Rice stocking emerges Doc husband

FROM PAGE 1 market stable," said the food ministry official.

He said meeting the target has been the main concern of the government since rice import in private sector has remained stopped for the last three months, and India is also delaying to release the remaining 4 lakh tonnes of the 5 lakh tonnes of rice it promised.

"We will find more pockets in Rajshahi division from where we may procure rice and paddy, the region from where the majority of the procurement comes," Food and Disaster Management Adviser

AMM Shawkat Ali said on Monday. Encouraged by the recent bumper boro harvest, the military backed government in March set a procurement target of 12 lakh tonnes of rice at a buying rate of Tk 28 per kilogram (kg), up from last year's buying rate of Tk 18, in an effort to build up a safe food bank.

They also targeted to procure 3 lakh tonnes of paddy from growers at the rate of Tk 18 a kg and 50,000 tonnes of wheat at the rate of Tk 26

The government made agreements with 13,833 mills for supplying 9.94 lakh tonnes of food grains by the end of next month. According to the latest figures of the food ministry, 5.95 lakh tonnes of rice reached government warehouses since the procurement drive had begun on April 16.

But the drive slowed down as the millers, even after the agreements with the government, have been refusing to supply grains in the wake of further rise in prices following the latest hike in fuel oil prices on June 30.

"Millers are declining to sell rice to the government at the rate fixed by it, which is lower than market prices," said an official adding that the official procurement rate for a kilogram of rice is several taka lower than the latest market price.

He said, "Let alone meeting the target, procuring the agreed upon amount now seems a far cry."

According to the Rice Procurement and Control Order 2008, each miller seeking to procure paddy and sell rice must obtain a license from the authorities by applying for it on a prescribed form.

From now on the rice mill owners will also have to declare their stocks, and will face punishments including loss of licences if they fail to comply with the rules and refuse to supply rice to the government as per the agree-

Licences of more than 1,200 rice mills across the country have to supply rice and wheat according to the agreements with the government, and also for being unwilling to sign supply contracts.

"We will not take extreme measures against the millers," said Shawkat Ali. He identified rain, reaches the country.

the charge sheet of the case before

the Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate's Court showing 35

arrest warrant against Momtaj

Ahmed and the order to attach her

properties as she has been

absconding since the case was

Redwan, now a leader of Liberal

Democratic Party, amassed Tk

2,95,45,500 through illegal means

and concealed information about

Tk 4,05,24,511 in his wealth infor-

mation submitted earlier to the

On December 19, the ACC filed

In the case statement, the com-

the case against the couple with

plainant said Redwan illegally

accumulated Tk 2.31 crore and did

not show property worth Tk 1.37

statement through jail authorities

on August 14 as the ACC on August

7 issued a notice asking him to do

(FIR) of the case states that Redwan

showed the price of his plot in

Uttara, a four-storey building on

7.21 decimals of land in the capital

and a two-storied building at

Monihar in Comilla, lower than

includes two cars in his wife's

name, a car in his own name, four

shops in Chandina, Comilla in the

name of his wife, son, two daugh-

ters and a daughter-in-law, and a

Rajuk plot in the capital in his

The FIR also says that Redwan

gave false information about Tk 2.2

crore of wealth. He said his son

Moyeen Ahmed gave him Tk 2 crore

and he borrowed Tk 20 lakh from

Moyeen was only 13 then and

obtaining that much money from

such a young boy is incredible, the

Investigations revealed that

wife's name, the FIR adds.

His concealed property

they actually are.

his son in 1990.

FIR adds.

Redwan submitted the wealth

The first information report

crore in his wealth statement.

Ramna Police Station.

In the charge sheet, the IO said

The IO prayed for issuance of

people as prosecution witnesses.

Redwan, wife

inadequate power supply, and stockpiling by households and large farmers as the reasons behind the slide in government procurement.

Millers in the northern region said they are running out of funds and fear that many mills will shut down due to shortage of boro paddy in local markets.

"If supply to local markets doesn't improve, the government's rice procurement target is likely to fail," General Secretary of Uttar Banga Rice Mill Association Federation KM Layek Ali told The Daily Star on Monday.

