Ex-BNP MP Salam, Huji leader | Hasina freed

FROM PAGE 1

minister for home at that time, and 20 persons including a student, Shaibal Saha Partha, and AL leader and ward commissioner Mokhlesur Rahman were arrested.

Interestingly, none of these arrestees who had to undergo a lot of harassment and tortures were found guilty in the latest investigation.

fessions" of Joj Miah, Abul Hashem alias Rana and Shafiqul Islam that a criminal gang carried out the attack.

The present administration later found that as per the then government's desire those confessional statements were obtained using force. The CID investigators and the supervising officer involved were found to have paid Joj Miah's family a few thousand taka monthly.

The one-member judicial probe committee of Justice Joynul Abedin even pointed out a foreign "enemy" country's involvement in the inci-

The charge sheet submitted yesterday has nothing in this regard.

charge sheet at a press briefing yesterday, CID Chief Additional Inspector General Jabed Patwari said Huji top leaders planned and carried out the attacks to kill Hasina as a few arrested attackers said in their confessional statements that Hasina would harm Islam if she was alive

BNP leader Pintu is not involved with Huji but he has been charged since the attackers had held two meetings at his residence to take decision about the attack.

"Pintu admitted that he heard about the meetings and saw the persons who went to his house for the meetings," the CID chief told the ess at his office.

Apart from Pintu all other attackers on the charge sheet are Huji leaders and activists.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Enamul Haque accepted the charge sheet submitted at noon and issued arrest warrants against the fugitives.

20 persons made accused in the case earlier as investigators said they did not find their involvement and of the charges.

Shafigul, 17 other arrestees are Monjur Hossain, Shah Alam, Haji notsubmitanyreport. Shoveb alias Dikon, Mokhlesur Rahman Aiub Ali Khan Shaibal Saha is now behind bars. They are Mufti Partha, Habib alias Abdul Hannan, Hannan, his brother Mohibullah Badsha Mia, Abdur Rahman, alias Mafizur Rahman alias Ovi,

Commission (ACC) on September

2, 2007 filed a case against the

former prime minister and six

others on charges of taking Tk 3

crore in bribe in return for some

advantages to set up three barge-

The same year on December 9,

the anti-graft body sued former

prime ministers Hasina and

Khaleda Zia along with 10 others

for inflicting heavy loss to the state

Canadian gas exploration and

extraction company Niko through

separate courts on Sunday issued

rulings exempting Hasina from

appearing in court in four cases.

The trial court also ordered author-

ities to return the AL chief her

with the recommendations of a

medical board for immediate ear

cal board examined Hasina on June

5 and recommended the next day

to send her abroad for better treat-

August 21 grenade blasts on an AL

tions, the government yesterday

freed her for eight weeks on parole.

Hospital in the capital for the first

time since her arrest for medical

check-ups following several health

there, she was taken back to the

She was admitted to the same

hospital on March 11 where a panel

of seven doctors unanimously

recommended sending her the US

day, the US doctors, who had ear-

lier treated Hasina for the ear inju-

ries, requested the jail authorities

to send her to their hospital in

the software of the hearing aids

installed in her ears should have

immediate adjustments, said a

personal physician of the ailing

The AL chief was, however,

discharged from the hospital on

March 30 and taken back to the sub

to Square Hospital on April 19.

In another development that

related complications.

makeshift jail.

for ear treatment.

Florida without delay.

former prime minister.

Acting on the recommenda-

On February 21 this year, the AL

rally at Bangabandhu Avenue.

The government-formed medi-

The court orders came in line

passport seized by police.

treatment of Hasina.

In the latest development,

corruption and abuse of power.

mounted power plants.

FROM PAGE 1

Mohammad Hasan alias Tushar, Zahir Hossain alias Liton, Akhteruzzaman alias Ata, Abdur Rahim, Waliullah alias Ali, Mohammad Hossain, Monir Hossain alias Pichchi Monir, and Akash Sarkar alias Jiten.

CID Chief Jabed Patwari said although Joj Miah, Hashem and Shafiqul gave confessional statements, those had no basis and no corporative evidence was found to support their statements.

Asked if any legal action would be taken against those who obtained the statements, he said the court would decide the matter.

Investigation officers CID ASPs Munshi Atiqur Rahman and Abdur Rashid and supervising officer CID Special Superintendent Ruhul Amin have retired from the service, so the police cannot take any departmental action against them, he said.

