Tarique obtains

former premier Khaleda Zia and senior joint secretary general of BNP, was released on bail after 18 months of detention.

Tarique's sister-in-law Shahina Khan Zaman told The Daily Star over telephone last night that the family was already in touch with different hospitals in England and Germany, including Hammersmith Hospital in

Tarique's physician Mazharul Islam, meanwhile, said Tarique got rid of the mental stress since being released.

Idris Ali under whose supervision Tarique is being treated said he has referred the BNP leader to get admitted to a London hospital.

A number of politicians, including Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, BNP leader MK Anwar, Islami Chattra Shibir President Zahidur Rahman visited Tarique at the BSMMU yester-

On Wednesday night, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar and Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui also visited Tarique at the hospital. They talked to him for a while and enquired about his health.

Shahbagh police have taken up the charge of Tarique's security. A team of police has already been posted in front of the BSMMU cabin where he is staying.

The BNP has announced special prayer at mosques across the country after Jum'a prayers today.

Special prayer will also be offered at places of worship of other religions

mother, a BNP press release issued yesterday said.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday filed three petitions with the Supreme Court (SC) to stay the High Court orders that granted bail to Tarique who recently got released on

Sources said the attorney general's office would move the petitions before the vacation bench of chamber judge of the Appellate Division

Tarique's counsel barrister Nasiruddin Ahmed Asim yesterday told The Daily Star that the government's appeals for staying the HC bails to Tarique would not affect his release since the apex court had granted him bail on health and humanitarian grounds after examining his medical report prepared by a

medical board. He also said the government and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) had earlier filed six petitions with the SC for staying Tarique's bail in separate cases but the chamber judge refused to grant their prayers.

Responding to separate bail prayers, the HC recently granted bail to Tarique in 12 cases filed by the | alias Ratan were earlier arrested and ACC, the government and individual persons. Even the SC granted Tarique bail on August 28 in a bribery case, paving the way for his

and bribery.

Upazila polls

holding of upazila polls next month, arguing that this would hamper holding of parliamentary election, planned for December.

The EC however might formally announce its stance on upazila elections after wrapping up talks with the political parties on their

"The Election Commission has decided in principle to hold the upazila elections in between October 23 and 30. The election schedules are to be announced 42 to 45 days before the polling day. So, these will be announced very soon," EC Secretary Humayun Kabir told reporters replying to a query.

In the first phase, polls will take place in over 200 upazilas out of 482 in two days. Polls to remaining upazila parishads will be held after parliamentary elections.

In the news briefing, he said schedule for the long due DCC polls will also be announced very soon as the polls will be held at the end of next month.

The final voter list for DCC areas with over 35 lakh voters was published yesterday. The EC will now begin printing it.

Asked if the worsening flood situation in many areas will hamper holding upazila elections next month, Humayun said the EC Secretariat has collected information about it. "We will submit a report to the commission so that it can decide where polls can be held."

Meanwhile, major political parties including Awami League (AL) and BNP are opposing upazila polls before parliamentary elections.

The AL, which will sit for dialogue with the EC on September 9, has already decided to ask it to hold upazila polls in December and parliamentary polls in November.

Invited for talks with the EC on September 7, BNP has not yet decided whether to join the talks or not. But senior leaders of the party said if they take part in the talks, they will oppose upazila polls before parliamentary elections.

But BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain has

Satkhira

FROM PAGE 1

inundating fresh low-lying areas in Munshiganj, Tangail, Manikganj, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Faridpur, Rajbari, Narayanganj and some parts of Dhaka, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said.

In Satkhira, the nine villages were inundated as an embankment was breached in Shyamnagar upazila.

Erosion by the Kabodak devoured a sluice gate and caused the collapse of the 200-foot segment of the embankment. The flooding destroyed around 4,000 homes and affected 15,000 people in the area.

Crops on 400 acres of land were submerged and 443 shrimp enclosures in the area were washed away. Locals said cracks in the embank ment developed Tuesday and they had tried to repair it.