About 60 percent of the mid size and small size millers are already out of paddy, he said adding that many millers incurred huge financial losses by providing the government with rice.

"The overall food procurement situation is not satisfying at all here in the region," said an owner of a large mill in Dinajpur.

Despite the dire situation many millers however continued supplying food grains to the government according to the agreement, and they urged the government to give them incentives for minimising their losses. Otherwise, they said the millers will be forced to decline supplying soon.

The owner of Puly Rice Mill, Toyez Uddin of Ulat village under Kahaloo upazila in Bogra said he supplied 25 tonnes of rice out of the total 73 tonnes he had agreed to. He is now refusing to supply the rest on grounds of short supply of paddy in local markets.

Another rice mill owner, Rafiqul Islam of Kichak village under Shibganj upazila, so far supplied 45 tonnes of rice, but was unable to supply the remaining 45 tonnes due to the changed market

"I will lose 2.50 taka a kg of rice if I supply the rest after purchasing paddy at a higher rate from the local market," Rafiqul told The

Daily Star. Food ministry officials said the government is not thinking of increasing the official rate for procurement, but will give incentives to rice millers instead for

recovering from their losses. The government's current rate for procuring rice is Tk 28 a kg while the current market price of a

kg of coarse rice is Tk 33. "Increasing the rate for procurement will have an additional adverse impact on the already heated market," a food ministry official told The Daily Star yester-

He said the joint forces and mobile courts will be deployed to ensure meeting the government's already been cancelled for failing food grain procurement target, if

> The food adviser was hopeful of meeting the target saying the total stock will stand at 15 lakh tonnes once the procurement is concluded and the rice from India

> > concealing the wealth.

the court.

CASE AGAINST ALAMGIR

Additional Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate Golam Rabbani allowed

the ACC to interrogate Alamgir at

the jail gate after the ACC submit-

ted a petition in this regard before

case against Alamgir with

Mohammadpur Police Station in

connection with appointing 17

people without qualification and

experience to the post of statisti-

cian (investigation) at Bangladesh

to 13 years' imprisonment for

mula to implement D8

programmes and projects, assist in

mobilising resources from govern-

mental and non-governmental

sectors," the Malaysian FM told

reporters on the sidelines of the

11th session of the Council of

also broaden support for the D8

community, the private sector and

the grouping's economic coopera-

He further said the roadmap will

The second phase, 2013-2018, is

Among other objectives, the

to achieve intra-trade target of

\$517.5 billion or between 15 and 20

roadmap also spelt out trade facili-

tations, customs cooperation,

capacity building, migrant work-

ers, small-and medium-scale

enterprises and information and

a permanent secretariat for the D8

The foreign ministers endorsed

communications technology.

per cent of D8 global trade.

Ministers' meeting

tion initiatives.

cooperation.

Alamgir was earlier sentenced

Statistics Bureau in 1998.

On April 29, the ACC filed the

FROM PAGE 1 to have three abortions.

Neighbours and relatives told The Daily Star that Tozammel did not allow Nazma to open the windows of her house, use the land phone or keep any domestic help in the house. He forced her to live all alone by herself while he stayed out all day

Meanwhile, Mirpur police took Dr Tozammel and Humayun Kabir on a four-day remand yesterday. Nazma's family reasserted their

suspicion that Dr Tozammel Hossain killed Nazma. Her mother, 70-year-old

Asmarunnessa, demanded justice for her daughter yesterday as she tried to make sense of her daughter's tragic murder.

Nazma's brother Mehedi Hasan told The Daily Star that Tozammel had forced Nazma to have three abortions and this had broken Nazma's heart as she wanted to have children. This was the reason behind a major rift between the couple, he

Other family members said Tozammel had always physically beaten Nazma and misbehaved with them. Tozammel got married to Nazma concealing the fact that he was already married and had a child. He forced his first wife to leave by beating and torturing her too, they

Police recovered Nazma's body from the bathroom of her house. Her face had been burnt, legs fractured and tendons cut when the body was

Sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue said that the victim's head had been struck against some hard object, which caused her death.

