City hospitals

Shahnur Akhter, a garments worker from Savar, said that Sishu Hospital staff had asked her to get her son admitted to a paying bed as all other beds were already taken.

"They asked me to bring Tk 5,000. Where am I to get that?" she wailed.

Many people at the outdoor department of the hospital had to return without getting any treatment. From an average number of 350-400 every day, the number of patients has shot up to around 600

The paediatrics unit at the DMCH outpatient department is receiving around 400 patients each day, more than double its usual, more than half of the patients are dry. suffering from such seasonal fevers and cold-related problems.

Anwara Begum from Munshirhat in Kamrangirchar had been waiting at DMCH with her one and half-year-old daughter since 9:00am. She had not got a serial to see a doctor even at 1:15pm.

DMCH sources said most of its patients come from Kamrangirchar, Hazaribagh and Lalbagh areas.

The number of patients at the outpatient department of Suhrawardy hospital has gone up to

Sabbir murder

FROM PAGE 16 authorities to produce three accused, now in jail custody, before it on the scheduled date.

On May 13, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted a charge sheet against the accused to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, showing 35 people as prosecution witnesses.

The other charge sheeted accused are Sanvir's bodyguard Khairul Hassan Ujjal, 31, two gatekeepers -- Nure Alam, 28, Humayun Kabir, 28, and Shamsuddin Ahmed,

Of them, Ujjal and Shamsuddin are now in jail while Sanvir and two others have been absconding since the case was filed.

Shah Alam tried to save his son Sanvir from the murder charge by paying a bribe of Tk 21 crore to detained former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar. The bribery came to light after CID started investigation into the mur-

CEC warns

Putting emphasis on local polling

officials, law enforcement agencies

and political parties' doing their

duties for free and fair polls, he said if

anything goes wrong during the

polls, it should be tackled locally

because it is difficult to deal with

related to the EC should arise since

the EC has registered the voters with

photos and is arranging transparent

ballot boxes for the national polls as

demanded by the political parties,

the next elected government to

nullify all the electoral reforms made

by the present caretaker govern-

ment, the CEC said he does not think

the next government itself will be

convinced that the reforms were

useful," Shamsul said reiterating that

the next parliamentary elections will

be held in December as per the

year clearly speaks of holding local

national polls and those will also be

People's Order (RPO) is now at the

chief adviser's desk and is expected

to be promulgated soon," he said,

adding that the EC had consulted the

"The Representation of the

held as per the schedule, he said.

"If we can hold a credible election,

that any such thing will happen.

Asked whether there is scope for

dotheir jobs.

the CEC said.

roadmap.

local problems if these people do not RPO.

No election disputes for reasons

around 1,400 a day from 900 before.

patients between 8:00am to

2:30pm," Prof Khadiza Begum,

director of the hospital, told The

Paracetamol for low temperature

and body aches, and Paracetamol

Suppositories to bring down high

warm water, lemon water, juices

and soups help in such cases," Dr

Monir said. He also suggested taking

Toddlers should be breastfed as

usual. When children sweat from

fevers parents should let the sweat

Other recommendations

water several times a day, gargling

with warm salt water several times a

day (for sore throats) and using

nasal drops to help loosen mucus

6,000 buses and minibuses plying

It also showed that 30 percent of

The matters which were dis-

roads are being occupied through

cussed at the meeting included

reducing traffic jam at intersec-

tions, placing garbage on a side of a

road, not in middle position,

repairing roads and utility services

lines at night and not at daytime

against deadlines, checking fake

driving licences, introduction of

different school timings, traffic

education to people and east-west

that about five lakh rickshaws are

plying the city roads and streets,

80,000 of them having licence, and

illegal occupation of footpaths by

CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim

Home Adviser Maj Gen (retd)

Munaim briefed newsmen over the

MA Matin. Special Assistants to the

Chief Adviser Raja Devashish Roy

and M Tamim, home secretary

works secretary, communications

secretary, secretary to CA's office

CA's press secretary, IGP and Rajuk

chairman were, among others

members but politicians are oppos

It is unfortunate that political

CEC said referring to the opposition

against redrawing the electoral

"There can be no decision that

constituencies and amending the

The meeting was also informed

road communications.

outcome of the meeting.

present at the meeting.

hawkers.

illegal car parking in the city.

and moisten the nose skin.

