Tk 1009cr DCC budget Advisory body

FROM PAGE 16

The corporation will spend Tk 4 crore for modernisation and renovation of the rides offered by the Shishu Park and Tk 7.50 crore for development of different parks and playgrounds. Tk 1 crore and Tk 10.50 crore were allocated for these

in the current year. The amount earmarked for development and maintenance of roads, traffic infrastructure, footpaths, foot bridges and underpasses, bus/truck terminals, medians and electrification of roads stands at Tk 170.40 crore. It was Tk 163.50 crore last year.

In 2008-09, development and construction of community centres, slaughterhouses and car parks will cost the corporation Tk 39

Mayor Khoka in his speech said, "We haven't imposed any new holding tax on the citizens. Instead, we have decided to increase revenue collection."

The DCC aims to earn Tk 527.51 target was Tk 230 crore. crore in revenues in the upcoming fiscal year. In 2007-08, the revenue expects Tk 45 crore from its martarget was Tk 478.45 crore while earning was Tk 400.59 crore.

For development programmes in the coming year, the DCC will rely more on funds from government and donor agencies. Its allocation for the sector adds up to Tk 692.90 crore. In the last budget, it was Tk 1098.91 crore, but the corporation could spend only Tk 443.43 crore.

According to the budget, Tk 100 crore will come from the government block allocation, Tk 100 crore from special allocation, Tk 242.90 crore from either the government

Mashhud

FROM PAGE 16

He said if it seems to the commission that something illegal had been done while releasing the Awami League president, the watchdog would surely stake its opinions out to the appropriate authorities.

"I think no illegal steps were taken or would be taken. If it's not so, we'll surely give our opinion to them. I know for sure that the activities are conducted as per rules and regulations," Mashhud said, adding that the current anti-corruption drive would not be affected by the release of Hasina.

Referring to the temporary release of Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, he said, "Certainly that has been done in accordance with law. I don't think there is any scope for disagreement."

Hoping that the formation of the Truth Commission would lessen pressure on the ACC, Mashhud said its success, however, would depend on the number of people coming to

Under no circumstances would the Anti-Corruption Commission allow any other agency to impede its activities," he said.

On reports of his resignation, he said, "You know, there were so many rumours. But, you see, those were not true. There'll be nothing to hide if there comes any decision like that" "The rumours were spread

through you (the media). You have been used. There was no need for that", he said

Noting that there are still a lot of works to do, Mashhud hoped that he would be able to accomplish his task with the help of everyone. The ACC chairman left the coun-

try on May 19 on vacation. He was scheduled to return home on May 12 and attend office on May 15.

But, owing to his mother's illness, he came back two days earlier, on May 10.

Custodial torture FROM PAGE 1

Submitting two pleas -- one for

adjournment of the case and the other seeking overseas medical treatment for his client, barrister Rafiq during the hearing said the proceedings of the case should be adjourned as Tarique is incapable of attending the trial due to health

Tarique's condition did not improve to a "satisfactory" level despite ongoing treatment in the

country, he added. Out of the eight accused in the case, Tarique "could not be produced" due to illness, while Babar and Abu Sufian, director of East-West Property Development Ltd, a concern of Bashundhara Group, were produced to stand trial before

the court yesterday. medical board formed for Tarique, his life is in danger and he risks going "physically invalid" for life unless proper treatment is ensured for him soon, said barrister Rafique adding that Tarique should be sent abroad before he becomes dis-

Opposing both the pleas of the defence, Syed Shameem Ahsan Habib, the prosecution lawyer, said the state is conforming to its duty of ensuring Tarique's treatment in the country and the court does not

have the jurisdiction over sending Tarique abroad for treatment. On October 4 last year, Abul ment passes the anti-terrorism act Kashem, deputy assistant director to punish offenders who could be of the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Ramna Police Station, accusing six people including Babar for bribery involving the murder of

Bashundhara Group Director cases for filing those under this law Humayun Kabir Sabbir. Tarique and former BNP law- out of political motivation," he said.

maker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal were implicated in the case later when initial investigations found

their involvement in the crime. Tarique was arrested on March 7 last year on extortion charges while as the Arms Act and the Explosives Babar was arrested on May 29 last Act are enough to properly punish

from other sources. In his budget speech, the DCC mayor could not assure that there would be an end to unplanned road digging anytime soon. He said without coordination

or foreign-funded projects and

private investments and Tk 9 crore

between different utility service providers, it is not possible to give the city people a respite from sufferings caused by diggings. Khoka called for the govern-

ment to bring Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha and Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority under the city corporation.