Sub-inspector Golam Rabbani of Mirpur police station, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, told The Daily Star that neither man admitted guilty to the charge against

Police suspect that Nazma was killed following some terrible family

3 muggers

Suman Nath and Sharif were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital at around 4:30pm

A case was filed with Pahartali Police Station in this connection.

World of poetry

FROM PAGE 16 struggling every minute to stand the

Jalil approached Suma's parents again on Tuesday and got furious on refusal. "You've kept me waiting for two years; I won't let you get away with this," the mother quoted the thug as saying.

He demanded Tk 1 lakh in "compensation" and threatened the family with dire consequence for

Suma's father Hossain Molla, a vegetable trader at Gabtoli in Dhaka, had no means to pay the sum. On his failure, Jalil along with Faruq and Abu Kalam went to his house at 6:30pm with a pot of acid, he said in a complaint he filed with Rupganj police on Saturday.

"Moments before they threw acid at me, I saw a pot-like thing in his (Jalil's) hands, "Suma said. Suma's mother, who was cooking,

rushed to her hearing her screams. "I saw smoke emitting from her body and pushed her into a nearby pond.

With 30 percent of her body including her face and arms burned, she was committed to DMCH the same night where she is still undergoing treatment. None of the perpetrators has been

arrested. "They have fled immediately after filing of the case," Ashraful Islam, investigation officer of the incident, told The Daily Starlast night.

HC asks ACC

FROM PAGE 16 He said the court might hear the petition today, if the commission submits the papers.

Mahbub also said the court asked for the documents to scrutinise whether the commission's permission for filing the case against Khaleda was given following due process of law.

amassing wealth through illegal Detained BNP Chairperson means and concealing wealth Khaleda Zia filed the writ petition on information to the ACC. Monday for quashing the case pending with the Special Judge's D8 chalks Court-9 set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises and also staying FROM PAGE 1

the case proceedings. The ACC filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda Zia and several others on December 9 last year on charges of abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko.

AL asks

egarding parliamentary elections, its desired consensus with the parties will be at stake, he said. The presidium meeting also

The roadmap from 2008-2013, demanded that the state of emergency be lifted fully before all elections the main thrust, will focus on D8 to make those acceptable to political Preferential Trade Agreement parties and people. (PTA) and Rules of Origin, customs Asked about the disputes among and visa, industrial and business

the components of the AL-led 14 party alliance over sharing candidates in the city corporation and municipality elections, he said the president and the secretary of each component of the alliance will sit today evening to finalise the candidates.

The alliance is expected to chalk out some political programmes at the meeting to protest the recent price hike of fuel, he said.

Ashraful also ruled out the possibility of going for any dialogue with their rival BNP responding to the call by detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to hold talks among all political parties ahead of the elections.

The AL presidium reiterated its demand for sending its ailing leader

CA proposes funds

Agreement provisions would signif-

icantly boost the trade volume. The CA stressed operationalisation of the customs agreement and implementing the agreements on simplifications of visa procedures for businessmen and MoU on air services coopera-

He told the forum that Bangladesh has ratified the D8 visa agreement, which will facilitate business travels to Bangladesh from other member countries.

On the critical issue of climate change, the CA said D8 members should cooperate in regional and multilateral forums to uphold the sacrosanct principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility'.

He said cooperation among the D8 members is a must to ensure that the developed countries make unilateral, meaningful and unconditional commitments to cut down their greenhouse gas emissions.

He said D8 should actively pursue sustainable development with special emphasis on adaptation and technology transfers. "Developed countries should provide us with adequate additional resources to address climate-change adaptation needs in addition to regular ODA. Bangladesh stands ready to offer its own experiences in adaptation techniques and practices."

On potential of international migration, the CA pointed out that migration through remittances and transfer of knowledge has proved to be a strong antidote to poverty.

However, he said, opportunities for legal migration remained lim-

ited because of various restrictive policies and practices in many

destination countries. He proposed taking concrete steps and going beyond the agreed visa regime to facilitate the movement of natural persons among the D8 member countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey, Nigeria and Egypt.

The CA said the D8 should also take a common position on liberalisation of Mode 1V services to ease the movement of workers to the developed countries.