THECASE police filed two cases--one for murder and another under the Explosive Substances Act--with Motifheel

Police Station. On June 5 last year, Badar Aziz Omar Faruq could not be known. Uddin of Cox's Bazar filed another case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka charging former premier Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique Rahman, Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and 25

others with murder. However, the present investigation officer of the case, CID Assistant Superintendent Fazlul Kabir, did not incident. find any links of them to the incident.

He vesterday submitted the charge sheets of the cases filed by the police, accusing the 22 persons in attacks on Hasina at Kotalipara on each case.

The charge sheets contain 42 pages each while the case dockets have more than 3,000 pages. A total of 408 persons, including Hasina and other top AL leaders, have been made prosecution witnesses in the

Besides, 69 types of evidence including Hasina's sports utility vehicle, the truck that was used as the makeshift podium at the rally, grenade splinters and blood stained clothes have been submitted.

The investigators also submitted to the court the Interpol report containing details of the incident and submitted earlier to the government, prayed to the court for clearing them the CID chief said, adding that the Federal Bureau of Investigation Apart from Joj, Hashem and (FBI), which had taken some evidence for test and returned later, did

The CID said 14 of the accused are abroad for treatment.

as the precondition for its participation in the dialogues.

Hasina placed a wreath at the portrait of her father at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, where she made her first stop after being released. Visibly emotional Hasina spent about 20 minutes in front of her father's portrait and finally broke into tears, surrounded by hundreds of party leaders and workers who were showering her with flower petals while chanting slogans of greetings.

She offered the zohar prayer and a special prayer there for salvation of the departed souls of her father, mother, brother, and other family members and relatives who had been brutally killed in that house in an armyled coup on August 15, 1975.

Hasina, the eldest daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, then started towards her Sudha Sadan residence, also in Dhanmondi. Several thousand of her party leaders, workers and supporters stood in long queues on both sides of the roads stretching from road no 5 in Dhanmondi to Sudha Sadan, many were holding bouquets for their leader.

As the AL chief's motorcade entered Dhanmondi, cheerful supporters began chanting slogans including one that translates, 'No fear Sheikh Hasina, we are still on the street. We broke the lock and brought you home'.

Hasina's US educated son Sajeeb Wazed Joy expressed deep gratitude to Allah, AL leaders, workers, and supporters, and to the people of the country. "I'm now very relaxed...very happy. All of our family members are feeling happy after 11 months. I express my deep gratitude to the almighty Allah, Awami League family, and to the government for releasing my mother," he told The Daily Star over the phone from the US in an immediate reaction.

The crowd through road no 5 in Dhanmondi was so thick that Hasina's motorcade could barely move, taking more than half an hour to reach Sudha Sadan, which is less than a quarter kilometre from there.

At the main entrance to her residence Hasina remained stuck for several minutes as security personnel struggled to manage the crowd.

Around 2:30pm Hasina entered her residence, from where she had been arrested by the army-led joint forces on July 16 last year.

Entering her home, the AL president went straight to the first floor patio from where she waved to the crowd on the street. She then moved to a balcony on the second floor and waved again to her supporters who were jamming the street as far as eyes could see, repeatedly breaking into

In response, the crowd waved back chanting slogans. A large num-

Govt pledges

FROM PAGE 1 formed a medical board for a needs assessment in order to provide her

with better treatment. "The government has always been conscious about the health complications of physical fitness of both former premiers," the Press Information Department (PID) release said, adding that the government has ensured the country's "best medical facilities" for their

The requisite legal process is now over, and following the medical board's recommendations, the government has decided to allow Sheikh Hasina go abroad for better treatment "at her own will", the PID release said.

treatment.

ber of party leaders and workers entered Sudha Sadan to have a

glimpse of their party chief. After the public appearance, Hasina went inside and first hugged AL Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury breaking into tears again, then she embraced another Presidium Member Motia Chowdhury again breaking down into tears.

"How are you?" she asked her colleagues, and when they inquired about her well being, she said she was fine. The AL chief then thanked her party leaders.

After the exchange of greetings, Hasina started talking about more serious issues with senior AL leaders including Acting President Zillur Rahman and Acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam, who had been waiting there for a couple of hours for her arrival. During their conversations the AL chief was repeatedly bursting into tears.