Traffic jam

FROM PAGE 16

daily the city roads.

juice of Tulsi leaf.

Doctors suggest taking

"Bed rest and adequate fluid as

three-wheelers for the crimes. outdoor is attending to over 150

pared a list of muggers and their possible hideouts, he said adding that the DMP would issue an order which would require taxicab and three-wheeler drivers to put their photo and identity documents on display at a place where passengers could easily view them.

Recruitment

Services (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 keeping the provision for appointing law officers at different levels by the government until the attorney services is formed.

ing the legality of this ordinance i

After hearing a writ petition filed by three Supreme Court (SC) lawyers, an HC bench comprised of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Masuque Hosain Ahmed also issued a rule upon the government to explain within two weeks as to why the Government Attorney Service Ordinance, 2008 should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The law secretary, establishment secretary and the president's secretary have been made

The petitioners' counsel Mahbubey Alam told the court that according to the constitution, the president cannot promulgate such ordinance during the reign of the caretaker government since any urgent circumstances for promulgating this kind of ordinance did not exist in

"The office of the attorney general is a constitutional post The posts of the additional attorney generals, deputy attorney generals and assistant attorney general's office. As per the consti office is an independent body. By promulgating the government attorney service, all the attorneys except the attorney general have been brought under the executive's control and that is why the

The president on April 30 this year issued the Government Attorney Service Ordinance, 2008 under which the government has set up the government attorney department to deal with cases in courts and performing other

duties on behalf of the state. SC lawyers Abdul Mannan Khan, Chanchal Kumar Dutta and Khandker Anjuman Ara Shelley on July 27 filed the writ petition as public interest litigation (PIL) with the HC challenging the

legality of the ordinance. The petitioners said the ordinance could curtail the President's Order-6, 1972, which is an established system of recruiting and controlling law

Hearing of the petition was

FROM PAGE 1

receipt at all. AmCham President Sved Ershad

of Bangladesh, which is expected by the people of Bangladesh and the international community. "We hope politicians will avoid the path of confrontation and build a

The roadmap declared in July last brighter future," he said, paying government elections before the tribute to the EC for completing voter registration with photos and identity

AmCham Executive Director A Gafur moderated the meeting which was also attended by US Embassy Charge d' Affaires Geeta Pasi, other diplomats, civil society members

will benefit all. But unfortunately we are under constant attack. We, however, are undaunted, "he said.

Nobody will give the EC independence, it has to acquire it itself. "If we run a few fair and credible elections, we can reach a level," he added

Shamsul said the EC will install equipment and place manpower at upazila election offices to deliver services at upazila levels so that they do not have to come to Dhaka to settle issues.

Ahmed said a fair and credible election is crucial for a prosperous future

political parties and civil society and businessmen.

Sohel Rahman

FROM PAGE 16

Chowdhury Koyes Sami, and 22 other present and former officials of Oriental Bank (now ICB Islamic Bank) was handed over yesterday to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for investigation. BEXIMCO CASE

After scrutinising the case docket and other relevant documents, Judge Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court took the charges into cognisance and passed the order.

The court directed the authorities to produce Vice Chairman of Beximco Holdings Ltd Salman F Rahman, another accused in the case, now in jail custody, before it on

July 31. On Monday, ACC Assistant Director Ashraful Alam, investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet against Sohel F Rahman, his brother Salman F Rahman and four others to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, showing 40 people as prose-

cution witnesses. The others charge-sheeted are 488.50 crore. ex-manager of IFIC Bank's Moujheel branch Asab-ud-Doula, its ex-vice president Ziaul Bari and Beximco Holdings directors Iqbal

Ahmed and MA Qashem. Muhammad Mahbubul Alam filed office of Oriental Bank and its the case with Motifheel Police principal branches and branches Station on September 5 last year on at Bangshal, Nawabpur, Mirpur charges of withdrawing over Tk Road and Karwan Bazar between 158.67 crore from IFIC Bank in the 2003 and 2006.

name of Beximco Group through

deception and forgery. The complainant said the accused took a loan of over Tk 158.67 crore submitting seven wills of 130.42 acres of land of Beximco Properties Development Management, and showing false wills of Beximco Holdings as equitable mortgage. The accused also showed accounts of 112 fake organisations in taking the loan.

The top brass of Beximco Group and the ex-IFIC officials were involved in the process of releasing the loan violating banking rules and misusing power.