The flood situation in Bogra deteriorated as an embankment on the Jamuna was breached sending water of the Jamuna into the

Bangali river. Our staff correspondent in Bogra, citing local representatives and members of the administration, reported that 335 families lost their homes while 2,500 families

were affected. A correspondent in Munshigani reports: Floodwater marooned people in Ganokpara and Manikpur in the district town. Around 600 families lost their properties by river erosion in

Tongibari upazila. hundred people are still marooned period. in Gaibandha town while many others took shelter on roads and in both sides of the conflict in more educational institutions.

for early recovery of the ailing BNP leader and secure the release of his

bail in three cases.

on September 8.

release.

Of the total 13 cases filed against Tarique, eight are for extortion and the rest for corruption, tax evasion

formed a five- member committee headed by party standing committee member Chowdhury Tanveer

Ahmed Siddiqui to draw up an agenda for the talks, party sources

EXPATRIATEVOTERS The EC at an inter-ministerial meet ing vesterday discussed ways to registration, sources said. register Bangladesh citizens living abroad in the electoral rolls with

> photographs. Officials present at the meeting said the EC asked them to send proposals to the law ministry to amend the electoral rolls ordinance paving the way for listing expatriate

> Bangladeshis as voters. "It is difficult to say at this moment whether Bangladesh citizens living abroad can be registered as voters before the next parliamentary polls. But once the law is made, the way for expatriates to be registered as voters is cleared," the EC -secretary told reporters yesterday.

Proposals for amending the electoral rolls ordinance 2008 would be sent to the law ministry next week. Officials of the ministries of law, foreign, home and expatriates wel-

fare and overseas employment attended yesterday's meeting held at the EC Secretariat.

FROM PAGE 1

"We are facing challenges to achieve our goals," Zillur said, adding that all the three partiesthe government, political parties and the people--should play equal role to face the challenge and remove the concerns.

He said that the government's efforts in this regard would con-

Zillur claimed that all the political parties agreed to take part in the parliamentary elections the government has promised to hold in the end of December. "It is the first step forward," the adviser said, adding that the second step is to bring qualitative changes in poli-

He said there would be competition in politics but the political parties should be careful that there is no violence.

Zillur expressed hope about holding the official talks with the BNP. "Invitation for the dialogue has been sent to the BNP but we are yet to get the party's response," he

On lifting of the state of emergency, Zillur said they are discussing ways to handle the emergency in a manner that serves the purpose of all people.

He assured that the parliamentary polls would be held in December as endorsed by the people. "There is no doubt about that," he said.

Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff and Communications Adviser Ghulam Quader were also present at the

Lankan troops

FROM PAGE 16 security forces capture the strate-

gic town on Mallavi from the rebels. The defence ministry described the capture of Mallavi as "one more decisive and impressive phase" in its campaign to defeat the Tigers, who have fought for decades for a

homeland for minority Tamils in

island's north and east. The ethnic Sinhalesedominated government has asked tens of thousands of Tamil civilians living in rebel territory to cross over to government-held areas in the island's north to avoid getting

caught up in the crossfire. The latest casualty figures raise the number of rebels reported Erosion by the Jamuna has killed by troops since January to taken a serious turn in Fulchari 6,333. The military says 609 solupazila of Gaibandha. Several diers were killed during the same

> Tens of thousands have died on than three decades of bloodshed.

Aug 21 attack

with the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge of Dhaka.

Following an order signed on August 26 by the home ministry, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court transferred the cases to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 where Mohammad Masdar Hossain is the conducting judge.

Earlier on August 31, the conducting judge fixed September 8 for hearing on charge framing against 22 accused including detained former BNP lawmaker Abdus Salam Pintu and Harkatul Jihad (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan in the grenade attack case.

On the other hand, another Dhaka court the same day directed eight absconding Huji members including brothers of Pintu to appear before the court by September 21.

