Graft guru born

backed caretaker government took office in January last year. He was also among the first 50 high-profile individuals listed as graft suspects by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)

Tarique, detained son of detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia, and Mamun worked in randem to amass a fortune through misuse of power. Those with overwhelming political and business ambition would compete avidly for

their attention. A number of former BNP ministers and lawmakers with close links to Hawa Bhaban, the BNP chairperson's Banani office, are reportedly his business partners. They would do anything to be on good terms with him and through him please Tarique, also senior joint secretary general of BNP.

Thanks to his relations with Tarique, he became astronomically wealthy in the five years since 2001. His business syndicate reportedly made thousands of crores of taka and one such instance is sale of concrete electric poles to Rural Electrification Board through his firm Khamba Ltd.

He now owns 9,000 shares worth Tk 33.94 crore and has 45 accounts at home and abroad with wealth totallingTk141.74 crore.

He started up in business with a paltry investment of Tk 39,000 in 1991. Together with Tarique and his younger brother Arafat Rahman Koko, Mamun established Rahman Shippers during the tenure of the first BNP government under the leadership of Khaleda Zia.

Tarique was the managing director of the company while Arafat, who is also behind bars now on corruption charges, and Mamun were the directors.

Mamun began to hog the limelight for his involvement in activities controlled from Hawa Bhaban in the lead-up to the 2001 general

He set up One Group soon after the BNP-led alliance came to power. He also established One Textile, a varn dyeing factory in Gazipur. The factory has been in production for the last two and a half years. Later in Panchagarh, he launched electric pole manufacturing plant Khamba

Besides owning One Textile, Khamba Ltd, One Composite, One Spinning, One Denim, One Consumer Product Ltd, and Channel One, he is also the director of Silver Line Composite Mill and Rahman Navigation.

Of his businesses, Khamba Ltd became the most talked about in recent times. Built on around 99 acres of land at Goalpara in Panchagarh sadar upazila, it went

He also owns Precrust Concrete Industries Ltd, another electric pole manufacturer, at Bhaluka in Mymensingh

His palatial house at South Chhayabithi, around 2km southeast of Gazipur town, is estimated to have cost around Tk8 crore.

It is centrally air-conditioned and equipped with foreign fittings. Mamun used to throw lavish parties there once or twice a month.

Following the killing of Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master on May 7, 2004, locals set fire to it. But the duplex on an eightkatha land still stands, outshining the other buildings in the neigh-

bourhood. WEALTH He has Tk 26.32 crore deposited in three accounts with Natwest Bank

and Citibank in London and Singapore respectively.

He has 24 FDR accounts in the Banani branch of Dhaka Bank and

Geeta Pasi FROM PAGE 16

have roles and important responsibilities," Geeta Pasi told reporters after the hour- and-a-half-long meeting with the speaker at his Bailey Roadhome.

"We also discussed the role of parliament in Bangladesh's democracy," the US envoyadded. About the renovation of the par-

liament building, Geeta Pasi said, "When I visited the parliament the speaker had asked for our assistance to preserve architectural records and diagrams of the building so that it could potentially be updated and renovated."

The US Chargé d'Affaires said the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban is quite an old building now and they are able to assist the government of Bangladesh in renovating the parliament build-

The speaker told reporters that the US wants to see Bangladesh parliament running effectively. "We have discussed how to run parliament effectively and functioning of the parliamentary committees in Ine with American system in the

Senate and the Congress." He said the US would help in this

Replying to a question, the speaker said, "Like myself, she [Geeta Pasil also believes that elections would be held by December this year." He said the US envoy does not have any doubt about the restoration

of democracy. NAM FLAT ALLOCATIONS The speaker said, "We have sent a letter to the government asking it to consider the decision to cancel allocations of Nam Bhaban flats to

lawmakers of the eighth parlia-

He said "parliament would not do anything that goes against the executive department of the government" and hoped the government would do the same in return. They would decide on the matter together, he

added. A number of former Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party lawmakers of the eighth parliament on March 23 vowed to resist the government move to vacate the Nam Bhaban flats allocated to them.

seven in the Banani branch of Dutch He owns a house in Uttara, 10 kathas of land in Gulshan, several acres of land in Cox's Bazar, seven acres in 11 places at Kaliakoir of Gazipur, and several more acres in

