio have been sentenced to

jail terms for corruption and forgery. A convict cannot hold a post on abetting her father. the board of a bank. The BB notices asked them to Group chairman and former BNP reply within seven days, failing which the central bank would take

lakh as she was found guilty of Aziz Al-Kaiser, son of Partex

Earlier, former Awami League

lawmaker HBM Iqbal was given 10

years' rigorous imprisonment and

three years' simple imprisonment

on two counts in a graft case filed

for amassing huge wealth through

lakh and gave another one-year jail

director of Premier Bank, was also

jailed for three years and fined Tk 1

should he default on the fine.

The court also fined him Tk 50

Nawrin, Iqbal's daughter and a

illegal means.

lawmaker Hashem Khan, was jailed for seven years for forgery of land documents.

Echoes of freedom

FROM PAGE 1

action as per the law.

However, it all came for a price with at least three million people killed and over a quarter million women raped.

According to Simon Dring's report titled "Tanks Crush Revolt in Pakistan", as many as 7,000 people were slaughtered in Dhaka alone on the night of March 25. Published on March 30 in The Daily Telegraph, it carried a first-hand account of the blood bath.

The report began, "In the name of 'God and a united Pakistan,' Dacca is today a crushed and frightened city. After 24 hours of ruthless, cold-blooded shelling by the Pakistan Army, as many as 7,000 people are dead, large areas have been levelled and East Pakistan's fight for independence has been brutally put to an end." The foreign journalists'

accounts of that apocalyptic night revealed how desperate the then Pakistan government was to stop the news of genocide from reaching the world community. In another story published the

same day, Dring wrote, "Associated Press photographer Michel Laurent, I managed to make an extensive tour of the burning city and to see first-hand the extent of the slaughter the Government of Pakistan is trying to hide." Titled "Reporter Escapes Net", it

described how he, then aged 27, eluded search parties that herded foreign correspondents out of Michel Laurent, an AP photog-

rapher who too evaded the army and wandered through the bleak landscape on the night of March 25, reported, "Thirty-five foreign correspondents were detained in the Dacca Intercontinental Hotel and only this reporter and a British correspondent evaded the Army cordon and subsequent deportation of newsmen to Bombay. Later the Army at Dacca airport frisked me and seized film and notes on

The report, published on March 30, 1971 issue of The Times, added, "The Government went to extreme lengths to prevent a large contingent of foreign journalists from witnessing the Army's intervention and the subsequent violence." In the chapter 'Genocide in

Bangladesh' of the book "Bangladesh Documents", Simon Dring said, "...the first target as the tanks rolled into Dacca on the night of Thursday, March 25, seems to have been the students. An estimated three battalions of troops were used in the attack on Dacca-one of armoured, one of artillery and one of infantry. They started living their barracks shortly before 10 p.m. By 11, firing had broken out and the people who had started to erect Pakistani student watching from a makeshift barricades-overturned cars, three stumps, furniture, and concrete piping- became early slaughteringthem'."

"As the university came under

attack, other columns of troops moved in on the Rajarbagh headquarters of the East Pakistan police, on the other side of the city. Tanks opened fire first, witness said; then the troops moved in and levelled the men's sleeping quarters, firing incendiary rounds into the buildings. People living opposite did not know how many died there, but of the 1,100 police based there not many are believed to have

Laurent in the report of The Times described, "In two days and nights of shelling by the Pakistani Army perhaps 7,000 Pakistanis died in Dhaka alone. The Army, which attacked without warning on Thursday night with American supplied M24 tanks, artillery and infantry, destroyed large parts of

At another point, the report read, "A mass grave had been hastily covered at the Jagannath Hall and 200 students were reported killed in Igbal Hall. About 20 bodies were still lying in the grounds and the dormitories. Troops are reported to have fired bazookas into the medical college hospital, but the casualty toll was not

"Political and Intellectual Leaders Being Wiped Out in War of Genocide" published on April 2, 1971 in The Times said, "....a systematic pattern of physical and psychological destruction became apparent even during the first night of fighting on March 25. Soon after, it became clear that certain groups had been selected to be the victims of completely unrestrained brutal-

many civilians had been killed or wounded. Neither was any information available on what was happening in the rest of the province,

