Parents of murdered

FROM PAGE 16

The reason behind their death is not yet known, but police suspect that both boys were physically abused

before being murdered. The loss of their beloved children, and their inability to come to terms with the shocking murders of their children, is also holding the parents from returning to their jobs, leading to them often going without food.

Jewel's rickshaw-puller father Alal Uddin and housemaid mother Josna Begum, say they are unable to deal with the shock.

"How can I think of work when I have lost my child forever? Josna Begum wailed.

"The only thing I wish for is that my son's killers are arrested. Because need to ask his killers what my nine year-old did wrong that they had to take his life," Alal told The Daily Star as he broke down into sobs.

Jewel's mother said they took out Tk 7,000 in loan from locals to look for their son, when he first went missing, and then subsequently to bury him in their village home at Muktagachha in Mymensingh.

"The lenders are already pressing us to pay back the loan, but we don't have the mental strength to work," Josna said wiping the tears offher face.

She said no one in her family had gone to school before, but they had put Jewel into one and he would have made them proud by being the only literate person in their entire family. She can only cry now as she thinks

Biplob's mother Bilkis Begum and father Siddiq, a private car driver, are also struggling to return to work,

neighbours told the Daily Star. Bilkis sits and stares blankly at the roadside where, her neighbours point out, her son used to play. She doesn't answer any questions, just stares

speechlessly. Siddiq wants justice for his young son's death

Both sets of parents said they could get some consolation if the killers were arrested and brought to justice.

Thirteen days into the murders however, the investigators remain

clueless about who carried out such brutal acts. Inspector Abul Kalam Azad of the Detective Branch told The Daily Star last night that they have drawn up a list of thugs in the area and will now investigate each one on the list to find any possible links to the gruesome

Tata restart

FROM PAGE 16

power plant, a steel mill with an annual production capability of 420,000 tonnes and a fertiliser factory with one million tonne production capability.

The negotiations reached a stalemate in 2006 even though significant progress was made. Both sides provisionally agreed on a 15-year guarantee of 1.25 TCF gas supply to Tata and around 3 million tonnes of annual coal supply. They also agreed on upgrading the gas pipeline to 30-inch diameter from 24-inch diameter.

The Asian Development Bank had agreed to provide financial support for developing the gas

A 10-year tax holiday for Tata and guarantee for uninterrupted gas supply was also agreed on.

The two sides then agreed on awarding Tata coalmines in Phulbari and Barapukuria to extract around three million tonnes of coal a year.

However, the decisions were never approved at the ministry

The previous BNP-led government was unwilling to make a decision before the scheduled general election.

Tata has launched major investment projects in other parts of the

Gatco case

her son and 22 others to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka today

ACC finally approved the charge sheet against Khaleda, Koko and 22 others for committing the offences on April 8.

The first information report (FIR) of the case has earlier accused 13 people of illegally awarding the container-handling job at Dhaka Inland Container Depot (ICD) and Chittagong Port ICD Yard to Global Agro Trade (Private) Co Ltd (Gatco). Of the 22 other accused, 11 -

including eight former ministers of the BNP-Jamaat alliance -- have been indicted in the charge sheet. ACC Deputy Director Golam

Shahriar Chowdhury filed the case with the Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda, Koko and 11 others on September 2 last year.

The seven former ministers from BNP indicted in the case are -former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, former LGRD minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, former health minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf, former land minister M Shamsul Islam, former agriculture minister MK Anwar, former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, and former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain.

Former industries minister Motiur Rahman Nizami is the only one from Jamaat-e-Islami.

This charge sheet is also the only one against any top-ranking Jamaat leader since the present caretaker government assumed power.

Others indicted in the charge sheet are former shipping secretary Zulfikar Haider Chowdhury, former member of Chittagong Port

framework is required to imple-

ment the proposals," the election

commissioner said adding, "The EC

will ask the government to respond

the jurisdiction of the government

caretaker government will try them.