Most of the properties he owns were bought between 2002 and

According to Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) report, the value of the lands owned by Mamun and his wife is not less than Tk 16 crore and most of those were bought with money earned through illegal

The ACC also found four joint FDR accounts under the names of Mamun and Kazi Babul. SHARES

Mamun owns 2,000 out of 10,000 shares in Channel One and their estimated worth is Tk 4.33 crore. Of 11,000 shares in Denim Mills Ltd, he owns 5,000 worth Tk 24.88 crore. He is also the owner of 2,000 of a total 10,000 shares in One Spinning Mills Ltd and those are worth Tk 4.74 crore, according to income tax department.

Islamic scholars

FROM PAGE 16

made convenor of the committee, which will submit its report within 21 days, recommending changes and amendment to the policy that envisages equal inheritance for gender parity.

The review committee will "identify inconsistencies in the policy as per Islamic rules and

suggest steps", said the release. The meeting was told that the government will not formulate any law that goes against Quran and

Misunderstanding, however, was created in this matter despite clearing official position. "The committee has been formed for dispelling all kinds of misunder-

standing," the meeting was told. The government hoped that all misunderstanding would be removed through the formation of the committee.

SSC exams

FROM PAGE 1 Seventy of the expelled students are from Technical Education Board, 14 from Dhaka Board, 11 from Madrasa Board, eight from Rajshahi Board, three from Jessore Board, five from Barisal Board, four from Comilla Board, two from Chittagong Board, according to the statistics of the Education Board

No student was expelled in Sylhet Board. The two expelled teachers are from Rajshahi Board.

The statistics also show that 6,637 examinees were absent from yesterday's English 1st paper exam ination.

The number of absentees was 838 in Dhaka Board, 773 in Rajshahi, 653 in Jessore, 402 in Barisal, 119 in Sylhet, 368 in Comilla and 192 in Chittagong boards.

Besides, a total of 2,662 students under Madrasa Education Board and 633 under the Technical Education Board did not appear at

the examinations. Besides, police arrested a proxy examinee at Shibgani Government Model High School in

Chapainawabganj. Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman visited some SSC and Dakhil examination centres in the capital.

After visiting Agrani Girls' High School, Government Madrasa-e-Alia, Government Laboratory High School and Dhanmond Government Boys' High School, he said they are committed to improving the quality of education in the country.

He urged teachers, employees and law enforcement agencies to perform their duties with honesty

and integrity. The month-long SSC, Dakhil and SSC vocational examinations for 2008 began yesterday under seven education boards, one madrasa board and one technical education board.

Missing youth's

Babul from the water reservoir of an under-construction building about 53 days after a local mugger

called him out of his residence. local mugger Shahidul called him out of his house at South Goran in Khilgaon at about 10:00pm on February 3. He had been missing

Ratan Hossain, brother-in-law region is citizen of Bangladesh. of Babul, said an unknown person made a phone call on Babul's environment wherein everyone mother Kulsum Begum's mobile phone on Wednesday night and told her that she would find her son's body at the underconstruction building.

She went to the place yesterday morning and found the shirt Babul put on when he came out of his

Later, she informed the police of the matter. Police recovered the skeleton from the water reservoir and sent it to the Dhaka Medical | through holding a free, fair and College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

against five persons with

Sabujbagh Police Station. Babul's family members said he was a cannabis peddler and also a drug addict. They handed him over to police but he was released on February 1.

FROM PAGE 1 cabinet committee meeting on wage discrimination at the secretariat.

The government is thinking positively on the matter, but it has not taken any concrete decision in this regard, the adviser said.

"I would be happy if I were in a position to announce it immediately," he said.

Finance ministry officials said a committee, formed in the wake of price hike of essentials to assess the implications of providing dearness allowance to government staffs has already prepared its assess-

The committee in its assessment noted that the government will require additional Tk 1,200 crore for providing government staffs with dearness allowances at 10 percent while Tk 1,800 and 2,400 crore at 15 and 20 percent.

Mamun

FROM PAGE 1 court, the defence pleaded to adjourn delivery of the verdict until the petition they filed with High Court seeking stay on verdict deliv-

ervis deposed of. The court however rejected the | drive in Bangladesh as positive. petition and delivered the verdict just in a minute saying the allegations brought against Mamun and his wife have been proved.