Of the accused, Pintu, Mufti Hannan, his brother Mohibullah alias Mafizur Rahman alias Ovi, Sharif Shahidul Islam alias Bipul, Maulana Abu Sayeed alias Dr Abu Zafar, Abul Kalam Azad alias Bulbul, Jahangir Alam, Maulana Abu Taher, Shahadatullah Jewel, Hossain Ahmed Tamim, Mufti Moinuddin Sheikh alias Abu Zandal alias Masum Billah, Arif Hasan Sumon, Rafigul Islam Sabuj and Mohammad Ujjal

are now in jail custody Pintu's brother Maulana Tajuddin, Maulana Liton, and Anisul Mursalin, Mahibul Muttakin, Iqbal, Maulana Abu Bakar alias Selim Howlader, Jahangir Alam Badar and Khalilur Rahman have been absconding since the cases were

Eight of the arrestees -- Hannan, Bipul, Ovi, Abu Sayeed, Bulbul, Arif Hossain, Jahangir and Sabuj -- gave statements under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code confessing their involvement in the incident.

On June 11 this year, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Assistant Superintendent Fazlul Kabir, also investigation officer (IO) of the cases, submitted the charge sheets to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, showing 412 people as prosecution witnesses.

A day after the grenade attack, the police filed two cases -- one for murder and another under the Explosive Substances Act -- with Motifheel Police Station.

Prof Yunus

FROM PAGE 16 for creating a micro-credit system for people too poor to qualify for bank loans, holds a 38-percent stake through a subsidiary.

The Bangladeshi economist has long had a stormy relationship with Telenor, accusing it of breaching a deal concerning control of GrameenPhone.

He said Thursday he had received a call recently informing him of another child labour case involving a GrameenPhone sup-

Telenor spokesman Paal Kvalheim confirmed that such a case existed involving a small company called Gazi Engineering, but stressed that the firm was "a supplier of a supplier.'

"We have 700 suppliers in Bangladesh and we have concentrated on the ones with whom we have a direct relationship. But it is a known fact that child labour is widespread in this country," he told AFP.

He also pointed out that it was Telenor itself that had alerted Dr Yunus to the new case.

Company executive Hilde Tonne meanwhile issued a statement insisting that "when we or others reveal unacceptable conditions further down the value chain, we will of course respond. We are now on to the case.'

"Neither Grameenphone nor Telenor can, however, take responsibility for all social wrongdoings in Bangladesh, but we have taken our share of the responsibility to improve conditions with our suppliers and to work for long-term improvements in all the communities where we operate," she added.

According to Telenor, more than 160 Bangladeshi suppliers have so far been subjected to audits and been provided good practice

Cabinet okays

FROM PAGE 16 what to do afterwards with the prop-

erties is causing difficulties. The special courts have so far ordered confiscation of property worthabout Tk 500 crore.

The ordinance provides guidelines for better management of the confiscation of immovable property or assets ordered by courts, tribunals or any other legal commission. Sources say the management of

entrusted to four ministries under four categories. The home ministry will be given the management of confiscated houses, the industries ministry of confiscated industries, the land ministry with land and the com-

immovable property will be

merce ministry with business cen-Meanwhile, the cabinet has also decided to give conditional licenses to factories built on private land in the Bhawal National Park between November 22, 1999 and June 29,

2006. The government ban on building factories on private land -- according to latest land surveys -- can be relaxed under the Bangladesh Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973. But each factory must have its own approach road and factories must have an operating effluent treatment plant.

The cabinet also approved a memorandum of understanding between the US Energy Department and the Shipping Ministry to install a machine at Chittagong Port to stop smuggling of nuclear and radioactive material.

Govt shut order

FROM PAGE 1

the director administration." Speaking anonymously, a top energy ministry official defends the decision saying the director operation was good enough to look after the two mining companies, which are led by competent managing directors and strong boards of direc-

"This organogram was reviewed by the ministries of establishment, finance and energy. This decision was not taken overnight. Exercise related to the organogram is several years old. The wisdom is that the director operation is sufficient to deal with the mines," the energy ministry official points out.

"Besides, we are moving towards creation of Khani Bangla, a stronger body to deal with mines and minerals. In any case, we'll have to set that up to manage coal strongly," he adds.