Later talking to reporters, Zillur thanked Allah and the people of the country for 'standing beside his party chief and sought public blessings for Hasina's long life.

Hundreds of party activists began thronging Sudha Sadan and the special jail gate from early morning as the news spread that their leader would be released soon. A good number of grassroots level leaders from adjacent districts rushed to Sudha Sadan immediately after Hasina arrived there.

Many professionals including teachers of Dhaka University also rushed to Sudha Sadan to greet Hasina.

JOY'S REACTION

Saying that his mother was kept detained for 11 months on 'false charges', Joy told The Daily Star last night that his family is happy that she will now get better treatment. Joy, who is a software engineer also a businessman residing in the US, also said Sheikh Hasina has been released in the face of a popular demand, and likened his mother's release to the historic release of his late grandfather Bangabandhu after he had been framed in Agartola conspiracy case many year's ago when the country was part of Pakistan.

"My gratitude to the government is for releasing my mother in the interest of the country. They have heeded the popular demand, I hope the government will continue moving forward, being reasonable for the greater interest of the country and its people," Joy added.

Obama starts campaign as favorite in Iowa

AP, Des Moines, Iowa

A political infrastructure that pushed Barack Obama to victory in the Iowa caucuses and an increase in Democratic voter registration make him the favorite in the state in November, but an intense catch-up effort could put Republican John McCain back in the game, veteran political strategists in both parties say.

"John McCain's problem in Iowa is Obama already has an infrastructure here and McCain doesn't. He pulled his staff out, he pulled his people out," said Iowa House Minority Leader Chris Rants, a Republican. "He has to decide if Iowa is part of his strategy, is Iowa going to be a battleground or not."

Des Moines lawyer and Republican National Committee member Stephen Roberts was equally candid.

Sheikh Hasina

FROM PAGE 1 AL's acting president Zillur Rahman intimately.

The AL chief however seemed to ignore Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzaq and Suranjit Sengupta, AL sources said.

"Our leader seemed to be ignoring some party leaders known as reformists within the party," an AL leader present at the scene told The Daily Star.

AL senior presidium member Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzaq, Suranjit Sengupta, Tofail Ahmed espoused reforms in the party following the imposition of a state of emergency in the country on January 11 last year.

Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta and some other AL leader placed reform proposals after Sheikh Hasina was sent to jail.

Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Matia Chowdhury and Syed Ashraful Islam has criticised those leaders saying that the reform proposals are aimed to disassociate the AL chief from the party helm.

Militants

FROM PAGE 16

In recent months, militants have attempted to spark revolts in jails or made numerous breakout attempts.

In the last ten months, 245 militants have been arrested: 145 of them were 'Islamist militants' -- 45 were members of the Hizbut Towhid, 35 belonged to the JMB, 25 were from the Harkatul Jihad (HuJi) and 23 from the Allah'r Dal.

Seventeen militants were sentenced to death in the same period, seven of them belonging to the JMB. Eighty-six others were sentenced to varying prison terms by speedy trial tribunals.

Before the report was released, Health Adviser Shawkat Ali launched a BEI-published book titled Countering Terrorism in Bangladesh at the BEI auditorium in the capital.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, he said the next government must not tolerate terrorism or terrorist groups, adding that the rise of militancy in the country over the last decade was due to political shelter provided by the then ruling

"Political parties must include in their election manifestoes that they would not patronise any terrorist activities," he said.

Release viewed

FROM PAGE 1

"Once a big party like the AL comes to the dialogue table, it will be easy for the government to bring BNP to the talks," he said, adding that Khaleda Zia also might be released the way Hasina has been freed.

"The government's main objective is to hold the national election. The dialogue was initiated as part of it. But the process became stagnant when none of the major par-

"The arrest of both Hasina and Khaleda had created instability in the political environment. Day by day, the situation was becoming more and more unstable. If this trend continues, it will be difficult for this government to hold the election for transfer of power. Again, we don't want the nation to go back to the pre-January 11, 2007 scenario," said another official.

"The government wants to see a healthy and lasting democratic

The official went on, "This is why we have taken into consideration that although in detention, both the leaders have popularity. It is not possible for a government to reduce one's popularity just by putting him or her in detention. So, we want dialogues for creating a congenial atmosphere for election.