"The case has so far the biggest one as it involves the largest amount of ill-gotten wealth of Tk 111 crore among the graft suspects listed by ACC," said prosecution lawyer Mosharraf Hossain Kajol.

"ACC made irregularities even in filing the case against our client as financial account of a whole company was attributed on his shoulder as his illegal income when a company might have 11 directors," said defence lawyer MABM Khairul Islam.

Deposition by 90 witnesses was taken, seven of who gave deposition in favour of Mamun, during the trial proceedings.

Assistant Director of ACC Ibrahim filed the case with Cantonment police against Mamun and his wife on May 8 last year for accumulating over Tk 66 crore wealth illegally. ACC Assistant Director Tahsinul Haque investigated the case revealing the huge amount of wealth owned by Mamun.

The joint forces arrested Mamun at his Gulshan residence

on March 26. Another special court on June 7 jailed Mamun, who was on the first list of 50 graft suspects published by ACC on February 18 last year, for three years in connection with a non-submission case filed by ACC on April 5 for not submitting his wealth statement.

He was earlier awarded 10-year imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms.

CA announces

FROM PAGE 1 Raja Debashish Roy, special assistant to the chief adviser on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) affairs, Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Hossain Zamil and Deputy Commissioner of Rangamti Nurul Amin also spoke at

the meeting. CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma, Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed and General Officer Commanding of 24 Infantry Division Maj Gen Mohammad Abdul Mobin were present at the

The chairmen of the three hil district parishads, representatives of businesses, small entrepreneurs and women community, members of the advisory committee on CHT affairs ministry and headmen o different tribes took part in the

exchange of opinions. The chief adviser assured his audience that the government would soon decide to increase the

allowance of headmen. He said the objective of the present government is to ensure socio-economic and cultural progress of the hilly peoples, who need to maintain peace and discipline. He observed that the unfor-Babul's family members said | tunate situation that was created in the region in the past has been overcome to a large extent today.

He noted that irrespective of ethnicity, language and culture and religious beliefs, everybody of the

"We want to create such an will contribute to the advancement of the country by maintaining cordial relations, mutual trust and confidence.

"Let us proceed towards the path of shared prosperity through mutual trust by discarding the thorny path of mistrust and doubt," he told his audience.

The CA sought cooperation of all of the region to make the transition to democracy a success neutral election by next December which will help build a corruption-Kulsum Begum filed a case | free, prosperous and enlightened Bangladesh.

The chief adviser left Rangamati for Bandarban in the afternoon where he will stay overnight. He will visit some Bandarban areas this morning before returning to Dhaka.

Govt employees | Rice hopes for polls

FROM PAGE 16

"There is no alternative to an election to return to democracy as well as to make Bangladesh a modern and democratic state," she said while speaking at the oath taking ceremony of the newly appointed US ambassador to Bangladesh, James Francis Moriarty, at the US State Department on March 26.

Moriarty is expected to arrive in Dhaka on April 10 to take up his new assignment.

Condoleezza Rice said Bangladesh could be a shining model as a modern Muslim state for different countries in the world, but the main necessity for that was to return to democracy first, according to a report by US-based Bangla news agency News World.

She said democracy is needed to ensure human rights and accountability and expressed hope that the Bangladesh government would take appropriate steps to ensure

The US Secretary of State said that the main enemy of democracy and development in any country is corruption and in this context she termed the current anti-corruption She also said that political

reforms in Bangladesh is urgent and hoped that the people of the country would carry the reforms forward for the greater interest of democracy. Bangladesh Ambassador in USA

M Humayun Kabir and others high

officials were present at the cere-

After taking his oath, the newly appointed US Ambassador James Francis Moriarty attended a reception at the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC, organised to celebrate the 38th Independence Day of the country.

Talking to reporters there, the new ambassador expressed hope that the caretaker government in Bangladesh would adhere to the electoral roadmap and hold the

polls by December this year. Moriarty said that on arrival in Bangladesh, he would talk to the media, leaders of all political parties and people at different levels in Bangladesh to learn about their opinions on different issues.