We will implement the legal frame-

work if the government provides us

Lauding the EC's move to dis-

qualify war criminals from contest-

ing in polls, SCF chief Air Vice-

marshal (retd) AK Khandker

enquired whether the commission

will also disqualify anti-liberation

organised forces from being regis-

In reply, the CEC said some

political parties had been banned in

the immediate aftermath of the

country's independence, but later,

parties to resume their activities.

the ban was withdrawn allowing the

conditions for political parties'

the veteran freedom fighters saying,

a political party will not get registra-

tion if the party's constitution con-

the spirit of the country's constitu-

tains any provision that goes against

The SCF delegation which

included Maj Gen (retd) KM

Shafiullah, Lt Gen (retd) Mir

Shawkat Ali, Maj Gen (retd) CR

Dutta, Maj (retd) Rafiqul Islam, and

Lt Gen (retd) M Harun Ar Rashid,

forward similar demands to the EC mentabroad.

was led by AK Khandker.

registration, the poll chief assured

Referring to the EC proposed

tered as parliamentary parties.

At that point, the CEC said it is

"We don't know whether the

to the popular demand."

to try the war criminals.

with one," CEC Huda said.

Authority (CPA) AK Rashid Uddin Ahmed, and Gatco Director Shahjahan M Hasib.

The others accused in the FIR are former CPA chairmen Commodore (retd) Zulfigur Ali and AMM Shahadat Hossain, former CPA director (transport) AM Sanwar Hossain, former chief finance and accounts officer Ahmed Abul Qashem, former director Luthful Kabir, Ismail Hossain Simon -- son of former shipping minister and BNP leader Col (retd) Akbar Hossain, Akbar's wife Jahanara Ahmed, Sved Tanveer Ahmed, AKM Musa Kajol and Ehsan Yusuf.

The accused are charged with causing a loss of Tk 14,56,37,616.92 to the state by striking the container-handling deal with Gatco. CASE AGAINST PATAL

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabani passed the order after ACC Assistant Director Helaluddin Sharif, also the IO, submitted a petition for showing Fazlur Rahman Patal arrested in the

ACC filed the case against the BNP leader, his wife Kamrunnahar and son Yasir Arshad Rajan for amassing assets beyond known sources of income and concealing wealth information on April 15.

According to the FIR, the now detained former state minister for youth and sports accumulated wealth worth around Tk 7.38 crore through dishonest means. He also held back information about assets worth around Tk 4.42 crore in his wealth statement.

His wife and son were accused of aiding and abetting him in the acts.

WCFFC also demanded that the

EC makes it mandatory for prospec-

tive candidates to disclose their

whereabouts during the country's

war of independence, if their names

were included in the Bangladesh

Gazette (Extra Ordinary) under

Bangladesh Collaborators (Special

Tribunals) Order 1972, if they were

in hiding to avoid arrest following

their indictment in any case under

the order, and detailed information

The research organisation also

Jalil was arrested at his Mercantile

Later, the Anti-Corruption

After his detention, Jalil was first

Bank office at Dilkusha on May 28,

Commission filed a case against him

taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Muiib

Hospital on June 4 last year as he

critical diseases, including high

blood pressure and kidney prob-

lems. Later, the AL leader was shifted

to LabAid Cardiac Hospital in the city,

but his health continued to deterio-

members of Jalil have been demand-

ing his release and allowing him

travel abroad for better treatment.

Meanwhile, War Crimes Facts on parole only after his condition

Finding Committee (WCFFC), a turned serious and a high-powered

research organisation, also put medical board suggested his treat-

The party leaders and family

But the government released him

Medical University (BSMMU)

complained of chest pain.

accusing him of concealing wealth.

2007 without any specific charges.

urged the EC to form a tribunal for

disqualifying war criminals from

Jalil's parole

contesting in polls.

Singapore the next day.

regarding the cases against them.

EC to collect records

FROM PAGE 16

by the requirement of payment of licence fees," the chamber and association leaders said in a joint statement released yesterday.

The statement was signed by Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry President Annisul Hug, International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Latifur Rahman, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Hossain Khaled, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, Bangladesh Textiles Mills Association Chairman Abdul Hai Sarker, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury, and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and **Exporters Association President** Fazlul Hoque.

The statement said representations made to the BERC for exemption from payment of such licence fees have been turned down on the ground that the law provides for payment of such licence fee. "Efforts have failed to convince the commission that under section 29 of the Energy Regulatory Commission Act, the commission has been empowered with the authority for giving the exemption. Accordingly, the relevant provision of the regulations should be amended by the commission immediately. The commission has a different view and it takes the cover of procedural requirements for amending the concerned legal

provision "Legal opinions obtained in this regard indicate that the Act does not require any amendment. In fact, section 29 mentions that amendment to the regulations may be made by the commission itself so as to grant the exemption," the

statement said. "We urgently urge the government to intervene in the issue and if required, amend the Act at the earliest," the chamber and associa-

tion leaders said in the statement.

condition and try to find out those responsible for this act."