ORION GROUP CASE yesterday shifted it to the ACC for

On January 25 last year, Oriental Bank's Senior Assistant Vice President and head of its Human Resources Department Kazi Monjur Hossain filed the case with Tejgaon

According to the FIR (first information report), the money was misappropriated through unauthorised issuance of 369 interbranch debit advice in connivance ACC Assistant Director with several officials at the head

Thrice mugged

11:00pm when they use motorcy cles, cars or taxis and CNG-run

The law enforcers have pre-

Another writ petition challeng currently pending with the HC.

include sponging body with tepid

the country.

generals are part of the attorney tution, the attorney general' ordinance is unlawful and unconstitutional," he argued.

parties have objections against anything that goes against them, the

held vesterday.

The first information report (FIR said the RHD employers and offi cials collected tolls for Tongi-Ashulia highway and Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges through fake money receipts or without any

Sixteen RHD employees includ ing three superintendent engineers and seven deputy divisional engineers were charged with corruption in collecting toll on Tongi-Ashulia highway.

The accused are superintendent engineers Manzur Ahmed Bhuiyan, Shamsul Haque and Safiul Azam Bhuiyan, deputy divisional engineers Golam Mohammad, Fakrul Islam, Abu Hena Mohammad Tareq Iqbal Humayun Kabir, Samsul Haque Bhuiyan, Nurul Alam, and Abdul Razzak deputy assistant engineer Abdul Matin, work supervisors Abdul Latif Bishwas, Zakir Hossain, Abdul Mannan, and Tajul Islam

and office assistant Abu Taher. Twenty-one people including one from Bromas Joint Venture, the private firm overseeing the computerised toll collection at the two bridges, were accused in a case filed in connection with causing a loss of Tk 174.35 crore to the gov-

intendent engineer Nazmul Haque, superintendent engineer Sanaul Haque, deputy divisional engineers Abdul Halim, Manzur Rahman, and Nurul Hossain, deputy assistant engineers Abul Kalam, Mostak Ahmed Chowdhury, Manjur Alam, Abdus Sattar Sheikh, SAH Mokbular Rahman, Wasiuddin Ahmed, Abdul Matin, Golam Rahman Chowdhury, Mohammad Ahsan Ullah Majumder, work supervisors Abdul Mannan, Kabir Ahammed, AKM Mujibur Rahman Khan, Abdul Baten, Khorshed Hasnat Alam, Lokman Shikder and Amin Ahmed of Bromas Joint Venture.

Ziaul Haq Zia

crore illegally and hiding information about Tk 5.36 crore of his wealth from the commission.

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

Zia got 10 years' RI for accumulating illegal wealth and three years' RI for concealing information. The sentences will run consecutively.

The court ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate his illgotten wealth. The jail terms would be effective

from the day of their arrest or surrender.

Reappointment

FROM PAGE 1

related with constitutional matters that should be settled in the

the president should be settled in

HC division in line with the HC crisis, he argued.

Salauddin Ahmed said there had been rules in the constitution for the president's consulting with the chief justice regarding appointment of judges in the higher judiciary but those rules were repealed

settle the disputes over the issue of superseding while appointing judges," he said, praying to the apex court to stay the operation of the HC judgment. Referring to the absence of rules

for the president's consulting with the chief justice for appointing judges in the current constitution, Advocate TH Khan, counsel for the 19 HC judges, said, "If the 10 judges are reappointed with seniority, my clients will be superseded."

On February 4, 2003, 10 unconfirmed additional judges of the HC division filed two writ petitions with the HC, challenging the legality of the government's not confirming their jobs in spite of the chief justice's positive recommendations.

Dr Kamal Hossain, who moved HCjudgment.

for the writ petitioners, said the

united. Barrister M Amir-ul Islam argued that the government filed appeals with the SC against the HC judgment but it had not replied to

ings of the writ petitions. "A long time was wasted in disposing of the writ petitions in the High Court and the 10 judges of the High Court were deprived due to that delay. The appeals were filed against the High Court judgment in order to delay further the reappointments of the deprived

three-member special bench of the HC on July 17 declared illegal and unconstitutional the nonconfirmation by the BNP-led government of the services of 10 additional HC judges appointed during the rule of the Awami League despite the chief justice's positive

The HC bench comprised of National Building Code, Private justices Mohammad Abdur Rashid, SK Sinha and Nazmun Ara Sultana also directed the government to reappoint the 10 judges with

On July 24, the government filed two leaves to appeal with the SC to vacate the HC verdict.