"I will then lay importance to protect American interests in Bangladesh...my number one agenda would be to further strengthen the existing USA-Bangladesh relations because Bangladesh is an important partner of United States in the Global War on Terror," he added. Ambassador Moriarty said that

tality of the people of Bangladesh from his predecessors Harry K Thomas and Patricia A. Butenis and was eager to experience that in person. The US Senate confirmed Moriarty's nomination as the next

he came to know about the hospi-

Ambassador to Dhaka on March 13 Prior to his appointment in Bangladesh, Moriarty was the US Ambassador to Nepal. He worked at the National Security Council, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Asian Affairs. Moriarty is originally from Ware, Massachusetts. After gradu-

as a political officer. Moriarty is married to Lauren Moriarty, who is currently the US Ambassador to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. They have two children.

ating from Dartmouth College, he

joined the Foreign Service in 1975

Ex-MP Salim

FROM PAGE 16

granted an ACC petition seeking permission to seize a locker of former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa,s wife at the Gulshan branch of BSIC Bank Ltd in connection with a corruption case filed against Nadim and his wife.

Besides, the judgement in the arms case filed against Khondaker Akhter Hamid Paban, son of Khaleda Zia-appointed BNP Secretary General Khondaker Delwar Hossain, and four others will be delivered on March 31.

CASE AGAINST SALIM Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order after ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted a petition seeking permission to freeze the bank accounts of Salim and his family members.

The family members are Salim's wife Amena Begum, daughter Sahara selim, and sons Mehedi

Hassan and Samith Hassan. In the petition, the IO mentioned that Salim and four others deposited a huge amount of money in different bank accounts that should be frozen for the sake of

proper investigation into the case. Salim had deposited the money at different branches of Eastern Bank Ltd, Dhaka Bank Ltd, Bank Asia Ltd, Social Investment Bank Ltd, Brack Bank Ltd, Al Arafa Ltd, City Bank Ltd, One Bank Ltd, Premier Bank Ltd, IFIC Bank Ltd, Uttara Bank Ltd in the city while his wife, sons and daughter deposited

money at Eastern Bank Ltd. On December 6 last year, ACC Assistant Director Ali Akbar filed the case with Ramna police against

In the first information report, the complainant said Salim concealed information about TK 62.96 crore and ill-gotten property worth Tk 12.38 crore in the wealth statement submitted to the ACC. CASE AGAINST NADIM'S WIFE

The same court passed the order

after ACC Assistant Director SM

case, submitted a prayer for seizure

Parul's locker kept at the Gulshan branch of BSIC Bank Ltd. On December 12 last year, ACC Assistant Director Ali Akbar filed

the case against Nadim and his wife Parul for amassing Tk 3,03,23,139 illegally. CASE AGAINST PABAN After completion of arguments by the prosecution and the defence, Judge Mohammad Shafiul Azam of

the Special Tribunal 12 set the date

for delivery of the judgement against Paban and others. During the arguments, the prosecution made submissions for giving maximum punishment to the accused involved with the incidents while the defence made submissions for acquittal of their

On October 29 last year, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Paban raiding a Japan Garden City apartment in the city's Mohammadpur area following information gathered from three of his associates arrested on October Later, Rab seized two illegal

foreign made firearms--a pistol and a revolver--along with nine bullets and a motorbike from Dhaka Flood Protection Embankment at Panchabati near Pallabi. Paban's associates--Anwar Hossain, Masud Ali alias Apu and Delwar Hossain alias Ratan-- were

also arrested while his cousin

Nahid alias Mota Nahid is still at

large. ACC okays

FROM PAGE 16 The joint forces arrested him on March 7 last year. He has since been

behind bars. Tarique has 11 other extortion and deception cases against him, but none of the cases has yet come to trial.

The ACC yesterday filed another case against former managing director of Rural Power Company Ltd (RPCL) with Dhanmondi Police Rashedur Raja, also the IO of the Station on charges of abuse of power and deception, causing a loss of Tk 27,82320 to RPCL.

Hasina's doctor

FROM PAGE 1 If the AL chief, now undergoing treatment at Square Hospital in the capital, turns deaf somehow, neither the government nor the hospital authorities would be able to avoid their responsibilities for that,

ophthalmologist said neither any audiological specialist nor the scope for doing hearing aid analysis, fitting, and repair of the highquality devices installed in Sheikh Hasina's ear, is available in the country.