Probe body

Meanwhile, the task force has so far separated 356 MT of rice that is fit to eat out of the 412 MT of rice it seized on April 25.

The rice in question was originally donated by Pakistan in December 2007 as food aid for Sidr victims. A total of around 2,500 MT of rice in 110 containers was donated. Out of these, 25 containers Ansar, Garco directors Syed Galib of rice, weighing around 451 MT, were found to be wet, and reported to be giving out a bad odour. The food department refused to accept these 25 containers.

The authorities then decided to destroy the 25 affected rice containers, declaring the rice to be "inedi-

The task forces seized the rice after two containers of rice, declared to be inedible, were secretly dumped on April 24 at the dumping yard of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) at Halishahar area.

The attention of the concerned authorities and the media was drawn to the matter when hundreds of poor people from the area day rushed there the next day to collect the dumped rice. On examination, the task forces found a good portion of the dumped rice to be in good condition.

The forces seized the remaining 23 containers of rice and suspended the process to destroy them.

Sources said preliminary examination of the 23 containers found around 60 per cent of the rice to be in good and edible condition. The seized rice is now stored at Artillery Centre of the joint forces at Halishahar.

Sources at the task force yesterday said they would send a proposal to the government recommending use of this rice in development works under "Food For Works" project

Besides we recommend that the inedible rice is utilized as food for fish instead of dumping or destroying it," they said.

SC lawyers

FROM PAGE 1

Shamsul Huq Chowdhury Hall.

The lawyers called for a specific date for holding of a free and fair general election withdrawing the state of emergency in order to establish democracy and rule of law in the country.

They also demanded that the government withdraw all false and motivated cases against political leaders and stop misuse of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

The meeting adopted a resolution expressing disappointment over and surprise at a few judgments of the Appellate Division.

The resolution said the Appellate Division judges had violated their oaths by ruling that accused in cases filed under the EPR cannot apply for bail and all He was suffering from various | cases including the ones filed before the promulgation of the EPR could be tried under the emergency rules.

> It said the Appellate Division judgments were against the fundamental rights and rule of law.

> Former SCBA presidents Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam and Advocate Mahbubey Alam, Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, Advocate Nurul Islam Sujan, Advocate Zainul Abedin and Advocate M Enayetur Rahim, among others, addressed meeting.

Businesses decry Hasina asks AL men

Earlier on April 27, the hearing was

The hearing was supposed to

suspended after Mustafizur's lawyer

declined to present submission in his

begin on April 20, but the court called

former air force chief Jamaluddin

Ahmed, air commodore (retd) Mirza

Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary

Mohammad Hossain Serniabat,

former defence secretary Syed Yusuf

Hossain and Managing Director of

Ul-Bashar and former deputy secre-

tary Hasan Mahmood Delwar were

dropped off the charge sheet for lack

of evidence while those of Mustafizur

Rahman, Mirza Akhter Maruf,

Hossain Serniabat and Nur Ali were

included after probe found evidence

of their involvement in the alleged

the Public Servant (Marriage with

Under provision of the 1976

ordinance, government employees

could marry foreign nationals with

in a section of the ordinance there

was an embargo regarding marriage

of the foreign ministry employees

with foreigners. Following approval

of the ordinance, which incidentally

came in the wake of the marriage of a

diplomat with a foreigner, there will

be "no legal discrimination in marry

ing foreign nationals by employees of

approval to the Securities and

Exchange (Amendment) Ordinance

2008 amending the Securities and

Exchange Ordinance 1969 to make

the law guiding the stock market up

period of trade suspension has been

extended to 45 days and another 45

days, if necessary, from the existing

been included that, if a person or

institution is accused of an offense,

the person or the institution will have

to give bank-account information to

the probe committee to be formed by

the Securities and Exchange

of the fined money from person or

institution for violating the rules of

the SEC will be compensated to

affected investors on the basis of the

level of losses. Presently, the fined

money is deposited with the fund of

approved in principle The Bangla

Academy Ordinance 2008 aiming

to make the institution more

Council attended the meeting at the

CA's office. Cabinet Secretary, CA's

Press Secretary and Secretaries

Members of the Advisory

dynamic and time-befitting.

concerned were also present.

The council of advisers also

There is a provision that a portion

14 days and another 14 days.

Commission.

the SEC.