Graft suspects

Now graft in appointment might be ignored by the probe bodies, say some teachers and officials, apprehending that if the issue is not addressed, the accused may take a hand on the members of the committees formed by BSMMU.

"Those involved in ill practices still remain untouched. They are still serving in their previous administrative position without notice," said a teacher.

Meanwhile, a senior teacher whose name came up as a corrupt suspect told The Daily Star, "The government didn't take into confidence the probe report by the university. So it has sent the task force and ACC to look into the matters.

the necessity of involving different departments if the university probe report was relied on. I expect the government probe will be impartial and it should be taken

said asking not to be named. Earlier, groups of university teachers also met the University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman several times with the appeal

to look into the matters in vain. high-ups have recently requested move to this end.

several times as they have direct involvement with the matters of appointment and promotion and should look into the graft carried out at this level," said a faculty member preferring anonymity.

"Action must be taken against those found involved in the graft. But I cannot understand why action has not been taken vet against anyone," said former head of the Department of Virology Prof Nazrul Islam who led the university probe at first.

said he is not feeling well and can-

know what the investigations of the task force and ACC have

2 ex-lawmakers

Emergency Power Rules (EPR), while the rest were arrested on extortion and graft charges.

against the six.

rules upon the government to explain why the proceedings of the cases should not be quashed. stayed the proceedings of the graft

against their husbands.

government should comply with the recommendations of the chief justice in appointing judges in the higher judiciary to keep the judges

the HC rules during the proceed-

judges," he said. Upon the two writ petitions, a

recommendations.

seniority within one month.

Nineteen HC judges including justices Syed Mohammad Dastagir Husain, Mir Hasmat Ali, Abdul Awal, Sharif Uddin Chaklader, Md Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, Syed AB Mahmudul Huq, Salma Masud Chowdhury, AFM Abdur Rahman, Farid Ahmed, Md Abu Tariq, Muhammad Abdul Hafiz and Syed Refaat Ahmed filed an application with the SC on July 27 against the

"The government would not feel

Sources say the government

Contacted over phone, VC Tahir

not talk about the issue in a short here," the adviser said. Abdul Gafur, however, said, "I don't

unearthed. One of our committees

FROM PAGE 16

After hearing separate petitions, an HC bench comprising Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad stayed the proceedings of the cases

Meanwhile, the HC bench cases against Quamrunnahar Reshma, wife of detained former state minister Fazlur Rahman Patal, and Shamsun Nahar, wife of detained ex-BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed. They were made co-accused in the cases filed

headed by AJE Nahar Rahman is working to find out whether the allegations have merit or not. I cannot comment further on the matter at this moment." Sources in ACC say they are still

will take some time for the investigation to be completed. Legal action will be taken based on the findings, they add. A number of government investigators say around 15 cases are

investigating the allegations and it

likely to be filed in connection with the corruption. "The VC is dead. But it is not like that he had carried out all the graft alone. There are persons who had helped him and they must be brought to book immediately," a professor said.

The corrupt suspects might be

convicted for monetary corruption

but it would not come to any help

for the university if the unqualified persons appointed so far are not removed, observe many teachers and officials. "If action cannot be taken against the persons now, what will be the fate of the institution when a

power?" asked a university teacher. Hossain Zillur

political government comes to

holding a meeting with Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader there. Ghulam Quader is leading a five-member panel of advisers in the dialogues between political

parties and the government. Zillur said there are numerous milestones, large and small, on the path of transition. "We have to cross all milestones one after another," he said adding that his government is determined to

achieve its goals. There is no alternative to the declared path of transition to

democracy," he added. Zillur however said the ongoing reform process still has a long way to go and everyone including the political parties should come forward and play their due roles to

make it a success. "The government alone can't achieve the goals, the role of political parties are very important

Talking about the government's desired dialogue with BNP, he emphasised on the entirety of the issues rather than piecemeal dealing with those. "We have to go ahead with all the issues in hands and that's very important.'