"Since the government wants to handover power after the election, it wants to do so with reputation. It

Meanwhile, Hasina's release however was not welcomed by all within the government. A section tion that since Hasina was released was being allowed to meet her party men. They also asked if Hasina returns to detention after eight weeks of parole, how would

that resolve the political crisis? Power plant graft

FROM PAGE 16 He also said when the records are submitted to the HC, the case will not go on in the special judge's

ACC Deputy Director SM Sabbir Hasan had filed the Tk 3 crore graft case with Tejgaon Police Station against the former premier and six others on September 2 last year under the Emergency Power Rules. ACC Deputy Director Morshed Alam, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, pressed charges in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, on January 10 this

Hasina filed a petition with the HC on June 2 for quashing the trial proceedings. In the petition, she

US airstrike

Several Pakistani soldiers have also been killed by stray shells but it appears to be the first time that any have been killed by a targeted air strike by US forces.

Disputes over the porous, 1,500-mile (2,500-kilometre) frontier between Pakistan and Afghanistan, both key allies in the US-led "war on terror," have flared up several times in recent

Pakistan's new government, which ousted allies of President Pervez Musharraf in elections in February, has entered peace talks with pro-Taliban militants in the tribal belt, causing concerns among its Western allies.

The attack came two days after a US think-tank said in a report that members of Pakistan's intel-Afghan soldiers and the coalition ligence services and its paramilitaries were supporting Taliban insurgents who enter Afghanistan to attack US and Nato forces.

The study by the RAND corporation, funded by the US Department of Defence, said that if Taliban bases in Pakistan were not eliminated, the forces supporting the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai "will face crippling long-term consequences in their effort to stabilise and rebuild Afghanistan.

Pakistan's military denounced the claims in a statement as "yet another smear campaign maligning Pakistan armed forces and creating differences as well as misunderstanding amongst the coalition partners."

28 dead

FROM PAGE 16

Airways has already been opened to probe the cause of the accident, amid contradictory reports that either weather or a technical failure

The airport was due to reopen at 12:00 noon (0900 GMT), the official MENA news agency reported.

Airport authorities said an engine caught fire, spreading to the fuselage, while survivors said weather conditions at the time of the landing were poor, with the heavy showers.

by bad weather and forced to land in Port Sudan, before being allowed to return to Khartoum, the official

SUNA news agency said. "There was an explosion in one of the engines and the plane caught fire," airport director Yussef Ibrahim

broke out. An emergency escape slide could be seen attached to one of the central doors of the plane.

"The plane landed at 8:45," civil

Mubarak Salim said "today's weather is one of the main reasons A security official, who asked not

least four people trapped because they were strapped to stretchers inside the burning wreckage. Amman is a popular destination

seek medical treatment. "I've been travelling a lot, I know when a landing is rough," survivor

Sudan Airways employee, told AFP. 'This landing was very rough.' "When it came to a stop, fire was burning the right side of the plane

and was beginning to burn the inside of the plane." After landing, the cabin filled

man who gave his name as Aman said he was looking for the oneyear-old child of a couple who had been hospitalised. Police official Mohammed

Naguib al-Tayyeb had earlier told the broadcaster that most passengers had managed to escape the suffered burns.

but that there had been "many injured" on the tarmac.

the plane before he himself had left "When I got out there were still

The disaster is the latest in a long line of fatal air crashes and mishaps in Sudan.

In May, south Sudan's defence minister was killed in a plane crash along with at least 22 other people, most of them senior members of the

In July 2003, 115 people were killed when a Sudan Airways Boeing 737 was destroyed in a ball of fire as it attempted to land at the Red Sea resort of Port Sudan after apparently suffering an engine problem soon

national airliner had not been able

to buy spare parts for its US-made aircraft due to economic sanctions imposed by Washington, which has placed Sudan on its list of countries

supporting terrorism. Washington maintains that the sanctions do not prevent the delivery of spare parts for planes if these are requested.

The decision to abolish the monarchy was taken by a constitutional assembly formed as part of a peace deal between Maoist insurgents and mainstream parties

Gyanendra ascended the throne in June 2001 after a palace massacre in which the then-crown prince -who was drunk and on drugs and furious at being prevented from marrying the woman he loved killed most of the royal family includ-

During his 14-minute speech, the former king hit back at accusations that he was linked to the killings.