Turning to domestic political scenario, the CA said his government is now at the final stage of political reforms to make democracy meaningful for the people.

He brought to the notice of the summit leaders the significant measures taken by the present caretaker government to eradicate corruption, promote the rights of the people, establish the rule of law, and make the government, especially the judiciary, effective and accountable.

The CA further informed the D8 leaders that his government opened dialogue with political parties to forge a national consensus for good governance.

"Bangladesh's experience, we believe, can serve as an example for many developing countries facing the challenges of democracy and governance," he said.

Iranian president and Pakistani prime minister also made their respective countries statement before delivery of Fakhruddin's

G8 agrees to halve

FROM PAGE 1

"It has always been the case that a long-term goal is one that must be shared. So the G8 has offered today is a G8 view of what that goal could be and should be but that can only occur with the agreement of all the other parties," said Jim Connaughton, chairman of the White House's Council on Environmental Quality.

Environmentalists criticised the statement for failing to go beyond the G8 statement last year.

"So little progress after a whole year of Minister meetings and negotiations is not only a wasted opportunity, it falls dangerously short of what is needed to protect people and nature from climate change," said Kim Carstensen, director of the World Wildlife Fund's Global Climate Initiative.

Environmentalists have argued that the 50 percent reduction target is insufficient, and have clamored for ambitious targets for countries to cut emissions by 2020. Japan itself has set a national target for cutting emissions by between 60 percent and 80 percent by 2050, but has not set a midterm goal.

The threat from inflation has become the top economic concern for the G8 amid concerns it could dampen consumer spending and require higher interest rates that would act as a brake on growth.

Huddled in talks amid tight security in this spa resort in northern Japan, the G8 called for an increase in oil production and refining capacity to help stem soaring crude prices, which have leapt five-fold since 2003.

But the G8's remarks had little immediate impact on oil prices, which were up almost a dollar a barrel in Asian trade.

Analysts said the reality was that the G8 nations have few obvious options to cool red-hot energy prices in the foreseeable

"While they can express serious concern about it I don't think it's really within their sphere of influence," said Glenn Maguire, chief Asia economist at Societe US mortgage crisis.

Generale in Hong Kong.

Countries with spare oil supply capacity and emerging economies that are driving up demand "are not under the G8 umbrella," he said

Saudi Arabia last month agreed to increase its daily oil production, but most members of the OPEC oil cartel remain firmly against an output boost, blaming speculators and the fall in the dollar for the oil price One way the G8 could try to

rein in oil prices would be through efforts to stabilise the US currency, but that would require higher US interest rates or market intervention, which both seem unlikely at the moment, Maguire The summit statement made

the US currency, although US President George W. Bush told fellow G8 leaders that he was committed to "a strong dollar." "The president of course reaffirmed his interest in a strong dollar and his commitment to a

no mention of the weakness of

strong dollar," said Dan Price, Bush's assistant for international economic affairs. The G8 issued a thinly veiled call on China to allow a stronger yuan, saying that it was vital for some emerging economies with

account surpluses to allow exchange rate flexibility. The rich nations' club said it would resist trade protectionism and called for efforts to galvanise

large and growing current

stalled global free trade talks. They recognised that government-controlled sovereign wealth funds were "increasingly important participants in the world economy" and welcomed efforts

by some to be more transparent. The funds, seen as the new heavyweights in global finance, have stirred political fears in Western capitals after coming to the rescue of a number of big banks hit by huge losses from the

Farmers' stocking: Zillur

FROM PAGE 1

"Farmers are not releasing the whole rice produce like they used to do. They were forced for distress sale earlier which is not the case this year," he added. Terming it a new phenomenon

and a positive sign, he said: "The farmers have become market players.

Solvent farmer is a new phenomenon, Zillur said, adding, "It was never there before. So, we could not say what would be the implications. It came as a new challenge.'

Asked whether he agrees that farmers are not selling their whole produce fearing they might purchase rice at much higher cost later, Zillur said, "There's no issue of agreeing with it. The situation is unstable globally."

On such stocking's implications on the market, the adviser admitted that market is suffering for this.