The ministry is revising the draft coal policy that talks about Khani Bangla with a view to sending it to the cabinet for approval by early next month, he notes. But his views are strongly

opposed by Petrobangla insiders. "We don't have a Khani Bangla now. We don't even have an approved policy and if we had the policy approved soon, the Khani Bangla will not take off before 2011,"

says a Petrobangla official. Petrobangla's Operation Director already deals with 12 other companies and is the busiest person in Petrobangla, especially as gas crisis

has taken a permanent shape. The sources say the director operations already holds five to seven meetings a day and would simply bog down with the new charges. "The mines will not get due attention," the official observes.

"Again, we ask why do we need a director for administration? This is a useless post that is often misused by people who seek undue favours from employees for transfers and postings. We have been carrying out without any director operations for the last 10 years. Why do we need it now, especially when the organogram seeks structural reduction of Petrobangla's manpower?" he

because the Administration Cadre to bigger ventures in future,' wishes to have a post in observes an official. Petrobangla!"

The government had demon- Petrobangla also has a licence to strated dynamism in the late 90's by abolishing the post of director administration and introducing the ner.

post of Director Production Sharing Contract (PSC) in Petrobangla to dea with oil companies working in the gas sector. A Chief of Personnel (COP) was carrying out the job of the

director administration. "Affairs related to transfers and postings in Petrobangla are so simple that a COP is enough for the job. The COP worked directly under the chairman," the official notes.

The mines and minerals directorate itself has a long history. Till 1985, the country had a Bangladesh Mineral Exploration Development Corporation (BMEDC) that did not have any mine, but just the prospects of some coal, limestone and other minerals in its vision. As the BMEDC was making no progress, the government merged it with Petrobangla. NEWORGANOGRAM

Another Petrobangla official describes the new organogram that was approved earlier this week. "It outlines position of 652 officers and staffs and five directors. The total number of workforce is several dozens lower than the past organogram that was in force since

"The new organogram does not require retrenchment of manpower," he points out. "Petrobangla is already running short of man power. There are vacancies for 56 officers.

Petrobangla will now recruit new officers and other staffs, he adds. MINES AND

PETROBANGLA'S STAKES Both the Barapukuria coalmine and the Maddhyapara hard rock mine have numerous problems and both are incurring loss. Petrobangla also has many unsettled issues with the Chinese and North Korean builders

with the two mines. The Barapukuria mine was built under a Chinese Supplier's Credit worth Tk 1,430 crore and the Maddhyapara mine worth another Tk 1,400 crore under another Supplier's Credit with North Korea.

The government has already cleared half of these loans, though the mines have come into partial operation only a couple of years ago. "Though these are loss generating

for now, they are giving us valuable He goes on to say, "We need it experience which will help us move In addition to these two mines,

> explore the Dighipara Coal zone in collaboration with a strategic part-

Mayor Kamran

"I am back among the people with the kindness of the Almighty Allah... I will sacrifice myself anew for the cause of the city and its inhabitants, who voted for my return," he added. The mayor drove straight to his

home in the city's Chhararpar area.

Later he visited the shrine of Hazrat

Shahjalal (RA) and the grave of his mother Nurunnesa Lalon who died The mayor is expected to resume his office on Sunday, official sources said. The SCC authorities are preparing for Kamran's return to his office by taking charge from acting Mayor

Azam Khan. A High Court division bench on August 27 granted Kamran bail in a case. The mayor's release was being delayed as the court order took time

to reach the jail. On August 17 this year, Kamran was moved to Sylhet Central Jail from Comilla Central Jail and was released on parole for 6 hours the next day following the death of his mother at a Dhaka clinic on August 17. Kamran was taken back to the jail and was admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital after he became sick. He was taken back to the jail Wednesday afternoon.

Kamran, while behind bars, was re-elected in the August 4 SCC polls by a huge margin. In compliance with the legal provisions, he quit from the post of AL city unit chief on August 31.

The SCC mayor was arrested April 6 last year in the much-talked-about kitchen market scam case. He was released on bail on May 8 that year and joint forces arrested him again on May 28, 2007 at Sylhet city's Gulshan Hotel. A case was filed against him after recovery of a bottle of foreign liquor at his home that day.