Rifles, a paramilitary force made up of Bengalis, the predominant people of East Pakistan.

and sporadic shooting was continuing early this morning when the thirty five foreign newsmen were

"'My God, my God,' said a hotel window, trying to keep back tears, 'they're killing them. They're

Groundwater level

FROM PAGE 1

increase of population. Demand for water in the capital, fifth largest city in the world with a population of over 12 million, is now more than 2,000 million litres per day (mld) which was 1,500 mld in 1998, Wasa sources

provide with uneven amounts --Sayedabad supplies 225 million litres, Chadnighat 39 million litres and Narayanganj 46 million litres. The remaining has to be extracted from groundwater sources.

The experts say withdrawal of groundwater by deep tube-wells is a major reason for fall in the table. In 1998, the number of deep tube-wells was 234, which now stands over 400.

higher as the owners of almost all the high-rises have installed deep tubewells, a top official of Wasa (Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority) said seeking not be named.

Sources say Wasa's two treatment plants can meet only 20 percent of the city's demand by treating the surface water. The rest is met by deep tube-wells.

Based on their statistics, Wasa officials say water level has drastically fallen since 1996 in almost all parts of the city including Mirpur,

Department of Environment sources say concentration of heavy metal including cadmium, lead, mercury, chromium and aluminium in rivers around Dhaka is increasing day by day. Improper application of pesticides and disposal of industrial waste are also adding to the pollu-

Mohammadpur and Old Dhaka.

Pollution has already made the surface water of Dhanmondi, Gulshan-Baridhara and Ramna lakes unusable.

"Declining groundwater level will greatly increase the risks during earthquakes. It could lead to subsidence of the clay soil plate Dhaka is situated on," said Khandakar Fazal Hasan.

Asked about possible remedial actions, he said wetlands and water bodies should be preserved to recharge the groundwater level. "It's not possible for us to

decrease withdrawal of groundwater as treating surface water in full volume is not possible due to contamination. So we should go for groundwater recharging," he noted. Over the years, different real

estate businesses have encroached on open space, lakes and rivers, barring full recharging of groundwater in the monsoons.

arrest listed top criminal Pichchi Hannan who was later killed during an "encounter" between his accomplices and the Rab. The Rab started with its headquarters and seven battalions and with 5,521 personnel drawn from the army, navy, air force, police, coast guard and ansar. Now it has nine

executed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) kingpins Abdur Rahman and Siddigul Islam alias Bangla Bhai and controlling their activities, arrest of Harkatul Jihad Bangladesh liberation forces on (Huji) leader Mufti Abdul Hannan December 3, 1971 to defeat the and his associates and recovering Pakistanarmyon December 16, 1971. ing system.

wings at its headquarters and 12

battalions and its present manpower

"murder-house."

After the blackout, they lit candles

"Joy Bangla" and other slogans

The core-committee meeting Fire fighters of the CAAB rushed decided to give the OMS dealers'

> Syed Fahim Munaim briefed news men about the formation and initial decisions of the core com-

> possessions were the most significant successes of the force. Fearful of Rab's operations many

> controlled the spread of deadly drug Yaba. unearthing of the mystery of many the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally, Ramna Batamul

> The Rab has so far arrested 30,993 suspected criminals, recovered 4,044 ifferent types of firearms and 53,874 bullets, 3,652 explosive devices,

> 3,182kg explosives. number of 463 leaders and activists of the banned Islamist organisation JMB and 38 members of other militant outfits. They seized 58 firearms, 386 bullets, 115 grenade and bombs, 333 grenade shells, 1,723kg explo-

heroin and around 5.5 lakh bottles and 2,000 litres of phensydile.