Under the new ordinance, the

In the ordinance a provision has

The meeting also gave final

the permission of the president, but

Foreign Nationals) Ordinance 1976.

Diplomats

Names of Brig Gen (retd) Iftekhar-

Unique Group Nur Ali.

scam.

FROM PAGE 16

not be produced because of illness.

a recess till April 27 as Hasina could

The other accused in the case are

FROM PAGE 1

"There is no alternative to launching a movement to realise the five-point demand. And obviously there is no alternative to a transparent, impartial and credible national election to establish democracy, human rights and rule of law," her lawyer Kamrul Islam quoted her as saying.

Kamrul told the media that the AL chief has urged the senior leaders of the party to mobilise public support in pressing the government to concede the five-point demand that first came up in the pre-dialogue talks between AL and advisers to the caretaker government.

An end to price spiral of essentials, announcement of an election schedule without delay and trial of the war criminals are the other three

Earlier on May 4, the AL president said the formal dialogue with the government could go ahead in her About the planned talks with the

government, she was yesterday quoted by the lawyer as saying, "They [AL leaders] must know the government's agenda before attending the dialogue and make it successful at any She said the caretaker government's tenure cannot exceed the 90-

day period while the state of emergency cannot be in force for more than 120 days. An exception to this is against the constitution. She said a failure to hand over power to an elected government will

Six of the seven charge-sheeted accused including Hasina were present in the dock yesterday when Mustafizur Rahman's lawyer moved a petition seeking a four-week adjourn-

plunge the nation into a dangerous

menton grounds of his client's illness. Without passing any rule regard ing the petition, the court adjourned the hearing till May 19.

Writ petition

voter list work and that is why the EC's gazette notification is unconstitutional and illegal, the petition

Advocate Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and barrister Nasiruddin Ahmed Asim moved for the petitioner yesterday afternoon. The hearing on the petition was deferred until today following Deputy Attorney General Rajik Al Jalil's time prayer.

Hasina files

FROM PAGE 1 cognisance of it.

FROM PAGE 1

She mentioned that the trial proceedings of the said case have become functus officio (infructuous) and no court has jurisdiction to try it now as the trial court took cognisance of it in January this year, way beyond 60 days back.

Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh filed the petition on behalf of Sheikh Hasina.

asked the government to scrap the

provision for increasing the number

of reserved seats for women in the

tatives to which would be elected

through direct elections according

of the ulemas, the council of advis-

ers at a special meeting on April 24

finalised the two ordinances regard

ing city corporations and munici-

palities scrapping the provision for

reserving 40 percent seats for

ever propose to continue the cur

rent provision for reserving one-

third seats for women in city corpo

rations and municipalities, which is

expected to be promulgated as a law

by the president soon, handing over

a whopping victory to the Islamist

According to the existing provi-

sion, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)

has 90 wards headed by as many

commissioners. In addition, there

are provisions for 30 women com

missioners. Each woman commis-

sioner is in charge of three wards. So

in reality each ward has two com-

missioners -- one generally elected

commissioner and the other a

woman commissioner who is also

elected by voters of three wards.

This system leads to conflicts in

sharing responsibilities as generally

elected commissioners are often

found to be non-cooperating with

the specially elected women com-

missioners. Similar power sharing

systems exist for other city corpora-

tions, municipalities and union

40 percent of the total 90 wards of

DCC be reserved for women. So.

sionership in any ward. Such

reserved seats for women were

supposed to be in place for three

terms totalling in 15 years. After that

the government was to make a fresh

decision on whether the reserved

back flip, LGRD Adviser Anwarul

Iqbal on April 27 claimed to the

media that the provision for reserv-

ing 40 percent seats for women had

to be scrapped, since it would come

A government formed expert

committee on strengthening local

incumbent Health Adviser MM

Shawkat Ali, which came up with

the original proposal, however did

so after reviewing the High Court

wrong in reserving 40 percent seats

for women for the next 15 years,

instead it argued that the constitu-

tion does not discourage making

The committee found nothing

into conflict with a court verdict.

Defending the government's

women's seats would exist or not.

there would be no dual commis-

But the proposed law suggested

parishads.

hardliners in the country.