He also suggested forming a separate organisation to deal with projects to save the rivers around

Holding tax is the single largest source of revenues for the DCC. The corporation targets to earn Tk 255 crore from it in the upcoming year. It realised Tk 176 crore in holding tax in 2007-08 while the

For 2008-09, the corporation kets, Tk 36 crore from trade licence fees. Tk 2.50 crore from rickshaw licence fees, Tk 9 crore from advertisements, Tk 11.50 crore from bus/truck terminals, Tk 13 crore from cattle markets, Tk 2.50 crore from leased out toilets and ghats, Tk 44 crore from road digging fees, Tk 9 crore from equipment rents, Tk 3.50 crore from children's parks, Tk 2.50 crore from community centres, Tk 1.50 crore from graveyards and cremation grounds and Tk 56 crore from land handover.

Five AL leaders

Mizanur Rahman Mizan and KCC commissioner of ward no 23 Imam

Hasan Chowdhury Moina. The four men accused of murdering the AL leader are Ganesh Banerjee, Shukur Gazi, Rabbi alias Ripon and Shahadat. Another accused earlier in the main charge sheet, Imam Sarder, was killed in a crossfire incident on August 20 in

All five are known to be outlaws from the banned Bilpobi Communist Party and Jonojuddho faction of Purbo Banglar Communist Party.

Inspector Chittya Ranjan Pal of Detective Branch of Khulna Metropolitan Police, who was responsible for further investigation of the case, said in his supplementary charge sheet that he was not able to find any evidence in support of the AL leaders' involve-

Slain Manjurul's eldest son Abdullah Haroon Rumi, a prosecution witness of the case, said in his deposition in the court on February 25 that the named five AL leaders had planned his father's murder.

The judge of the Speedy Trial Court then sent the docket of the case back to the CMM's Court for further investigation following an appeal by Special Public Prosecutor advocate Abu Zafar on March 18. The CMM ordered the IO to

submit the supplementary charge sheet by June 15. Meanwhile, Abdullah Haroon

Rumi has said that his family would later comment on the supplementary charge sheet. "We will not let his murder go

unpunished," Rumi said in a reaction, and questioned the IO's impartiality in the case.

City AL general secretary Mizanur Rahman Mizan and ward commissioner Moina, whose names were cleared from the charges, expressed their satisfaction over the investigation. Khulna City AL president advo-

cate Manjurul Imam was killed in a bomb attack on the morning of August 25 in 2003 in front of his residence at Shamsur Rahman road in Khulna Sadar thana. His assistant Advoçate Bijon Bihari who was with him on a

rickshaw at the time and the rick-

shaw puller Sayedul Islam, later

succumbed to their injuries sus-

Legal experts

tained in the attack.

and Public Safety Act enacted by the BNP and Awami League governments could not play any effective role in uprooting terrorism. The High Court has even declared the Public Safety Act illegal and

unconstitutional," Sara said. According to the report of the She said the definition of terrorism included in the ordinance is very wide and anybody can be implicated under this law, which leaves the chance for misusing the

> law and victimise innocent people. Mentioning that human rights workers do not support any provision for death penalty, she said, "There was no discussion and exchange of views with the human rights groups before approving the

> ordinance. Supreme Court lawyer and President of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh advocate Manzill Murshed said if the governpunished under the existing laws, this might fail the very purpose of

There is possibility that the authorities concerned will 'select' and the law may also be exercised Manzill Murshed also said the provision of death penalty is against

human rights and rights activists do not support this provision. "The existing criminal laws such criminal offenders," he added.

and to ensure proper action on the recommendations of the CAG report by the various audit organisations.