"Me and my family have been continuously defamed with ill intentions which was saddening and still is. The accusations that were targeted against us were inhuman," said the ex-king.

official probe and several independent studies have dismissed that view as little more than a conspiracy theory

money abroad," the ex-king also complained. "All my properties are in Nepal. All the properties I have are national-

insisted surrounded by two stuffed tigers and a rhino head -- said he had also handed over his diamond, ruby and

Gyanendra, however, stopped short of apologising to those killed during his reign -- part of which was marked by a bloody crackdown against pro-democracy demonstra-

tentional," he said.

Nepal's Maoists, who fought for a decade to overthrow the 240-yearold monarchy, welcomed Gyanendra's decision to leave the

palace voluntarily. "It is good to see him comply with the people's verdict, but he had no other choice," Chandra Prakash Gajurel, a senior Maoist, told AFP.

The ex-king is expected to leave the palace later Wednesday. He will be swapping the Narayanhiti palace -- set in acres of lush gardens in the heart of Kathmandu and set to be converted

concrete home in a forest reserve on the outskirts of the capital. Local media have reported that Gyanendra has asked to keep a 400soldier close protection unit, but the government said the king will be

allowed 75 security personnel. queen Komal, will also lose 600 domestic staff.

"All former royal staff including palace secretaries, housemaids, gardeners, cooks and cleaners have become government employees,"

reported playboy lifestyle was also seen as highly damaging for the monarchy -- has moved into a private residence in Kathmandu's

after take-off. After that crash, the Khartoum government said the Sudanese air fleet was growing old and that the

substandard teachers were the Mirpur venue after the two to democracy, which UPR says, is recruited during the governments sides faced each other here last also the demand of the 'silent of Awami League and the BNPyear when India won the one-day majority of people. Jamaat alliance... Thirty percent series 2-0.

The drama got a twist with the government's claim about the "con-

Disclosing the content of the

The court also ordered the authorities to discharge the arrested

was submitted against Hasina and

Paltan on October 28, 2006.

to her Sudha Sadan residence. ment of her ear injured in the

chief was taken to the Square Group of Companies, sued Hasina After a couple of hours' stay

now under investigation. Hasina, the hearing on charge framing in the MiG-29 purchase

Meantime, the case involving the Shibir worker killing is pending In a letter, they suggested that

> power plant graft case and frigate purchase graft case, filed against her during the tenure of BNP-led four-party alliance government,

which were also filed during the As her ear and eye problems four-party alliance government's worsened, she was again admitted rule, are under investigation. Besides, the cross examination

case filed by the ACC on September

July 16 and since then

A week later, the government issued a press note imposing a ban on her coming back to home saying

warrant was issued against the AL through awarding gas deals to

> of adoring supporters on May 7, Before her arrest, the govern-

case of Azam Chowdhury aftercleared the bar on continuing its On June 13, 2007, Noor Ali,

Development Board (PDB) and his firm to finalise a power plant back

Among the other cases against corruption case and Niko graft case

with a Dhaka court.

Six other graft cases against her,

45 others in a case filed for killing of a Shibir worker during a clash at

On April 22, 2007, an arrest

The government, however, lift the restriction in face of criticism at home and abroad and Hasina finally returned to the country to a rapturous welcome by thousands

The first extortion case was filed against the former prime minister on April 9 last year by Tajul Islam

and try to ensure that every stake holder's demand is considered," said Zillur.

have started already.

remain stayed by the HC orders.

On April 11, 2007, charge sheet

chief in the Shibir worker killing

ment barred Hasina from going to the US to visit her expecting daugh-

Faruque, chairman of Westmont Power Plant, where he complained of Tk3 crore extortion. Although the High Court stayed

and her two relatives for extorting Tk 5 crore in exchange for mediaabroad, saying, "We are working on tion between the Power mutual trust, so there is no ques-

He said that the government has always considered the health concerns of political detainees and Noor Ali and Tajul Islam Faruq are

> The UPR has proposed two-year term for a national unity government, balance of the powers of the prime minister and the president, and decentralisation as the cornerstone of future democracy.

tion of her not returning."

criminals and asked the government to investigate why they have not been tried for the last 37 years. They also asked the government to initiate the qualitative changes

FROM PAGE 16 "We want to assure the teachers that we are not conspiring to privatise primary education."