The finalised ordinances how-

Following the recommendations

to the earlier proposal.

local government system, represen

Women's reserved seats

development. Referring to the High Court judgement on a writ filed by some women ward commissioners elected to reserved seats in Khulna City Corporation, the LGRD adviser said the provision for reserving seats for women should not be a perma-

The petitioners filed the writ to avoid being marginalised in the name of being assigned with 'special duties'

In fact according to the High Court's verdict, representatives elected to reserved seats for women cannot be officially assigned with 'special duties' in local governments and they must be treated as equals to other elected representa-

The High Court verdict actually said nothing about the percentage of seats to be reserved for women. DRFAT LAW FOR ZILA, UPAZILA & UNION PARISHADS

Meanwhile, in line with the govern ment's latest reversal of decisions, the LGRD ministry already drafted a law regarding formations, elections and functions of union, upazila and zila parishads without keeping the provision for reserving 40 percent seats for women, who would be elected through direct votes, sources in the ministry said.

The draft ordinance proposes to continue the current provision for reserving three seats for women in each union parishad, having jurisdiction over nine general wards, a source said

Meaning, each elected woman to reserved seats in a union parishad will have to share her authority with three other elected members, running the risk of being marginalised. At upazila and zila parishad

levels, instead of reserving 40 percent seats for women, the new draft law proposes to keep one-third of total posts reserved for women, who will be elected through indirect

Women, who are already elected to reserved seats at lower tiers of the local government system will only be able to contest in elections to upazila and zila parishads, and an electoral college of already elected women to reserved seats at lower tiers will elect from among themselves the representatives to reserved seats for women in upazila and zila parishads, says the draft

government institutions led by law. The LGRD ministry draft howany clear answer when asked about ever proposes to create a post of a vice-chairman in each upazila and zila parishads, which will be parties. reserved for women elected through direct votes.

Currently there are around 14,500 women representatives elected to reserved seats in over thing will be done through discus-4,000 union parishads, 6 city corposions. "We'll advance step by step special provisions for women's rations, and the municipalities. through discussions."

Arab foreign ministers for end to Lebanon violence

AFP, Cairo

Arab foreign ministers holding crisis talks in Cairo yesterday appealed for an end to violence in Lebanon after fierce clashes erupted in mainly Druze areas southeast of

"In view of the danger of the situation in Lebanon, the council of ministers sends out an urgent appeal for an immediate end to violence in Mount Lebanon (Druze regions) and other areas," Ahmed bin Hilli, assistant secretary general for political affairs said reading from a statement. Afinal statement was due later.

The meeting follows days of lethal street battles in Lebanon which have stoked fears that a protracted political feud could break out into a repeat of the 1975-1990 civil war.

Notably absent was Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem whose country has been blamed for the troubles of its smaller neighbour.

At the opening session, Djibouti's Foreign Minister Mahmud Ali Yussuf, who chaired Sunday's session, told fellow ministers that "a number of steps and measures to resolve the situation in Lebanon have been put

Saifur, Mannan

FROM PAGE 1 Delwar-led Khaleda loyalists of the party are not ready to re-unite with rival Saifur loyalists as long as Mannan Bhuiyan remains among the ranks of the latter, since party Chairperson Khaleda Zia expelled him from the organisation just before her arrest on charges of graft, the sources said.

Mannan however is ready to concede his position as a leader and remain a general member of the party, for the sake of reunification if his rivals would let him, the sources added.

The leaders present at the meet ing included the party's Standing Committee Member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, the faction's Acting Secretary General Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, the party's Vice-presidents Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf and M Osman Farrug and former lawmaker Abdul Alim.

Mahbubur said all leaders present at yesterday's meeting emphasised the need for the party's re-unification, but they did take a hard stance of not accepting any offer of surrendering to the rival faction, as they want to make the party democratic

The sources said the former lawmakers also discussed the latest development in the re-unification process, and their strategy for the upcoming formal dialogues between the government and political parties.

Most of the attending former lawmakers strongly criticised Saifur Rahman for his recent remark that the leaders of his faction, who claim to be reformists can only split the party but unable to rebuild it, the sources added. Saifur had also said his leader-

ship became ineffective as most of the participants in the October 29, 2007 meeting of BNP leaders, where the faction had been formed, recently withdrew their support for him by stating in an affidavit to a court that the meeting was not of the party's standing committee. Most of the participants a

yesterday's meeting however expressed their support for Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

AL hopeful

FROM PAGE 16

held tomorrow at Sheikh Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi. The ALCWC would decide on the party's next course of action. Briefing newsmen, Syed Ashrai

said they also hope that the chief adviser's address to the nation would have specific points regarding their five-point demand. "The speech must have specific

points on the release of our leader [Hasina], a date for the withdrawal of the state of emergency and one for holding the elections, more appropriate measurers the government would take to control price hike of essentials and a commitment to try war criminals and disqualify them for the elections," said Ashraf

He said if the chief adviser addressed the nation today then they would review his speech and decide on their next course of action at the ALCWC meeting.