The ad hoc PAC will not be a replacement for the PAC as it does not have the constitutional authority, parliamentary members, or the ability to uphold sanctions.

Rather, the proposed highpowered advisory committee can be made up of independent members who would provide advice to the president and to the incoming PAC, when it is constituted, on how to prioritise and clear the backlog of CAGreports.

A World Bank team recently visited Bangladesh and met various government departments to explore ways on how such a committee could be made up of non-parliamentarians while the constitution is still in effect. During the visit, a series of discussion

and training sessions took place. The government and the World Bank discussed on how the country would benefit from interim arrange ments which will review audit find ings and suggest measures for quick disposal of audit objections.

They discussed ways and the challenges of possible formation, relationship to new PAC when established, and how the Ministry of Finance would support the ad hoc committee.

National Library

gazetteer, more than six lakh books, microfilms, more than 4,000 maps of ancient Bangla and sophisticated machinery worth about Tk 2 crore, library sources said.

They said collections predominantly related to literature, cultural heritage including special collections on Dr Mohammad Shahidullah, Nawab Ali Chowdhury, and government documents of Bangladesh Secretariat Library are kept at the National Library and these are under threat now.

Air-conditioning is very impor tant in preserving the documents and sophisticated machinery as they could get damaged in uncontrolled temperature, said an official of the

The National Library Bhaban was provided with air-conditioning under the first five-year plan in 1978 as the then government felt its necessity, sources said.

Mysteriously, the unique building has not yet been registered in the Public Works Department's register which servers for the department to refuse to pay for the restoration of

electricity, library sources said. Following a short-circuit incident in the main cable of the library from a power sub-station on May 21, power

supply to the building was lost. An official of the library said they first went to Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) but they told them that they would not be able to help them and suggested contacting the Public Works Department (PWD) in this regard. But the PWD also refused to take necessary steps as the building is not in their register.

PWD sources said about Tk 15 lakh will be required to make the repairs and they are waiting for the money to arrive from the cultural ministry since the library is under the ministry.

Library sources said even though they requested PWD to connect the building to the power supply from nearby New Archive Bhaban tempo rarily, PWD turned down their sug

HC rules

government and Ain O Salish

Kendra Executive Director Sultana Kamal, Daily New Age Editor Nurul Kabir and Assistant Professor of Dhaka University Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Karzon on June 5 jointly filed the writ petition as public interest litigation challenging the legality of sections 3(3)(Kha) and 3(4) of the Emergency Powers Ordinance, 2007 and rules 11(3), 19(Gha), 19(Uma) of the

Emergency Power Rules, 2007. The sections of the Emergency Powers Ordinance, 2007 provide death penalty and life-term imprisonment with fine for violating them and also any other rules with

retrospective effect. As per rule 11(3) of the Emergency Power Rules, 2007, if any court convicts a person for committing corruption, no other court can grant bail to the convict or stay the conviction order until an appeal, if the accused chooses to

file, is disposed of. The two other rules do not allow an accused to pray for bail or any kind of redress with the court or tribunal during the investigation or

enquiry of the offence. Barrister Amir-Ul Islam appeared for the petitioners while Additional Attorney General (AAG) Mansur Habib represented the government in the court.

MK Anwar

FROM PAGE 16

false cases against me over the incident," he said. He said he gave Tk 2 lakh as

extortion to Anwar on May 7 this year in order to get back his land. Magistrate Sarwar Ahmed ordered officer in-charge at Homna Police Station to investi-

gate the case. Anwar was sent to jail on surrendered to a Dhaka court last month in connection with the Gatco graft case.

MPs lose power

polls to the upazila parishads should be held simultaneously with the parliamentary election, which is scheduled for December of this year.