ensure quality primary education for all and it does not believe in privatisation or commercialisation of the primary education," added the chief of the largest NGO in the country. The authority vested in Brac by the government does not approve Brac of interfering in administrative affairs of primary schools in the 20 upazilas under the pilot

project, he said adding that Brac

will train teachers on public holi-

days and during vacations only so

that it does not affect other training

"Brac strongly believes that it is

the responsibility of the state to

programmes conducted by directorate of primary education. "This caretaker government gave us the permission to improve quality [of education] in the 20 upazilas after we performed well in improving the quality of education in five upazilas in Sherpur district during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government," he said describing

the background of the permission.

The primary schools that fall under the pilot project are in 20 upazilas in Sylhet, Habiganj, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sirajganj, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Munshiganj and Gazipur districts. The quality of primary education has fallen drastically as "many

teachers in government primary schools and 50 percent teachers in non-government schools are not trained," Abed said. Brac at present runs 32,000

percent while the rate in government primary school is 82 percent. Brac will hold a meeting with leaders of primary school teachers sometime next week to clear the misconception and confusion over

Mushtaq Raza Chowdhury, Education Programme Director Dr Shafiqul Islam, Public Relations and Communications Director M Anwarul Haque and Education Research Unit Coordinator Samir Ranjan Nath were present at the

Tigers face India FROM PAGE 16

have been won by India.

Brac not 'NGO-nising'

schools where 9,84,440 students receive non-formal primary education, he said pointing out that the passing rate in Brac schools is 96

Bangladesh shocked them twice, once at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in 2004 and then in Portof-Spain during World Cup 2007. On the other occasion, the match was abandoned due to heavy rain in Chittagong last year. It will be their third meeting in

> The HCheard submissions form Hasina's counsels last week.

FROM PAGE 16 supporting the coalition in the war against terror," it said.

Pakistan had lodged a strong protest with the coalition, it said. The US-led coalition in Afghanistan referred queries to the US embassy in Islamabad, which in turn said that the Pentagon was dealing with the matter. The Afghan military made

no immediate comment. Security officials said the deaths came after Afghan troops crossed the porous frontier and tried to occupy the strategic Pakistani post in the troubled tribal belt, which borders eastern

Afghanistan. The post was in an area that has long been disputed between

Pakistani troops repulsed the

the two countries.

then bombed the area. Coalition aircraft also killed around 15 Taliban militants about a kilometre (half a mile) away, the officials said. A spokesman for Pakistani Taliban militants, Maulvi Omar,

warriors)" were killed in an air strike by coalition helicopters. He also said the rebels had shot down a coalition helicopter and captured seven Afghan soldiers when they were returning from "attacking" the post. There was no confirmation of either

Pakistan has protested over a series of missile strikes attributed to US-led forces in Afghanistan in recent months, including one in the tribal region of Bajaur in May that killed more than a dozen

were to blame.

said in a television interview. TV pictures showed flames tearing through the upper section of the fuselage hours after the fire

aviation official El-Sheikh el-Faki told AFP. "It landed okay and then it skidded and caught fire." State Transport Minister Mabruk

to be named, said he had taken part in the rescue operation and seen at

Awad Mohamed Idris, a retired

with smoke and he jumped onto an escape chute, Idris said. "After I left the plane I was still coughing." Idris managed to find his relatives in the arrivals hall, but another

aircraft without injury but some had Ibrahim Saleh, one of the passengers at the back of the plane, told AFP he had not seen many bodies

many people on board," he said.

southern former rebel leadership.

Ex-Nepal king FROM PAGE 16

who joined forces when Gvanendra tried to assume dictatorial powers.

inghimself.

Many Nepalese believed he was behind the killings, even though an

ised. In the last seven years I have not gathered any money or property," he Gyanendra -- sitting in a chair

"The crown and sceptre used by the Shah dynasty, I have given to the Nepalgovernment," said the ex-king.