"The high-quality devices can be repaired only at the medical centre in the USA where those had been installed in her ears," said Prof Modasser.

"Problems with Sheikh Hasina's Since there is a direct or indirect correlation between the problems of hearing devices and her other ailments, I'm earnestly requesting you [chief adviser] to send Hasina to the USA immediately for the sake of her proper treatment," he said.

adding that she would turn deaf if her hearing devices are not made functional immediately. the caretaker government would

becoming dysfunctional, he said

He also hoped that the chief adviser would consider the matter of her treatment on humanitarian Hasina's hearing problem has

not been treated at the Square observation on her minor ailments had been made, he said adding that the Square Hospital authorities have already admitted their limitations regarding treatment of Hasina's ear before the media.

other personal physicians of Hasina sent a letter to the chief adviser on January 3 requesting him to send the AL president to the USA for treatment of her ear.

Indian generals

FROM PAGE 1

Operation Searchlight of March 25, 1971. Do not ever forget the geno-

cide that took place that night." He said that he drafted Pakistani Gen. Niazi's surrender document, adding that it was a public surrender rather than surrendering to the United Nations. "That means he surrendered to the country's people, which is unprecedented," Jacob said.

Jacob said that he persuaded Gen Niazi to make a public surrender, rather than surrender to the UN, which Niazi has wished to, by scaring him about possible 'revenge' by the liberation forces.

CHT accord

FROM PAGE 16 "Many transferable matters have been given to the district parishads and the process of transferring six more affairs is being expedited," he informed the function.

About land-related problems in the region, he said due to various problems and limitations, the land commission has not so far been able to work properly. The post of chairman of the land

and the government is going to fill the vacancy soon. "The government will take effective measures to recast the land commission to make it functional," he said. The CA said all have to work

commission fell vacant recently

unitedly on the basis of mutual trust and confidence regarding land-related matters. Referring to various measures for the development of the CHT, he

said the amount of annual alloca-

tion for the CHT has been increased after the peace accord. The CA mentioned various development projects of the development partners for the development of this region, including the schemes undertaken by ADB,

UNDP and Unicef. On education, he stressed the need for establishing boarding schools at a greater rate in the hilly region to spread education and increase the literacy rate.

Referring to the recent infestation of rats in some upazilas of Rangamati and Bandarban, he assured the affected people of government steps to compensate He put emphasis on further

expansion of solar electricity in the

CHT region. In this regard, the CA

mentioned activities of the state-

owned Infrastructure

Development Company's project

work in remote hilly areas for providing solar electricity. On tourism, he said it is possible to build world-class tourist centres

in the panoramic CHT region. He said the government would take all possible measures for the development of tourism in this area and ask the tourism ministry to soon prepare a comprehensive

report consulting private sector in this regard. On food-processing industry, he said the government would take all possible steps to create a favourable environment so that the private sector can come forward to

Duta

invest in this sector.

FROM PAGE 1 annual general meeting held at its club yesterday morning. The meet-

ing condemned the incident and expressed concern over it. A four-member team of the joint forces entered the residence of Prof Dalem Chandra Barman, the election commissioner for Duta executive committee election 2008, in the early hours of Wednesday and asked him to postpone the polls or

resign from his post. The Duta executive committee on Wednesday rescheduled its poll date to April 12 following the request from the additional deputy police commissioner but expressed grave concern over the

incident at Prof Barman's resi-After the meeting, the Duta leaders met the Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at his office and urged him to take steps so that such an incident does

not recur in future. Prof Aktaruzzaman, an executive member of Duta told the Daily Star that Duta leaders asked the VC if he had been informed about the joint forces team going to Prof Barman's house with such a

request, beforehand. The VC said that he had not been informed of any such thing, Prof. Aktaruzzaman informed.

He also said that the Duta leaders urged the VC to talk to the government high ups about the matter and take steps to prevent repetition of such an undesired incident. Otherwise Duta would have to go for a tough action programme, they informed him. Prof Arefin Siddique, another

executive member of Duta, said

"we told the VC that entering the

house of a university professor at an 'uncivil hour' was nothing but an attempt to create panic and the teachers' community is not going to accept such an "attitude". DU Vice Chancellor Prof Faiz, when contacted, declined to comment on the matter saying he had

leaders. Among others Duta President Prof Sadrul Amin, General Secretary Anwar Hossain, Prof Arefin Siddique, Prof Aktaruzzaman and Prof Harun-or-

4 Shibir men

jumped bail.