He said efforts are on to sit in a dialogue with BNP. "In that regard, we advanced well with Awami League (AL) and hope to do the same with BNP too," a hopeful Zillur told reporters. Replying to a question, he said the government will take extra

measures to bring BNP to a dialogue. "We are ready to make all kinds of efforts. When informed about BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain's ignorance about any such move by the government, Zillur said, "It is not important Lankan Standard Time) yesterday. what a single person is saying."

who are demanding release of detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia as a precondition for Adviser Ghulam Quader however said on Monday that Khaleda

The military backed govern-

ment held dialogues with all major

parties, excepting BNP and Jamaat,

Govt okays

FROM PAGE 16 overseeing urban development, has long lamented the absence of

potent legal instruments to pursue complaints against property devel-

At a discussion on the draft ordinance on June 26, the real estate developers opposed the provision for jail terms in the event of contract violation.

band Ali Azam alias Rana alias According to the draft, the Engineer Masud from the apartdevelopers will be subject to two ment. years in jail-or a fine of Tk 5 lakh if They also arrested Lokman, who they fail to start or finish construcused to work as a broker to bring in tion in accordance with agreecustomers, and a housemaid. The ments with the clients. other girl rescued form the flat had

They will face up to three years in jail or a fine of Tk 10 lakh for construction without approval from the authorities concerned.

Construction Act, Bangladesh

Regional Cooperation) counter-

out the illegal trade from the flat. The new law will make it man-She said her husband identified datory for the real estate compahimself as an engineer when he nies to register with a designated rented the flat at Tk 20,000 per government agency. A fine would month. apply in case of failure. Astonishingly, Shilpi had two

Property developers will also be teenage daughters living in the fined for failing to inform its clients same flat, who are students of Vigarunnisa school in the city. beforehand about mortgage on any A visibly frightened Parul yestercomplete or under-construction day struggled with her emotions, as land, apartment or space.

Besides, there will be penalties for not using agreed materials in inhuman ordeal she has been subjected to in the very heart of the construction and suspending a project without consulting clients. bustling capital. The ordinance will be in force She said that she was abducted at the age of twelve from in front of together with the Building

"My younger brother and I were playing outside our house. A Residential Land Development microbus suddenly pulled in front Guidelines and other public land of us. A man got out of it and put a handkerchief over my mouth and Meanwhile, the cabinet also everything blacked out," she said. endorsed the proposed Saarc When she came to, Parul found (South Asian Association for

isolated house near a river in terror pact to be signed during the Bagerhat. She remembers very upcoming summit in Colombo. vague details of her confinement Titled The Saarc Convention on there, for about two years. All she Mutual Legal Assistance in can recall is that her abductors Criminal Matters', the treaty would used sedative injections on her. enable the member states to help She said she cannot recall any each other in prevention and other details. investigation of crimes through About two years ago, some exchange of necessary legal docu-

Law Commission

ments and expertise.

are chosen from the judicial cadre to work on deputation, sources said adding that the surroundings of the commission office located on the Old High Court premises are so appalling that these new officials, soon after their joining, start looking for opportunities elsewhere.

One of the officials said besides finding it an unappealing place to work at, these officials get frustrated when they do not get the necessary logistics in the office. "Even the Internet connection used to be funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to the commission office has been disconnected

since February 28 this year." The Law Commission is a research-oriented institution, but the research work is being hampered due to inadequate workforce and poor logistics, he

observed.

Businessman

Dhanmondi police complaining that the couple used to torture her

frequently. "At one stage of their torture on me, I escaped the house Tuesday morning and went to my aunt's house in the area. I did not find her there and was weeping in pain and agony outside the house. Local people then informed police, who rushed me to the DMCH," said the

She further said, "They used to torture me without any causes and did not allow me to come out of their house. So, I could not make any complaints against them

Asked about this, Sanjay said he had slapped her Monday night for stealing Tk 400 from his house. "As I slapped her, she fell down and banged her head against the

wall. So she was bleeding from the head," he said. Sub-inspector Bashir Ahmed Badal of Dhanmondi Police Station, who is investigation officer of the case, said, "We have arrested Sanjay Bhuiyan, who along with his wife tortured the girl. We shall also

arrest his wife.' Dr Bilkis Begum of DMCH One Stop Crisis Centre, where Rezia is under treatment, said her body bears marks of beating with trousers belt.

Best Air's FROM PAGE 16

from Colombo Monday.