The prices used to come down for post-harvest distress sale and it is not happening this year. There is an implication on those who are totally dependent on purchase, Zillur said, stressing on the need of understanding the implication Asked whether he agrees with

omy is a major aspect of it. It's the duty of the government to ensure that market economy operates properly and logically."

Claiming that the government is carrying out its duties by taking a number of steps, he said, "There is a matter of finding traditional and non-traditional ways to address this. As you've seen, the finance adviser has laid out some plans in his budget speech."

Brushing aside the allegation that the government is not serious to address the price spiral issue, he said different ministries are monitoring the situation. As reporters pointed out that

there is almost no outcome, he

said steps and outcomes are not

the same thing. "Many factors are involved for certain outcomes.' The government is trying to ensure some comfort for the people, he said, adding: "It has to be seen separately whether it's having impact on the market."

The government has initiated a number of steps to monitor the market. The commerce ministry has prepared a schedule for it. "We've kept several agencies ready for it.

During the Ramadan, the The court also issued separate Trading Corporation of Bangladesh will stock the most

Voters denied

ASM Shahjahan said the EC is not allowing people to know details of mayoral and councillor candidates, which violates a court

FROM PAGE 16

verdict.

"We are seeking information about candidates, but the EC is refusing to provide it before July 14... what is their [the EC's] interest? Do they want to save somebody by hiding information? The EC's refusal is a clear violation of the right to information," said Badiul Alam Majumder.

Liakat Ali, editor of a local Bangla daily Sonali Sangbad, said people are being cheated as the EC is failing to protect the elections from criminals and corrupt people even after formulating stringent laws for electoral reforms. "About 50 people collected

nomination forms for the RCC mayor post but only 18 of them submitted theirs. Old political faces showed up even though participation of political-party affiliated people in the polls is not allowed," he said.

honest and competent people would be very difficult as politically-affiliated candidates will use their influence in the election and afterwards.

Arun Bosu called upon people to unite and elect an honest and competent candidate.

"Sona Dighi was turned into a sewage line; drugs are destroying the city's youths... the people themselves are to choose a leader who can relieve them of these problems," he said.

The speakers said silence and inactivity of good people is more dangerous than corruption and crime. Citizens should unite against corrupt people and criminals and protect the country from

City, Municipality FROM PAGE 1

municipality polls are non partisan and candidates are not allowed to use their political affilia tions, party names and portraits of leaders in election campaign. Besides, there are some restric-

tions on using posters and writing The electoral code of conduct

took effect automatically with announcement of the polls schedule on June 20. However, the commission ignored the political parties

involvement in the nomination phase. It said it did so deliberately to help create an atmosphere for Once the deadline for with drawing candidature is over on July

13, the ROs might be asked to con-

vene a meeting and ask the candi-

dates to comply with the code of conduct.

MAYORAL DEBATES For the first time in its history, the EC will organise electoral debates to give the mayoral candidates an opportunity to speak about their plans and policies.

Voters will be allowed to participate in the debates and ask the runners questions on local issues. The state-run television and

radio stations will broadcast the events live from the city corporations, sources in the EC Secretariat

Of the four debates, the first one will be held in Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) on July 15. Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda and two other

election commissioners-Muhammed Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain--are expected to attend the opening programme. The debate in Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) is scheduled for

July 21, Khulna City Corporation (KCC) July 26 and Barisal City Corporation (BCC) on July 30. The number of mayoral candi-

dates in SCC stands at 21, in RCC 18, in KCC 15 and in BCC 14.

700 tolas

FROM PAGE 1

track down the robbers." Police, however, said the robbers had looted only five per cent of the gold ornaments put on display at the shop.

Meanwhile, the shop owners of nine markets in the area kept their outlets shut since 3:00pm protesting the incident.

They demanded immediate recovery of the looted gold and arrest of the robbers.