"If any people have been harmed, I hope you understand it was unin-

Gyanendra and his wife, former

home ministry spokesman Modraj Dottel said. Gyanendra's son Paras -- whose

diplomatic quarter.

dent.

and came to power again.

that her return might spark violence in the country.

ter and virtually kept her confined

the proceedings of the extortion wards, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on May 8 this year managing director of Unique

The extortion cases filed by

The trials of Meghna Ghat

Hasan Sumon, Rafigul Islam Sabuj and Mohammad Ujjal alias Ratan. The eight absconding accused are Pintu's brothers Maulana Tajuddin and Maulana Liton, Anisul Mursalin and his brother Mahibul Muttakin, Iqbal, Maulana Abu Bakar alias Selim Howlader, Jahangir Alam Badar and Khalilur Rahman. Mursalin and Muttakin were arrested in India with explosives in 2006 and are now

Sharif Shahidul Islam alias Bipul,

Maulana Abu Sayeed alias Dr Abu

Zafar, Abul Kalam Azad alias Bulbul,

Jahangir Alam, Maulana Abu Taher,

Shahadatullah Jewel, Hossain

Ahmed Tamim, Abdus Salam Pintu,

Mufti Moinuddin Sheikh alias Abu

Zandal alias Masum Billah, Arif

detained at Tihar jail there. The investigators said Tajuddin supplied the grenades. The CID chief said they have found involvement of six others in the attacks but did not include their A day after the grenade attack the names in the charge sheets as Ahsanullah Kajol died in an encounter in India and Mohammad Masud died of illness while details of Subho

alias Towfiq, Babu, Ferdous and

"Once we arrest the four, we will submit a supplementary charge sheet against them," said Jabed. Eight of the arrestees--Hannan, Bipul, Ovi, Abu Sayeed, Bulbul, Arif Hossain, Jahangir and Sabuj--gave statements under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code confess-

ing their involvement with the Investigation officer Fazlul Kabir said apart from the August 21 attacks, Huji also tried to carry out July 20, 2000 and during her election campaign in Sylhet for what they

said arresting and harassing several

Islamic scholars during her govern-

ment's tenure.

Mustafiz FROM PAGE 1 Hasina's counsel advocate Sahara Khatun represented her while the other accused in the case were produced before the court.

Mustafiz's counsel Syed Rezaur

Rahman filed the permanent bail

petition to the court, saying that his

client is incapable of attending

court proceedings as he is seriously

ill and currently undergoing treatment at Combined Military The counsel also sought permission for sending Mustafiz Upon hearing arguments from

both sides, the court granted per-

manent bail to Mustafiz. However,

the court did not give any order

regarding Mustafiz's treatment

ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul

represented the prosecution in the

overseas.

On December 11, 2001, the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the case against Hasina and four others with Tejgaon Police Station, accusing them of causing a loss of Tk 700 crore to the state exchequer by purchasing eight MiG-29 fighter jets while Hasina was in power as the prime minister.

The names of Brig Gen (retd)

Iftekhar-Ul-Bashar and former

deputy secretary Hasan Mahmood

Delwar were dropped from the

case due to insufficient evidence

while former army chief

Mustafizur Rahman, Air

Commodore (retd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Hossain Serniabat and businessman Nur Ali were implicated in the case after investigators found their

Tarique, Koko

involvement in the scam.

FROM PAGE 1 any individual or party, but for the sake of the nation's future," Rab told reporters after the talks with the government. The commerce adviser meanwhile said, "We need to create a

climate of trust as fast as we can

The adviser said that invitation to both parties for talks still stands and added that the government wants to move forward on basis of a consensus with all political parties. Zillur also dismissed doubts over whether Sheikh Hasina would return from her medical trip

it is "reflected in the decision" to temporarily release Hasina. Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, during the talks with UPR, said that there needs to be a separation of power between the centralised government and a more powerful decentralised local govern-

UPR also demanded trial of war

the pilot project, Abed said. Brac deputy executive directors M Aminul Alam and Dr Ahmed

conference.

ties joined it," he said.

order after the next election."

does not want to give any scope of blaming it with not trying sincerely or not doing enough," he said. of officials involved in the anticorruption drive raised the quesfor treatment purposes, why she

each other 18 times, 15 of which

also sought bail in the case.

said eight "mujahideen (holy

claim.

capital hit by a sandstorm and then The plane had flown from Amman via Damascus but been turned back once from Khartoum

for what happened.'

for wealthier Sudanese to go and

He had first helped children off

"There was also an accusation that I have lots of property and

emerald-adorned crown and scep-

into a museum -- for a large but drab

Prior to the admission, she was is on in the barge-mounted graft taken there for medical tests several times.