Arrested in connection with violating the Emergency Power Rules, 2007 (EPR) he was issued detention on June 4, 2007.

He was in Sylhet Central Jail and in Comilla Central Jail for 15 months since then. He is facing four cases including two cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). The High Court division bench comprised of Justice Sharif Uddin

Chaklader and Justice Emdadul

Haque Azad on August 7 granted him bail in the ACC-filed case and in the case filed under the EPR. Proceedings of two other cases were stayed earlier. The ACC on January 6 this year filed a case against Kamran and his wife Asma Kamran in connection with accumulating wealth worth Tk

2.16 crore illegally. Later investigation found the figure to be Tk 2.22 crore and that the couple had concealed their actual wealth to the ACC. The first case against him, the kitchen market scam case, was lodged on May 8, 2003 by the then

executive engineer and ward com-

Justice Fazlul Huq

entertain Justice Huq's prayer for It said it would not hear the petition as charges in the case

missioners.

have already been pressed. On failing in the first attempt, Fazlul Huq and his lawyers rushed to the chief justice and pleaded successfully for another bench to hear the bail prayer.

The anti-graft body filed the case on April 13 this year.

On September 2, ACC Assistant Director Mohammad Ibrahim, also investigation officer (IO), submitted charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka. He showed 38 people as prosecution witnesses. The following day, the

Court issued an arrest warrant. Talking to reporters on the court premises yesterday, Justice Huq said he had always paid taxes, and never committed any offence. "The High Court orders prove

Metropolitan Sessions Judge's

that the case has been filed to ings. harass me. The charge sheet was submitted a long time after filing of the case. Some vested interest groups have been plotting against me. I hope I'll be able to see off the conspiracy through legal means," he said.

Asked about the allegations that he had given Tk 24 lakh to three tricksters to have him cleared of corruption charges, he said those are "false, baseless and fabricated". He added, "Some quarters are out to malign me. I was a judge of

never seen such harassment of an apex court judge in my life. "I surely would have resigned my position had such allegations been levelled against me during my service.

the Appellate Division. I have

Huq's counsel Helaluddin Mollah said, "Our client was a judge of the apex court and an adviser to the caretaker government. Above all, he is an aged and respectable person, and this case has been filed to harass him. Satisfied with our arguments, the court granted him bail.'

Replying to a query, he said they have yet to decide whether to seek a stay on the case proceed-Beginning in the middle of last Huq first sought to file a bail petition with the HC on

He submitted wealth statement to the ACC on November 26 last year.

bench concerned did not sit.

September 2, but failed as the

Dhaka seeks

FROM PAGE 16

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Muhammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah was also present at the meet-

Later, Iftekhar met Kuwaiti Minister for Social Affairs and Labour Bader Fahed Ali Al Duwailah and discussed the matters relating to the problems of Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait. "It was a most useful meeting

and the minister assured me that the subject would be thoroughly examined with a view to resolving all outstanding issues," the foreign adviser told journalists. He urged the social affairs and labour minister to lift the ban on

transfer of residency and new visas.

The minister assured the adviser

that these would be taken up with the interior ministry. The adviser said they also discussed speedy disposal of compen-

sation cases. On Wednesday, the foreign adviser held two rounds of meeting with Bangladeshis in Kuwait at Bangladesh embassy and at a local hotel and was also accorded a reception by them.

Hasina's parole

FROM PAGE 1 completely lost hearing in the right ear and developed new eye compli

Hasina has no possibility of regaining hearing in the right ear and needs to wear hearing aid in the other ear, Dr Lloyd B Minor at John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore said, according to US based news agency News World.

As to her eyes, Dr Harry A Quigley and Dr John Gates of the hospital diagnosed cataract and abnormal blood pressure during a seven-hourtest. . They prescribed medicines for

prime minister needs any eye Her son Sajib Wazed Joy was

two weeks and would see in the

meantime whether the former

present at the time. Hasina flew to Washington DC from Canada on Tuesday for follow-up treatment.