The AL will observe Hasina's homecoming day on May 17 and hold a discussion the following day. Presidium members Syeda

Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Arnu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury and Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser were present at the Presidium meeting.

CA likely

Asked whether the CA would address

FROM PAGE 1

the nation today, he replied: "There is a strong possibility." The CA will convey what the

government is thinking about lifting the state of emergency and restriction on indoor politics, the communications adviser said replying to a query. Neither of the two advisers gave

the release of the two former prime ministers as demanded by their When asked whether an environment of trust can be created keeping the two leaders behind bars, Zillur Rahman expressed hope that every-

racy.

Next budget FROM PAGE 16 growth in the current fiscal year would range between 6 and 6.2 percent.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), inflation has already exceeded 10 percent mark both on point-to-point and averages

NBR officials, Mirza Aziz said, "We

Asked about the meeting with

have discussed how to make the tax structures business-friendly and lessen discretionary power of the tax At the briefing at the planning ministry, he talked about the agricultural census that began yesterday and

asked all to cooperate with the data-The information will be used in court. formulating agricultural policy and planning programmes like the one to

increase crops production, he

The adviser said the census report is expected to be published by June next year after processing the information to be collected simulta-

neously in urban and rural areas. Planning Secretary Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and BBS Director General AYM Ekramul Huq were presentatthe briefing.

NU employees

FROM PAGE 16 threatened tougher movements if the authorities took any measures against them.

Yesterday's The Daily Star report said around 1,000 employees of the NU were recruited illegally. "The Gazipur head office of

National University is a tough place where no honest vice chancellors can stay for long. I have already received many threats from unknown people over telephone. I asked the government to provide special security for me," Rashidul told The Daily last evening.

The illegal recruitments were made on political considerations, nepotism and by taking huge bribes from the candidates. It was done while the BNP-led alliance government was in power, especially during the tenure of former VC Prof Aftab Ahmed, NU and University Grants Commission sources said.

Even important posts were awarded through the fake advertisement like the posts of deputy registrar, assistant registrar, network administrator, senior programme officer, maintenance engineers, programme officers, assistant chief medical officer, senior section officer, law officers, assistant programmer, section officer, audit officer, physical instructor, assistant section officer and sub-technical

Pak judges

down" differences over the reinstate-Sharif's PML-N party spokesman put the blame for the deadlock on

Zardari's party.

Monday morning.

to the issue.

ous month.

of the judges.

ress, there is hope.

achievement has been made,"

Sharif's party spokesman Siddiqul

rounds of negotiations in London.

Farooq told AFP about the latest

judiciary which is subservient to the

executive," Farooq said, adding that

Sharif would return to Islamabad on

was ready to accept reinstatement of

all judges except the deposed chief

justice, said that his party would not

agree to a "pick and choose" solution

rule and ousted chief justice Iftikhar

Muhammad Chaudhry and dozens of

other judges in November last year

when it appeared they might overturn

his re-election as president the previ-

Farooq declined to say whether his

party would quit the coalition, which

came to power after Bhutto and Sharif

February general elections.

trounced Musharraf's allies in

assembly tomorrow," he said when

asked if the May 12 deadline would

pass without reinstatement of judges.

assembly will approve a resolution on

May 12 and on the same day it would

be followed by the official restoration

PPP spokesman Farhatullah Babar

Babar said that party stalwarts

however downplayed reports of a

deadlock and said that "there is prog-

from both sides held meetings till late

Saturday night and had "narrowed

"There is no session of the national

Sharif had said that the national

Musharraf imposed emergency

Farooq, when asked if Musharraf

"Of course we do not support a

ment of judges and independence of judiciary. "I cannot call it a deadlock. Some "The ball is in the court of PPP We proposals have been exchanged," have tried our level best... but so far no Babartold AFP

Babar also said that national assembly was not meeting on Monday.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani reiterated his stand

on the issue. Gilani has said the coalition will not split as it has to steer Pakistan out of crises.

At a press conference on Saturday in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore, Gilani said there was no disagreement between the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) over the restoration of deposed judges and

meeting the May 12 deadline. "PML-N Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif is our partner and will not sit on opposition benches as we have to steer the country out of crises," he said.