FROM PAGE 1 A delegation led by retired Lt Gen JFR Jacob arrived in the city yesterday. They are here at the invitation of Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed, who held discussions with Indian officials and the military top brass during his last month's trip there about honouring those

During their four-day visit, the war veterans will visit various battle sites and places of historic impor-

others Lt Gen (retd) PN Kathpalia, Lt Gen (retd) GS Bakshi, Maj Gen (retd) Arrest of militants including RK Khanna, Maj Gen (retd) Laxman Singh, Maj Gen (retd) Ashok Verma Kalyan and Brigadier (retd) Amrit India joined forces with the

Rab recovers image grenades and bombs from their

listed top criminals fled the country to evade arrest. The Rab has also successfully

The arrests of militants led to the important grenade attacks including

homemade bombs, grenades, and The force arrested the highest

sives and 8,997 electronic detonators from the militants' possession. Rab members also seized around 1.44 lakh Yaba tablets, 5,000 ice pills used as an alternative to Yaba, 111kg

who died for Bangladesh's libera-

The delegation includes among

subsiding of the ground.

blast, attack on Udichi programme in Jessore and the attack on the British high commissioner to Bangladesh in

10 Indian generals

help recharge Dhaka's water tables fast during the rainy season. Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), the city of 10 million people consumes 75,000 litre water per second using a total of 2,500 deep

(AAG) Mohammad now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Khalequzzaman told the trial court the Supreme Court on March 18 dismissed the leave to appeal petition submitted by Hasina

MiG-29 case

against the High Court order that asked for revival of the case. Four accused, former army chief Mustafizur Rahman, air commodore (retd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Mohammad Hossain Serniabat and managing director of Unique Group Nur Ali, were present at the court while former defence secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain was absent

submitting a time petition in this Former air force chief Jamaluddin Ahmed was absent but failed to submit any petition in this

On September 6 last year, the

High Court vacated the stay order

passed by a High Court bench

given after seven writ petitions

regard.

exchequer.

were filed to quash the case. The High Court order removed the legal bar to start the proceedings of the case. According to the case filed with Tejgaon Police Station against Hasina and four top defence officials, the purchase of eight MiG-29 fighter jets during the tenure of the Awami League government caused

a loss of Tk 700 crore to the public

The names of Brig Gen (retd) Iftekhar-Ul-Bashar and former deputy secretary Hasan Mahmood Delwar were dropped from the list of accused due to lack of evidence while former army chief Mustafizur Rahman, air commodore (retd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Hossain safety, he said.

Serniabat and businessman Nur Ali were indicted in the case after investigators found their involvement in the alleged scam. Inspector Abdullah Al Zahid of

corruption submitted the charge sheet to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on December 11, 2001, showing 40 people as prosecution witnesses. Later, all the accused including Hasina filed petitions with the High

tions, the High Court stayed the case proceedings. Hasina was arrested on July 16 last year after businessman Azam] Chowdhury filed an extortion case

Four other cases were also filed

Court on different dates for quash-

ing the case. Following their peti-

against her on different dates. DMP COMMISSIONER'S PLEA Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner on February 26 appealed to the government for

setting up a Sessions Court adja-

cent to the sub-jail where Hasina

has been kept and holding the trial

of the MiG-29 corruption case

But sources said police are yet to

there due to security concerns.

against her.

essential.

get any response from the government for the purpose. The commissioner said the Special Court for Dhaka Division is located between the chief metropolitan magistrate's court and Jagannath University. The presence of Hasina and other accused in the court during trial of the case is

gather on the court premises to know about the trial posing problems for security personnel. It is necessary to set up a sessions court adjacent to the sub-jail where Hasina has been kept to ensure her

escaped.

the city.

In the New York Times story titled "in Dacca, Troops Use Artillery To Halt Revolt" and published on March 28, 1971, Sydney H Schanberg wrote, "There was no way of knowing how

although there had been reports before the Dacca attack of clashes between civilians and west Pakistani soldiers in the interior. "From the hotel, which is in north Dacca, huge fires could be seen in various parts of the city, including the university area and the barracks of the East Pakistan

"Some fires were still burning expelled from Dacca.

The three water treatment plants

The number is actually much

Dhaka Cantonment, Dhanmondi,

equipment to gather intelligence information of offenders to arrest them. A move is also on to set up a forensic laboratory to carry out investigation into cases. The force has so far taken punitive measures against its 535 members for anti-disciplinary activities and