Due to problems in one of the two generators, the aircraft could not fly and problems with the BIA authorities in passenger embarkation caused more delays. The Boeing 737 (flight BEA-203) developed the issue on its way to Male

among other passengers on board. The aircraft left Male for Colombo without fixing the problem and with around 50 people on board. Best Air chairman and his family

members stayed in Male even

Best Air Chairman M Haider

Uzzaman and a number of invited

journalists from Dhaka were

though they were supposed to return to Colombo. Reaching BIA at 4:30pm (Sri Lankan Standard Time) Monday, the aircraft remained there for 16 hours while the generator problem was fixed and the passenger embarkation issue with BIA authorities were resolved. It left Colombo around 10:00am (Sri

Asked about the matter, a Best Air spokesperson told The Daily the missile strike and neither Bush Star that he is not aware of the incident concerning the lone nor Gilani mentioned it while aircraft of the airlines. The passengers were given hotel accommodation in Colombo.

Best Air, country's third private

airlines, started its operation on

Monday morning.

Police rescue

FROM PAGE 16

a day ago.

she recalled her ordeal.

Police has arrested a middle

aged woman, Shilpi, and her hus-

been brought in from Magura only

she talked to the press about the

herself confined in an apparently

people brought her to Dhaka in a

microbus and handed her over to

Shilpi. Since then Shilpi used Parul

as a sex worker for clients brought

Saarc Food Bank

Sri Lanka has ramped up security

in its already tightly guarded

capital to unprecedented levels

as it prepares to host regional

leaders for the summit amid an

escalating conflict with Tamil

clude Wednesday, and ministers

will meet on Thursday to review

the agenda for their leaders,

wake of terrorist attacks in India

last weekend that killed 49 people

and injured more than 160. A

shadowy Islamist group has

claimed responsibility for the

and ways to offset the burden

imposed by these on our econo-

mies will also be discussed" at the

two-day summit, an Indian for-

the Saarc Development Fund and

agree to extend mutual legal

assistance and cooperation in

"Poverty alleviation and devel-

opment issues ... are also on the

agenda," he said, adding that

Saarc members will also com-

plete formalities on the entry of

Afghanistan, the newest country

speed up development and lift

the region's 1.5 billion people out

of poverty, but the grouping is

seen as being ineffective due to

regional turmoil and bilateral

tensions between India and

Pakistan, which have fought three

South Asia houses half of the

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan troops

have killed at least 34 Tamil Tiger

rebels and lost three of their own

in the latest reported clashes in

the island's north, the defence

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(LTTE) in the northern Wanni

region where they have been

trying to advance into rebel-held

territory for weeks, the ministry

Security forces fought with the

Saarc was formed in 1985 to

to join the grouping.

world's poorest people.

ministry said yesterday.

combating terrorism, he said.

Leaders are expected to set up

eign ministry official said.

"Spiralling food and oil prices

The meeting comes in the

The official-level talks con-

Tiger separatist rebels.

FROM PAGE 16

officials said.

her house in Khulna.

Shilpi admitted that she carried

into the house. The teenager said Shilpi told her "I begged them to let me go, I that the society would not accept begged for mercy. I even begged the clients to save my life, but no one her back after what things she had helped me," a sobbing Parul said as been doing, so it was no use run-

> ning away. Though the 16-year-old girl disclosed what she had been forced to do, the other girl rescued form the same apartment said she had come willingly to the place.

Parul also revealed that over the past two years that she has been here, a good number of girls had been brought into the house for

sold out to other gangs, she said. carperter, is now in police custody. She said all she wanted to do was

Whether they can take her back or not, remains another story.

24 AL leaders and workers dead and scores injured in 2004. "Those who don't want democracy and who never won an election might have instigated the attack," he said, adding that such incidents

eign policy Talking about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and late president Ziaur Rahman, he said

The special court yesterday recorded statements of prosecution witnesses in the case against SQ Chowdhury and fixed today for the nexthearing

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case against him for amassing assets worth Tk 9.45 crore through illegal means and concealing information. about wealth worth Tk 91.42 lakh.

FROM PAGE 1 announced electoral roadmap and constitutional jurisdiction of the commission, they said at a crucial meeting of the AL Central Working

point demand that include holding of parliamentary polls first. It however did not discuss whether holds it in October.

reached a consensus on AL's six-

led grand electoral alliance with Jatiya Party (JP) and Bikalpodhara Bangladesh still exists. Sources said the JP, which was

Dhanmondi in the capital with acting party chief Zillur Rahman in the chair, the meeting decided to

strengthen unity of the AL-led 14party combine. The meeting was adjourned till 4:00pm today. Talking to the Daily Star after the meeting, Col (retd) Faruk Khan noted that as per the EC's roadmap

and upazila polls between November 3 and December 31. Zillur Rahman and Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu came under criticism at the meeting for their earlier remarks on local body polls. Zillur had threatened to resist upazila polls while Amu suggested that both upazila and parliamen-

to bring those to his notice. The irregularities concern counting of votes not at polling centres, and not allowing political leaders to campaign for candidates.