The last Awami League (AL) government passed the Upazila Parishad Act empowering the EC to announce schedules for upazila

However, amid a volatile political situation, the then EC could not hold the polls and later the same government amended the law and took away the authority from the EC. Section 25 of the current law

empowers lawmakers to become

advisers to upazila parishads

which are bound to accept their suggestions. Once the new law is promulgated, lawmakers will have no power over upazila parishads and the EC will have the power to announce schedules for upazila polls through discussions with the

taking approval from it. The first election to upazila parishads was held in 1985 after its introduction in the local government system during the regime of

central government, instead of

military ruler HM Ershad. But the very existence of upazila parishads faced a severe crisis following the second election in 1990 when Ershad stepped down in the face of a mass move-

Gas distribution

FROM PAGE 16

turn for the worse by 2010. As such, the ongoing projects in the north and the southwest would be of no use unless the production of gas is increased, he added.

Out of the expected production increase of 65 mmcfd (million cubic feet per day) gas by this December, 20 mmcfd would be reserved for Chittagong, he said adding that the present demand of Pashchimancal Gas Company Ltd (PGCL) that serves Bogra, Pabna and Sirajganj could not even be met with the remaining 45 mmcfd gas, let alone meeting the demands of the entire north.

According to Petrobangla officials, the present demand for gas cannot be met before 2011 and the rising demands will make it even more difficult for the government to supply gas for the ongoing

Demand for gas in March last year was 15 lakh mmcfd and in the same month this year, the demand rose to 18 lakh mmcfd, said the Petrobangla chief. Even if the demand increases

by 1.5 lakh mmcfd a year, there is no possibility of meeting the demand and therefore the new projects are likely to remain unutilised, said the officials at Petrobangla. Considering this scenario, gas supply in Rajshahi city will not be

possible in June next year when the installation of 280 kilometres pipeline is set to be completed under the Tk 112 crore Rajshahi City Gas Distribution Project, the Petrobangla chairman said. Same fate awaits two other projects -- the Tk 628.70-crore

Jamuna-Bheramara Project and the Tk 161.52-crore Hatikumrul Banpara-Rajshahi Project, he said.

Convicts

FROM PAGE 1 He said 16,997 of them were arrested with outstanding warrants against them, 153 under Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act and 7,521 in connection with other cases including murder and rape.

The home adviser said only 191 people were arrested under the Emergency Power Rules. Matin said special operations

have been launched to improve law and order situation and remove fear from people's mind. Inspector General of Police Nur

Mohammad was present at the briefing among others. fixing a new date for hearing on the

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

Home Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin told a press conference they have received the application and the government would decide about it.

Communications Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Ghulam Quader also told the reporters the government will consider the matter after receiving the application. Earlier on Saturday, Zubaida

and Zayma filed the same petition with the Chief Adviser's Office. In the application, Zubaida, a physician by profession, says her

husband needs specialised orthopaedic surgical correction that is not available in the country. Sharmila Rahman, wife of former minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Khaleda's younger son, had earlier submitted an application to the interim administration for sending

her husband abroad on medical ground. Koko has various medical complications and is under treatment

The Doctors Association of

Medical University Hospital.

Khaleda and her sons.

hersons.

case under the EPR since his arrest in September last Investigation officer of the case Obaidul Haque on July 24 indicted Tarique, senior BNP joint secre Hasina, Rehana and Selim for extortary general arrested on March 8 tion. He did not include the relevant last year, faces a series of graft sections of the EPR while indicting. cases. He is receiving treatment at Following Hasina's writ filed on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib July 29 last year, an HC bench of

Narayanganj

Bangladesh (DAB) and 45 teachers upon the caretaker government of Bangladesh Open University in a asking it to reply as to why its approval separate statement yesterday also for bringing the case under EPR demanded release of Khaleda and should not be declared illegal. After hearing the state, the HC on Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal in a press February 6 quashed the case saying conference made an 11-point that the proceedings already taken demand including the release of and under process were without

lawful authority.