Sircar

FROM PAGE 1 Sarkar has been seen attending a party convention and addressing party issues. The discussion titled 'BNP' Contribution in Building a Self

Reliant National Economy' was held at the Diploma Engineers Institute in city's Kakrail. The Speaker said the government must hold the national election in December as per their commitment. He said that restoration of democracy in the country could solve all existing social, political and

Without naming any particular party or person group, Sircar said "If BNP comes to power again, it will be hard for them to dethrone BNP. That is why a conspiracy from

high-levels has created the present

situation in the country to try and

economic problems.

bar BNP from coming to power again, he said. He said, "If the election is held on time, BNP is sure to come back to "No one has the power to oust

BNP except the people," he added.

its independent dispensation of justice in releasing Tarique Rahman on bail. He also thanked the government for complying with the court's "As long as BNP exists, democracy will exist and as long as democ-

Sircar praised the High Court for

racy sustains, BNP will exist," he MK Anwar called on the caretaker government to release the BNP chairperson.

He said there have been some

qualitative changes in the country over the last few days. "The nation has turned into an election festive mood," he said demanding that the upazila elections be held before the national election and the state of emergency

Presided over by BNP standingcommittee member Dr RA Gani, the meeting was addressed, among others, by senior BNP leaders Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, Nazrul Islam Khan and Dr Mahmudur Rahman.

BNP secretary general Khandaker Delwar Hossain was also present at the event but did not address the meeting.

PDB graft

belifted

management to help the investigation team carry out their duties. In dealing with PDB, the taskforces will focus their efforts on power generation. They will try to find out why the organisation performs abysmally in meeting the growing demand for electricity.

issued an order asking the PDB

cases older than 10 years. At the meeting, the taskforce officials were given a presentation on operations and responsibilities of different organs of the biggest entity in power sector.

year, NCC taskforces have already exposed corruption in Rajuk, Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company, Dhaka City Corporation, Land Department, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, and Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa).

Pak govt protests

important terrorist or high-value

target" was killed. "Innocent citizens, including women and children, have been targeted," Qureshi said. The ministry's spokesman said officials had no indication US forces captured anyone in the raid.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammed Sadiq said Thursday the government had no information al-Qaeda leaders were in the area at the time. "If so, we would have taken action," Sadiq said, adding authorities had no indication US forces captured anyone in the raid. A Pakistan army spokesman

warned that the apparent escalation from suspected US missile strikes on militant targets along the Afghan border would further anger Pakistanis and undercut cooperation in the war against terrorist

The operation came days before Pakistan's weekend presidential election and threatened to complicate an already difficult relationship between the two countries.

For months now, US commanders have pressured Pakistan to put more pressure on militant groups blamed for mounting violence in Afghanistan. That has stirred speculation that US forces might lash out across the frontier, despite the risk of angering Pakistanis. Suspected US missile attacks

killed at least two al-Qaeda commanders this year in the same region, drawing protests from Pakistan's government that its sovereignty was under attack. US officials did not acknowledge any involvement in those attacks. The main ruling Pakistan People's Party is generally consid-

ered in line with US goals in the war on terror, but it has to tread carefully because of deep anti-American sentiment in the country. Many Pakistani's blame their country's partnership with the US in the war on terror for fuelling rising militancy in their country. People's Party leader, Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of assassi-

Saturday's presidential vote by lawmakers. In a column for The Washington Post, Zardari described global terrorism as chief among the challenges facing his country. The column mentioned an apparent assassination attempt against Pakistan's prime minister on

Wednesday but did not mention

nated ex-Prime Minister Benazir

Bhutto, is the leading candidate in

the earlier cross-border raid. "We stand with the United States, Britain, Spain and others who have been attacked," wrote . Zardari, whose wife was killed in a gun and suicide blast in December. "Fundamentally, however, the war we our fighting is our war. This battle is for Pakistan's soul." and sought bail.

Minister Nawaz Sharif, on Thursday blasted the US for the "The American war against terrorism has become a war against Pakistan, and the killing of people

A lawmaker from the chief

opposition party, that of ex-Prime

by them at Angoor Ada is a clear example of it," Zafar Ali Shah said. Shah said the Pakistani government should tell America that "enough is enough, and we will not help you if you kill our people."