Pakistan warns

troops.

Pakistan."

where they attack US and Nato

"We talked about the common

threat we face, extremists who are very dangerous people," Bush said. harmed people inside Pakistan.

together" to fight terrorism. "But I think that we are much more on the same page than some people would like to paint," said White House spokeswoman Dana Perino. Perino declined to comment on

talking to reporters on the South Lawn of the White House. Both the US-led military coalition and the separate Nato force in Afghanistan said they were not Dhaka-Colombo-Male route | involved. However, the US Central available over the next six to nine

prostitution. They were possibly Parul, whose father is a

return home to her family.

SQ Chy

used to carry out the blasts that left

might recur if the present government keeps pursuing a "weak for-

everybody used the ideals of these two leaders to their own advantage.

AL central leaders

Committee (ALCWC). The three-hour meeting

the party would take part, boycott or resist upazila election if the EC The ALCWC viewed that the AL-

awaiting the AL stance on upazila -polls, might follow this .----Held at AL President Sheikh Hasina's political office at

national election would be held between June 15 and December 31.

tary polls should be held on the The meeting blamed the EC for irregularities regarding August 4 polls to four city corporations and nine municipalities. An AL delegation led by Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta would meet the chief election commissioner today

The ALCWC formed a committee comprising Presidium members and organising secretaries to review organisational activities and take corrective steps where necessary. It also finalised programmes for the National

Mourning Day on August 15 and for

to operate missile-launching

drones in the South Waziristan

region where the attack took place.

Khabab al-Masri, had a five-

million-dollar bounty on his head

and allegedly ran terrorist training

camps in Afghanistan. He is

described by the website of the US

Government Rewards for Justice

program as an "explosives expert

and poisons trainer working on

mounting speculation the United

States is prepared to launch mili-

tary raids into Pakistan's troubled

tribal belt in pursuit of extremists.

The missile strike came amid

behalf of al-Qaeda."

Umar, also known as Abu

August 21.

FROM PAGE 16 Bush said he had received a "strong commitment" from Gilani that Pakistan would try "as best as possible" to prevent Taliban and al-Qaeda militants from crossing from Pakistan into Afghanistan,

"We also appreciate the prime minister's strong words against the extremists and terrorists who not only would do us harm, but have Bush called Pakistan a "strong ally" and said the United States

"supports the sovereignty of

Intelligence Agency is also known months," she said.

A joint statement issued following their talks said Bush and Gilani "acknowledged that terrorism and "It's tense in that we're working violent extremism pose a common threat to Pakistan, the United States, and the international community

"The two leaders pledged to

work together to address this threat

and to deny any space to militants

or terrorists through increased

cooperation," the statement said.

Perino said Bush had also allocated increased aid to Pakistan. "The president offered 115 million dollars over two years in food aid and 42.5 million of that will be

In a sudden move, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) that was investigating the case

police for embezzlement of Tk

FROM PAGE 16 "Each of the 10 doctors at the

respondents to the rule.

ernment. The accused are former super-

FROM PAGE 1

Zia had earlier been sentenced to eight years in a tax evasion case.

appeals as the HC judgment is Appellate Division.

"The maters as to whether the High Court can direct the president or the government to appoint judges and whether complying with the chief justice's recommendations in appointing judges are mandatory for the government or

the Appellate Division," he said. If the government reappoints the 10 judges with seniority in the directives and then it is proved in the Appellate Division that the judgment was erroneous, the judiciary might face a serious

"Specific directions from the Appellate Division are needed to

FROMPAGE 1

receiving even a show-cause

into consideration. I don't know if the government investigators have made any major findings and I hope they'll not find anything," he

the UGC chair to look into the matters as the ministry concerned cannot interfere into such matters of a university directly. The UGC, however, has yet to initiate any "We met the UGC chairman

BSMMU Registrar Mohammad

The court also issued separate

sitting with the government. will be released soon.