Govt appeals

FROM PAGE 1

Justice Mashuque Hosain Ahmed on Monday stayed for two months all proceedings of the Niko and barge-mounted power plant cases against Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, following the filing of two petitions by Hasina for quashing the cases filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC)

rules asking the government and

Date-expired blood

FROM PAGE 16 but that the Safe Blood Transfusion Act 2002 does not allow further

power to mobile courts. He said that neither banks hold government permits and were found to be collecting blood from professional donors, many of

whom could be drug users. "This kind of blood exposes a prospective receiver to the risk of such dangerous diseases as AIDS, Hepatitis-B and C viruses, malaria and syphilis as drug users often carry such diseases," said Dr Momtazuddin Bhuiyan, assistant director of DGHS who assisted the Rab mobile court, told The Daily Star. He added that use of date expired blood can cause anaphylactic shock in a patient,

that could be fatal. Major Saiful Islam Chowdhury said," We decided to launch the drive after receiving information that several hundred such banks operate across the country."

He said that a similar drive was to be conducted on a clinic at Bangla Motor area but the owners The speakers said electing hadkept their premises shut on the

According to DGHS information, only 10 blood banks -- nine in the city and one outside the capital hold permits to operate as blood banks. In addition, all government hospitals act as blood banks.

The private blood banks in the city with valid permits are Lab Aid, Quantum Foundation, Kidney Foundation, United Hospital, Apollo Hospital, City Hospital, Green View Hospital, Square Hospital and Ad-din Hospital. A blood bank is required to

make a deposit of Tk 1 lakh to get a

government licence, they also need

to have at least one expert physi-

cian and two technicians in addition to other facilities to obtain the Asked why the DGHS has not take any punitive action against blood banks raided, Momtazuddin Bhuiyan said the mobile court is

empowered to check and monitor

Pet owners prefer McCain over Obama

AP, Washington

If the presidential election goes to the dogs, John McCain is looking

like best in show. From George Washington's foxhound "Drunkard" to George W. Bush's terriers "Barney" and "Miss Beazley," pets are a longtime presidential tradition for which the presumed Republican nominee seems well prepared, with more

than a dozen. The apparent Democratic nominee Barack Obama, on the other hand, doesn't have a pet at home. Pakistani intelligence of supporting

The pet-owning public seems to have noticed the difference. An AP-Yahoo! News poll found that pet owners favor McCain over Obama 42 percent to 37 percent, with dog owners particularly in

McCain's corner. "I think a person who owns a pet is a more compassionate person caring, giving, trustworthy. I like pet owners," said Janet Taylor of Plymouth, Mass.

4-month

FROM PAGE 16

should be quashed. Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon, one of the counsels for the petitioners, told the court that the ACC did not follow due process of the law and rules while it was filing the cases against the petitioners. So, the trial proceedings of the

cases became invalid. Shafiul Alam, assistant director of the ACC, filed a case with Ramna Police Station against Khandker Mosharraf Hossain and his wife Bilkis Akter Hossaion on charges of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 12.51 crore and concealing information about Tk 3.11 crore. The ACC filed an extortion case against Aman Ullah Aman and his wife Sabera Aman with Gulshan Police

Station on June 27, 2007. The anti-corruption watchdog filed an extortion case against Sheikh Tayebur Rahman on November 7, 2007 with Khulna

Police Station. On August 19, 2007, the commission filed a case with Paltan Police Station against former BTRC chairman Taimur Alam Khandker for alleged corruption in distributing 200 CNG cars in 2002.

The ACC on July 17 last year filed a case with Kotwali Police Station in Rajshahi, accusing the RCC mayor of amassing illegal wealth worth over Tk 78 lakh and his wife Salma Rahman of abetting her husband. On October 31 last year, deputy

director of the ACC Barisal office AKM Fazlul Hug filed a case with Kotwali Police Station against Mujibur Rahman Sarwar and his wife Syeda Nasima Sarwar for accumulating wealth worth Tk 9.92 crore illegally and concealing information about over Tk 3.85 Mosharraf, Aman, Toyebur,

Taimur, Salma and Nasima Sarwar had earlier filed separate petitions with the HC for quashing the cases filed against them. On separate bail petitions, the

High Court recently granted anticipatory bail to Salma Rahman and

whether the blood banks hold permits to run their business. "It is the responsibility of the administration to take actions

against such illegal operators," he

Gen Mustafiz

FROM PAGE 1

and undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital. Prosecution lawyers opposed the plea saying the petition was not placed before the court in accordance with the rules. The judge