Justice Nayeem and Justice Zubayer

Rahman Chowdhury issued a rule

FROM PAGE 1 close aide to Harkatul Jihad al Islami

(Huji) chief Mufti Hannan, who led the August 21 blasts on an Awami League (AL) rally in Dhaka and Nazrul Islam Gharami, son of Mujibur Rahman Gharami from Shimulia village in Debhata upazila.

within six months, but the BNP government did not hold the polls during its tenure. Assuming power through the 1996 general elections, Awami bazar in Kaliganj upazila. League passed the Upazila Parishad Act in 1998.

The immediate past BNP-led alliance government, which came to power through the 2001 general election, moved for holding the upazila elections and formed a cabinet committee for the purpose. But the committee members failed to reach a consensus on

holding the polls. All those governments meanwhile sought extension of time on many occasions from the Supreme Court to comply with its directives for holding the polls.

A BNP government assumed

power in 1991 and dissolved the

upazila system. The Supreme

Court in a judgment in 1992

elections to upazila parishads

directed the government to hold

The current caretaker government recently moved for holding the upazila elections and assured the EC of the return of its power to announce the poll schedules for over 450 upazila parishads.

Nepal

FROM PAGE 16 second largest party in the constitutional assembly, has laid down a set of preconditions that the ex-rebels must meet before it will back them in gov-

"They have to give back the land and property they seized during the conflict," senior Nepali Congress official Arjun Narsingh Khatri Chettri

toldAFP. The Maoists' feared youth wing who face constant accusations of using mafia-like tactics -- "are an organised group of goons who have been creating anarchy," and must be disbanded, the politician said

Maoist guerrillas who are in United Nations-monitored camps as part of the peace pact needs to be resolved, he "The issue of the Maoist weapons and the integration of the PLA (Peo-

Also, the fate of the 20,000 former

ple's Liberation Army) is a serious problem and they have not come up with any solutions," said the Congress politician. These conditions underscore the point that many in Nepal believe the

ex-guerrillas have yet to adjust to being

a mainstream political party, he said. "We do not have any wish to remain in government, but the reason for the deadlock is there because they have not respected the norms of a multiparty democratic structure."

ousted, Nepal is drifting along with an interim constitution, interim head of state and interim government. Meanwhile, some former Maoists are hanging onto their guns until the

The result is that with the king

situation clears. Veteran democracy activist Devendra Raj Panday said that after the excitement of the peace pact and the sacking of an unpopular, authoritarian king, the political situation has turned into a rather depressing spat.

"We have had historic elections and a republic declaration, but we are still stuck in traditional power politics, said Panday, who heads the Civil Movement for Peace and Democracy. "The most discouraging part of this

whole process is that the political parties, including the Maoists, have not changed, even though the country has experienced massive upheaval,

"I see difficulties in the days ahead."

Extortion case

ordered the case to be sent to the

statement of the complainant

Special Court-5 for quick disposal. The case did not have a schedule hearing today. On Thursday, the prosecution submitted a petition for fixing a date

for hearing on the case but the court did not pass any order on the matter. Special Public Prosecutor Sahidul Islam Sardar submitted a petition to the court, after getting a certified copy of the Supreme Court (SC) judgment, saying that the SC cleared the legal bar to continue the trial proceedings. He prayed for

When asked about the transfer order, Sardar told The Daily Star that he heard about the transfer of the case but he did not know why the trial court transferred it to another court for trial.

The case, filed by Azam Chowdhury, was earlier quashed by the High Court (HC) following a writ petition submitted by Hasina's lawyers challenging the legality of the case that was brought under the Emergency Power Rules, 2007 (EPR) The SC on May 8 stayed the HC

order and cleared way for the trial to continue under the EPR. Eastcoast Trading Pvt Ltd Managing Director Azam Chowdhury on June 13, 2007 filed the case against Hasina and her cousin

Selim in connection with extorting Tk 2.99 crore from him in exchange for the contract of setting up the Siddhirganj Power Plant in On July 16, 2007, the home minis disclosed on an audit report. try directed the police to bring the

When the assistant accountant of the ministry Golam Shamsul Haider came to know about the misappropriation and demanded to know details of it from Latif, Latif and the others planned to kill

Haider They killed the victim on September 6, 2006.