"We are committed to the revival of judiciary but we won't take any step which is unconstitutional or illegal, or which may trigger a clash of institutions," the Associated Press of Pakistan quoted him as telling reporters in the eastern city of Lahore late Saturday.

Reinstatement of the judges is likely to cause a major headache for embattled former army chief Musharraf, who considers them hostile to his rule.

Mirza Abbas

FROM PAGE 1

court ordered the sentences to be carried out concurrently. The verdict will take effect from the day Abbas is arrested in the cases. "I am innocent...I did not commit

any illegal activities. I have always paid

taxes," Abbas, who was present in the

court, said after the delivery of the verdict adding that he would go to the higher court challenging the order. Rezaul Karim, deputy tax commissioner of National Board of Revenue (NBR), filed the cases on August 5 last year accusing Abbas of

evading tax upon his income of Tk

2,24,68,059 for the years between 1990 and 2007 Abbas, who was on the first list of 50 graft suspects, was arrested when he went to submit his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption

Commission (ACC) on February 25 He is facing a number of cases. These include the 15 cases filed regarding hand over of 18 houses,

which are now under trial with special Abbas is also a co-accused in the plot purchase graft case against for-

merlawmakerAliAsgarLobi. He is accused in a money laundering case as well. Motifheel police filed the case after

joint forces seized a huge amount of local and foreign currencies and other items from the South Shahjahanpur house of Mirza Abbas on February 4,

Khagrachhari

service is primarily launched on trial basis and will be available within the municipal areas," said Md Shah Alam, general manager, Teletalk

Regulatory Commission (BTRC) allowed Teletalk on Thursday to launch it operation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, added Shah Alam.

Rangamati. Enthusiastic mobile users, mostly youngsters who were wait-

However, they were facing problems in establishing connection. "Our handsets show network, but when we dial we cannot reach the destination as the network drops frequently," said Sushil

paigns and are setting up towers.

and the Irrawaddy delta, but people

in many peripheral areas that were

referendum is bizarre, it is illogical

They are surviving by a very thin

thread. Why do they have to worry

about politics?" said Debbie

Stothard, head of the Southeast

Asian human rights group ALTSEAN-

Burma. Myanmar is also known as

Television News in Bangkok,

Thailand, that the junta is manipu-

lating aid and delivering it selectively,

reachable by the regime, people are

complaining they are not getting aid.

She told Associated Press

"Even in Yangon area, which is

"For many of these people this

also affected were asked to vote.

More aid finally reaches

FROM PAGE 16

that Canberra would give \$23.5 million to help the survivors cope. The money would be given to UN

"it is beyond the capacity of any said of the cyclone's devastation,

on Saturday on a new constitution aimed at solidifying its hold on power, while brazenly turning cyclone relief efforts into a propaganda campaign in some cases, generals' names were scribbled onto boxes of foreign aid before being distributed.

The referendum seeks public approval of a new constitution, which the junta says will be followed in 2010 by a general election. Both votes are elements of what the junta calls its "roadmap to democracy." But the proposed constitution

guarantees 25 percent of parliamentary seats to the military and allows the president to hand over all power to the military in a state of emergency elements critics say defy the junta's professed commitment to democ-

Ma Thein Htwe, 49, who waited with dozens of other women and children at a monastery in Kungyangon for

Chittagong zone. Bangladesh Telephone

The CHT people get the muchexpected service following assurance from Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed during his recent visit to

ing for the service for long, were seen yesterday roaming with cellphone sets in hand. Some were showing their sets in excitement.

Prasad Chakma in frustration. The others private cellphone service providers --Grameenphone, Aktel, Banglalink, Citycell, and Warid -- have yet to get clearance from BTRC to launch

their operation in CHT. These operators have however launched their advertise cam-

in the worst affected parts of Yangon

Burma.

ignoring the needy.

agencies and other nongovernmental organisations to be spent on food, clean water and purification units, health and sanitation kits and tarpaulins. one nation state to deal with," Smith

Myanmar's junta has also been criticised for holding a referendum

written in chalk on the side of one

What they are getting is rotting rice," In the cyclone-hit areas, long lines formed in front of government centres, where rations of rice and oil were being distributed. Elsewhere, people clustered on roadsides hoping for handouts. The words "Help us!" were

"Please, don't wait too long," said

The referendum was postponed her ration of rice.