Mustafizur's counsel placed the petition again following the rules. Advocate Sahara Khatun represented Hasina. Hasina was earlier exempted from appearing at trial

granted the petition after

proceedings in person. The six other accused were

present at court. The other accused in the case are former Bangladesh Air Force chief Jamaluddin Ahmed, former defence secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain, air commodore (retd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Mohammad Hossain Serniabat and Unique Group Managing Director

Nur Ali. The now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the case against Hasina and four others with Tejgaon Police Station on December 11, 2001, accusing them of causing a loss of Tk 700 crore to the state exchequer by purchasing eight MiG-29 jet fighters while Hasina was the prime minister.

Afghan govt

FROM PAGE 16 attack and the kind of materials used and the specific targeting, everything has the hallmark of a particular intelligence agency that has conducted similar terrorist acts in Afghanistan in the past," he said.

Afghanistan regularly accuses circles in Pakistan, a long-time rival of India, of supporting the Taliban and other insurgents. Pakistan rejects the accusation. Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday denied his

Lumpur that it was not in Islamabad's interests to destabilise Afghanistan. "We want stability in the region. We ourselves are a victim of terrorism and extremism," said Gilani on the sidelines of a summit of eight developing Islamic nations. He did not elaborate.

government was involved in

Monday's attack, saying in Kuala

Pakistani Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood condemned the attack on Monday, but Gllani's comment is the first highlevel denial of involvement by the-Also on Tuesday, Afghanistan summoned the charge d'affair of the

Pakistan Embassy to Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry over comments made by a former Pakistan member of parliament mentioning the need for jihad against US and Nato forces in Afghanistan. Afghanistan often accuses

denied by Islamabad. The bodies of the four Indians killed in the attack were flown back home late Monday aboard an Indian military plane, said Gen. Ahmad Zia Aftali, the head of Kabul's main military hospital.

the Taliban insurgency, a charge

A security report to the Afghan cabinet on Monday also accused a foreign intelligence agency of involvement in the suicide attack, the deadliest in Kabul, which left nearly 150 wounded.

Two Indian diplomats and two Indian guards were among the 41 people killed.

Left parties quit FROM PAGE 16 President Pratibha Patil to direct the

government to seek a vote of confi-

dence in parliament. The Congress party meanwhile attacked the Left for being insensitive in deciding the timing of withdrawal -- which came while Singh is in Japan

to attend a meeting of the Group of Eight industralised nations. Congress chief Sonia Gandhi has convened an emergency meeting to discuss the political developments,"

a party spokesman told AFP.

India's energy security.

Singh and US President George W. Bush in 2005 unveiled the agreement to share civilian nuclear technology - a deal that when finalised would see India entering the fold of global nuclear commerce after being shut outfordecades. Singh argues the pact is crucial for

But the four-member bloc of left-

wing parties, who have 59 seats in the

545-member parliament, insist the

deal would bind India too closely to the United States, and have threatened repeatedly to force early elections if it moves forward. They say the deal runs counter to

India's status as a figurehead in the non-aligned movement. They also believe that allowing UN inspections of the country's civil nuclear programme -- as demanded by the Americans -- would harm India's strategic weapons

But analysts said Singh's administration seemed to have avoided a collapse by clinching the support of the regional socialist Samajwadi Party after crunch talks last week. "We have 39 MPs and we have some others who have pledged to

vote with us, for the government,"

Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam

programme.

Singh told reporters. Political analyst Yashwant Deshmukh said the move by the leftist parties was largely academic. "Right now with the support of the Samajwadi Party, it seems the government will last its term and the

deal will also go through," he said. "As of now there seems to be no danger of the government falling." added political analyst and author Rasheed Kidwai.

the finance adviser's recent statefollowing a consensus among the Momtaj was included in the ment on price spiral of essentials, the ACC to explain within four used intakes. member states for an annual concase in connection with abetting Mohammad Nasim abroad for better he said, "We're living in an eco-"Besides, we'll monitor the sale weeks why the cases should not be her husband in accumulating and treatment, he added. nomic reality and market econof the items." quashed. Nasima Sarwar in the cases.