On March 23 last year, Police Inspector Shahnoor filed the case against Abdul Latif and others with Paltan Police Station for committing the offences.

The other case relating to Golam Haider's murder is now under investigation.

2 Huji cadres

Presidency.

According to the prosecution, based on information from Zandal's confessions members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Nazrul Islam Gharami from Nalta

His confession led to Rab discovering the 44 grenades of Arges brand hidden in a pond in Shimulia village under Debhata upazila on February

former military strongman should The same day, sub-inspector (SI) Tariqul Islam of Rab-6 Khulna filed a case with Debhata police station accusing Moin Uddin alias Abu Zandal and Nazrul Islam for possession of the grenades.

On March 17 the investigation officer (IO) of the case, Inspector Lokman Hakim who is also the officer in charge (OC) of Debhata police station, submitted the charge sheet against both the accused before the chief judicial magistrate's

court in Satkhira. Earlier on May 29, the court framed charges against the two and

the trial began on June 4. Judge Ashish Ranjan Das of the District and Sessions Judge's Court handed down the verdict after examining all records and deposi-

tion of 16 witnesses. Public prosecutor (PP) Tapan Kumar Chakraborty conducted the case for the state while advocate Sheikh Nizam Uddin defended the

Out of the 44 grenades seized from Shimulia village, 41 are identical to the Arges grenades that were exploded in the August 21 attack on an Awami League (AL) rally in Dhaka in 2004, Rab sources said.

Local govt

FROM PAGE 1

missions from respective law enforcement authorities at least 24 hours prior to scheduled campaign events, informing the authorities about the time and venue.

In a bid to compel the candidates to follow the election campaign laws, the EC will also empower itself with the authority to cancel candidatures in cases of violations of the code of conduct and other irregularities during the polls.

The code of conduct will also restrict pasting of campaign posters and scrawling of campaign graffiti on Along with the code of conduct

for candidates in city corporation and municipality elections, the EC will also promulgate election rules for the two local government bodies, as the law ministry has no objection to the proposals made by the commission, EC sources said. The new election rules for the two

local government bodies will also

empower the personnel of defence

forces and police, engaged in election duties, to arrest anybody without warrant on suspicion of plotting to violate the laws, the sources said. The EC sent the proposed code of conduct and election rules to the law ministry for vetting last month, and the ministry yesterday sent those back to the commission without

bringing any change to the proposals, the sources said. Senior officials of the EC Secretariat said the commission may now promulgate the code of conduct and the election rules any time since

it has the authority to do so. On promulgating the rules, the EC will announce the election schedule for the two tiers of the local government system by June 20 for holding the polls in July to city corporations of Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet, and to nine municipalities.

The EC on Wednesday at a meeting with the chief adviser asked his government to create a congenial atmosphere for holding the local government polls either by lifting or by relaxing the state of emergency in respective areas.

ACC sues

FROM PAGE 16

Ministry, the ministry's former accountant Abdul Latif, Police Inspector Rezaul Karim and office assistant Hafizul Islam of Razarbagh Telecom.

Of the accused, Abdul Latif has

been arrested and is in jail custody while Anwar Hossain is out on bail. The others are absconding since the case was filed. The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against the fugi-

tives and the order to attach their properties. According to the prosecution, accountant Abdul Latif with the assistance of the others named, misappropriated Tk 1 cr 45 thousand from the home ministry's accounts department with the help of forged documents that was

Sharif's party

FROM PAGE 16 himself said that the people wanted

Musharraf's ouster from the "The people's view is that the individual against whom they had given a verdict in the February 18 general election is still sitting in the