FROM PAGE 1 late Nazir Ahmad of Amtali of Fatikchhari upazila, and Md Solaiman, son of late Saber Ahmed of Banshkhola of Banshkhali upazila in Chittagong.

Alamgir and Azam have also been convicted in the sensational Principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri murder case and are now behind bars. The other two condemned

Habib Khan, son of Khadem Ali Khan of Hathazari upazila, Md Abdul Kaiyum Chowdhury Rimon alias Imon, son of late Abdur Razzak of Hathazari upazila, and Enamul Haq, son of Md Abul Kashem of South Rangamatia of Fatikchhari upazila, were awarded life imprisonments. They are all on

the run. The court exempted Abu Nasir alias Gittu Nasir and Delwar Hossain alias Azrail Delwar from

the charges since they were killed. The acquitted 13 are ATM Mezbahul Kabir, Azizur Rahman, Saiful Islam, Mia Md Toufiq, Nesar Ahmed, Md Ilias, Abdul Hakim, Abdul Hamid, Bayezedur Rahman, Bazal Ahmad, Salim, Rezaur Rahman Mukti and Iqbal Hossain.

The judge started the verdict delivery at 12:05pm and took around three minutes to read out the "operative order of the judgment" with accused Alamgir, Azam, Md Ilias, Mia Md Toufiq, Igbal Hossain and Bazal Ahmad in According to the prosecution,

armed cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, sprayed bullets on a microbus carrying activists of Chhatra League, student wing of Awami League, at Bahodderhat in the port city around 11:15am on July 12, 2000. The slain Chhatra League activ-

ists are Hasibur Rahman Helal,

Jahangir Hossain, Rafiqul Islam

Sohag, Kashem, Jahangir Alam and

Azizul Islam. The other two victims

were microbus driver Monu Mia

observed that all the accused belonged to Shibir while most of the victims belonged to another student organisation. Of 63 witnesses, 42 appeared

before the court and gave detailed accounts of the incident but none of them could name the culprits involved, the court observed in the Alamgir and Azam told report-

dissatisfaction over the judgment saying they would appeal at higher Hena expressed mixed reaction over the verdict. "I am satisfied that the case ended after eight years during this non-party caretaker government. But, the investigation

exaggerated charge sheet and harmed the case," he said. "The investigation officer also did not investigate Room-214 of Suhrawardy Hall of Chittagong College where a meeting was allegedly held to plot the murder," Hena

"Besides, witnesses could not be produced before the court during the four-party alliance's rule," he added.

Qaeda targets

FROM PAGE 16

quoted officials as saying. It quoted one senior official as describing the strikes as a "shake the tree" strategy designed to force Osama bin Laden and key lieutenants to move in ways that US intelli-

gence can detect. uted to the United States killed senior al-Oaeda commander Abu Laith al-

There was no immediate

response from Pakistani officials on the report. Pakistan has never formally admitted to allowing such missile strikes and Musharraf earlier this year said that unauthorised military actions on Pakistani soil would be

treated as an invasion.

diplomats, Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher, continued a visit to Pakistan apparently aimed at wooing the new government. A senior partner in the new coalition government, former premier

Nawaz Sharif, warned the envoys

earlier this week that parliament

would review Musharraf's "one-

man" strategy against Islamic

The report came as two senior US

has suffered a recent wave of suicide bombings blamed on militants -- to become a "murder-house" for the sake of US policies. Opposition leader Benazir In January, a missile strike attrib - Bhutto, of whose party the new prime minister is a member, was

Sharif said he told them that it was

unacceptable for Pakistan -- which

assassinated in a suicide attack in December. In Peshawar, at least five people were killed yesterday in a rocket attack on an ambulance in a northwestern Pakistani district troubled by

The ambulance was on its way to Peshawar from the town of Tall in Parachinar district when it came under attack, a security official said.

sectarian violence, security officials

"Initial reports say five people were killed, two wounded," the official said requesting anonymity. He said the victims included women. "The cause of the attack was

not immediately clear," the official Parachinar district has been tense following recent sectarian violence involving militants from Shiite and

Sunni Muslims communities.

105 killed

east of Baghdad.

back areas under the control of Shia gunmen," Amara said in Kut, 175 kilometres (110 miles) south-

"At least 40 gunmen and four

policemen were killed. Around 75 people were wounded. Police have now imposed full control on these neighbourhoods." The offensive followed days of sporadic clashes in Kut, between militiamen and Iraqi troops, during which according to witnesses

gunmen ran through the streets,

burning shops and public build-

An AFP correspondent in Basra, meanwhile, said heavy fighting erupted early yesterday in the central Jumhuriyah neighbourhood, a Mahdi Army bastion, which was rocked by rocket propelled grenade, mortar and small

arms fire. Police spokesman Colonel Karim al-Zaidi said the convoy of Basra police chief Major General Abdul Jalil Khalaf was hit by a suicide car bomber around 1:00 am yesterday as it passed through the streets of Basra.

The port city was covered in a

thick black pall of smoke yesterday

from a blast which damaged an oil

pipeline transporting crude from the Zubair oil field to the Al-Faw storage facility. Samir al-Maksusi, spokesman for the Southern Oil Company, said the pipeline had been blown up with a bomb. "The blast directly

affects the exports," he said. In the central city of Hilla, where shared his opinion with the Duta Iraqi forces have been battling Shia militiamen, four policemen were

killed in a bomb attack, police said. Meanwhile in Sadr City, an 10:00 am (0700 GMT) outside the three Americans.

Sadr office to yell slogans against

the prime minister. "Maliki you are a coward! Maliki is an American agent! Leave the government, Maliki! How can you strike Basra?" the crowd chanted. In the Kadhimiyah neighbourhood of north Baghdad, followers

of Sadr carried a coffin covered in

red fabric with an attached photo-

graph of Maliki set against the background of an American flag. Officials said the death toll from clashes in Sadr City Tuesday and Wednesday had risen to 30. The Sadr movement had

announced on Wednesday it would

hold protest rallies against Maliki

in Baghdad and the southern city of

Amara, while Sadr has threatened to launch a civil revolt if the attacks against the militiamen are not On Wednesday, Maliki gave militiamen battling his forces in Basra 72 hours to lay down their arms and warned that those failing

to do so would face the full brunt of

the law. Basra has become the theatre of a bitter turf war between the Mahdi Army and two rival Shiite factions -- the powerful Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council (SIIC) of Abdel Aziz al-Hakim and the smaller Fadhila

party.

An aide to Sadr said representatives of the Iraqi government and a Sadrist official held preliminary talks by telephone yesterday in a bid to end the crisis in Basra. Iraqi and US embassy officials, meanwhile said insurgents fired

rockets into the heavily fortified

Baghdad Green Zone causing a

major blaze. The Green Zone, which was once Saddam Hussein's presidenimpoverished Shiite district of tial compound, has been repeataround two million people in east edly hit by rocket and mortar fire in Rashid were present at the meeting | Baghdad, crowds gathered from recent days, wounding at least

of Nadim's wife Nurunnahar

he told The Daily Star. In a letter to the chief adviser, the

hearing devices are increasing.

He said it's his moral duty to appeal to the government for ensuring proper treatment for Hasina. "As

a doctor I would continue appealing to the government until it sends Hasina to the USA for treatment of her ear," Modasser said. Hasina's hearing devices are

"I hope that the current head of not expect the former premier to turn deaf," he added.

Hospital where regular medical

Earlier, Prof Modasser and three with the VC.

and autorickshaw driver Zahed Hossain. ambushed the microbus to establish supremacy in the new campus of Chittagong Commercial

> Institute at Kalamia Bazar, sources Kazi Anwar Hossain, brother of Jahangir Hossain, filed the case accusing 30 Shibir activities.

The then ASP Abdul Kader Khan of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted the charge sheet accusing 22 Shibir men on January 17, 2001. Charges were framed on June 17, 2002.

The Shibir cadres had

While summing up the 227page verdict yesterday, the judge

ers after the verdict that they were deprived of justice. Defence lawyer

Public Prosecutor Ahsanul Haq officer of the case submitted an

Manzur Ahmad Ansarı expressed