Presidency and Army House. It is now the parliament's job to remove him," Abbasi said. PML-N chief Sharif has been insisting on Musharraf's removal since the President's supporters were routed in the general election. Sharif, who was ousted as prime minister in a military coup led by Musharraf in 1999, has said the

also be held accountable for his actions over the past eight-and-half The PPP has so far held back from acting on the PML-N's demand for the impeachment of Musharraf, saying the ruling coalition does not have the two-thirds majority in both houses of parlia-

ment that is required for such a While the PPP-led coalition has a two-thirds majority in the lower house of parliament, the opposition

PML-Q has a slender majority in the Senate or upper house. Meanwhile Pakistan's main ruling party said Saturday it will reinstate judges ousted by President Pervez Musharraf only after it has overcome legal obstacles following a massive rally calling for their

restoration Reinstating the judges could hasten the political demise of Musharraf, a stalwart US ally who seized power in a 1999 coup. Failure to do so could sink the new coalition government, triggering turmoil in a country already threatened by economic woes and Islamic mili-

"We will restore the judges, but according to the law," said Rehman Malik, a leading figure in the party of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. "Nothing will be done which could create another constitutional crisis. Lawyers called the protest because the 11-week-old ruling

who were ousted by Musharraf when he imposed emergency rule

coalition has failed to keep a prom-

ise to quickly reinstate the justices,

raucous, sweat-soaked rally late

Friday on a parade ground a few hundred yards from Parliament. The gathering, which lasted until dawn, was one of the largest ever in Islamabad with a crowd estimated about 20,000.

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, leader of the second-largest coalition party, addressed the protesters from a stage atop shipping containers. He lauded the judges and vowed that Musharraf would be

"Listen Pervez Musharraf! The nation has given its verdict against you. Listen Musharraf to what the nation is saying and what the nation is demanding!" Sharif said, drawing a response of "Hang Musharraf!"

from the crowd. The protest was the culmination of a grand procession that began from the corners of Pakistan early this week. Police estimated that 40,000 people joined the procession at its height and many more

quality) went up to Tk 94-95 per kg, which was being sold at Tk 89-90

The price of a kg of bolder pulses imported from Turkey was Tk 79-80 Tk 82-83 yesterday.

also rose by Tk 3-5 per kg, selling between Tk 90-100 yesterday. Traders at Karwan Bazar admitted the hike in the price of pulses,

day, which they had sold at Tk 16-17 perkg four days back. On retail markets, potato was

Kabul threatens

FROM PAGE 16 key US allies in the "war on terror", have bickered for years about the extremist violence growing in both

Pakistani government of failing to prevent insurgents active in the tribal zone from slipping across the border into Afghanistan. The Afghan leader sent a special warning to fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Omar and top Pakistan

offormer premier Benazir Bhutto. "Baitullah Mehsud should know that we will go after him now and hit him in his house," said Karzai.

sparking growing unease in Washington and Kabul. In talks with Karzai earlier this month in Kabul, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi

peace deal with pro-Taliban militants in the Swat Valley, about 99km from Afghanistan. That has seen soldiers leave the area and the rebels implementing Islamic Sharia law.

70,000 international troops mainly Housewife murder across the country for identification

Teigaon was identified as Jesmin Akhter Rubi from Bogra by her younger sister Ruma. Rubi was married only last month, on May 2, to schoolteacher Anwar Hossain Badsha from Baghmara upazila and she was still

The dead body of the woman

found at Satrasta truck stand in

staying with her parents, said Ruma while speaking with The Daily Star. During the marriage, Badsha demanded Tk 70,000 in dowry that he would use to "regularise" his job, Ruma said adding, "We already paid Tk 50,000 and the remainder, Tk 20,000, was to be paid later. But Badsha had been pressing us for the

Badsha killed her sister as her family could not pay him the rest of the money, Ruma alleged. "On June 10, Badsha came to our house and took Rubi with him for two days. But we were puzzled when

three days later, on June 13, Badsha

money.

called on my cellphone and asked for Rubi," Ruma said. Rubi's family members became suspicious about Badsha's intentions and they tried calling him back on his cellphone, but "his phone was turned off ever since and we did not know his whereabouts," Ruma

"After coming to know about a body discovered in a mango crate, we came to the morgue in Dhaka Medical College Hospital and identified our sister. Asked about the body pieces

victim is identified by today.

discovered at Sutrapur, morgue sources at Sir Salimullah Medical College said the body pieces would be handed over to Anjuman-e-Mufidul Islam for burial unless the

put on trial and "held accountable."

watched from the roadsides. Pulses get dearer

The same was seen in the case of local pulses (quality), which were selling at Tk 89-90 per kg yesterday, but were at Tk 85-86 three days ago.

three days ago, which was selling at The retail prices of the pulses

but they could not give any reason for it. Wholesalers in the Karwan Bazar said that they sold a kg of potato at Tk 12-13.5 per kg yester-

selling for Tk 18 to Tk 20 a kg yesterday, but it had been selling at Tk 12 to Tk 13 a kg a week ago. The wholesalers said that a huge quantity of potatoes was brought in to the city markets from different cold storages across the country in

the last four days resulting in a drop

operating under Nato, the insur-

gency aimed at toppling the US-

backed government in Kabul has

come under criticism in Islamabad

for carrying out cross-border strikes

like the one last week which the

coalition said was targeting rebels

who had sought refuge across the

killed in a "cowardly" attack, one

which has strained ties between the

allies. Washington has expressed

regret over the loss of Pakistani life,

but has not admitted responsibility

blow on Friday when Taliban mili-

tants blasted open the prison in

Kandahar city, freeing more than

1,100 prisoners including hundreds

of insurgents, according to Nato-led

ber of prisoners who fled at 886, more

killed as Afghan and international

troops hunted for the escapees,

police and troops said Sunday, but it

was not immediately clear if they

So far, 20 escapees have been

The prison raid came one day

after world donors pledged 20 billion

take steps to get the HC rule in

Khaleda and Koko on September 2,

The ACC filed the case against

than 380 of whom were Taliban.

were escaped prisoners.

recaptured, police say.

question disposed of.

Afghan authorities put the num-

More than 15 insurgents were

Karzai's government suffered a

Islamabad says its soldiers were

border in Pakistan.

for the 11 deaths.

US-led forces in Afghanistan have

gained pace in the past two years.

Tens of thousands took part in a in the price.

countries, with each accusing the other of not doing enough to fight it. Karzai has repeatedly accused the

Taliban warlord Baitullah Mehsud, whom Islamabad believes is responsible for the December assassination

Mehsud has vowed to continue "jihad" (holy war) in Afghanistan while pursuing peace negotiations with the new government in Islamabad -- an initiative that has

insisted that Islamabad was not negotiating with "terrorists" but rather "peace-loving" elements that want regional stability. Pakistan has already signed a

dollars to rebuild Afghanistan at a conference in Paris -- but also called on him to strengthen the rule of law. Despite the presence of about

Gatco case Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin asked both the sides in the case to

> 2007, on charges of corruption in awarding Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (Gatco) the contract for container management at inland container depots in Dhaka and Chittagong causing a loss of over Tk 1,000 crore to the state exchequer. Later, the case was brought under the EPR.

Khaleda and Koko filed separate writ petitions with the HC on September 27, 2007, challenging the legality of bringing the charges against them under the EPR.

They stated in the petitions that

the government's move to bring

the case under the EPR was illegal,

as the event leading up to the

charges had taken place long before the state of emergency was declared. Besides, the anti-graft body cannot give approval for filing such a case, they added. Following the writ petitions, the HC on September 30, 2007, granted

case issuing a rule upon the ACC and the government to show cause within six weeks as to why bringing of charges against the two under the EPR should not be declared The ACC filed separate leave to appeal petitions with the SC

ad interim bail to Khaleda and

Koko and stayed proceedings of the

The SC on October 4 last year stayed the HC orders and asked the ACC to file regular appeals with the

the cause list of the apex court for hearing yesterday.

The appeals were included in

against the HC orders. court against the HC ruling.