Some administration officials have been pressing President Bush to direct US troops in Afghanistan to be more aggressive in pursuing militants into Pakistan on foot as part of a proposed radical shift in regional counterterrorism strategy, the AP learned. The debate was the subject of a late July meeting at the White House of some of Bush's top

national security advisers. ation, money laundering and Circumstances surrounding Wednesday's raid weren't clear, but US rules of engagement allow American troops to pursue militants across the border into

Pakistan when they are attacked. However, Pakistan army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said hot pursuit wasn't an issue, adding that the attack "was completely unprovoked." He said Pakistani troops were near the village and saw and heard nothing

to suggest the US forces were pursuing insurgents. The raid comes at a particularly

Tac hearing

FROM PAGE 16 including three land registrars and their wives.

Meanwhile, eight more people,

including five government officials and a union parishad chairman, applied to the ACC to facilitate their way to the commission for voluntary disclosures of information about their ill-gotten property.

The five government officials are either retired or have been suspended from service on corruption charges. Two of their wives are also accused of graft.

Pangu Hospital

Medical College Hospital (DMCH) They will look into the power Suddenly, third- and fourthdeals signed during the four-party class employees started ransacking alliance rule while sparing the the office of physiotherapy course coordinator Humayun Kabir, he said, adding that the employees then vandalised the offices, academic block, stores and classrooms.

> Later, the students reiterated their demand for a physiotherapy college at a press conference, claiming that the health ministry has already approved the project.

They demanded immediate release of the arrested students and withdrawal of the case filed against sensitive time for the Pakistan

government which is trying to overcome political divisions and choose a new president on the one hand, while the army is battling the militants on the other. Abbas said the attack was the first incursion onto Pakistani soil

by troops from the foreign forces

that ousted Afghanistan's hardline Taliban regime after the Sept. 11,2001, attack on the US He said the attack would undermine Pakistan's efforts to isolate Islamic extremists and could threaten Nato's major supply lines, which snake from Pakistan's Indian Ocean port of Karachi

through the tribal region into Afghanistan. "We cannot afford a huge uprising at the level of tribe," Abbas told AP. "That would be completely counterproductive and doesn't help the cause of fighting terrorism

in the area."

American officials say destroying militant sanctuaries in Pakistani tribal regions is key to defeating Taliban-led militants in Afghanistan whose insurgency has strengthened every year since the fundamentalist militia was ousted for harbouring bin Laden. Citing witness and intelligence

reports, Abbas said troops flew in on at least one big CH-47 Chinook transport helicopter, blasted their way into several houses and gunned down men they found there. He said there was no evidence any of the dead were insurgents or that the raiders nabbed any militant leader, but he acknowledged Pakistan's military had no firsthand account.

Ex-MP Salahuddin

FROM PAGE 16 Sharif, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka showing 17 people as prosecution witnesses.

According to the case state-

ment, Sub-Inspector Mozammel

Haque of Shyampur Police Station

mentioned that they raided the former lawmaker's Kadamtali residence on November 22 last year and seized 424 corrugated iron sheets (CIS) meant for relief. Salauddin Ahmed, who faces a number of cases, was sent to jail on February 12 last year after he sur-

rendered to a Dhaka court in con-

nection with an extortion case filed

against him. CASEAGAINSTNOMAN Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order upon a bond of Tk 50,000 with two guarantors after Noman along with his lawyers appeared before the court

had cancelled bail and issued an arrest warrant against him as he has been absconding for long. The Bac had issued a notice upon Noman asking him to submit his wealth statement on August 7,

Earlier, another Dhaka court

Later, a Bac official filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station on August 19, 1998 on charges of not submitting his wealth report. The investigation officer (IO) of

the case submitted the charge

1997 and he received the notice on

October 26 the same year.

sheet against Noman on May 30,

collaborated corruption.

ACC picks FROM PAGE 16 charter includes cases regarding amassing wealth illegally, cheating, giving false account, misappropri-

"We have selected the com-

plaints considering the status of the departments or institutions the accused belong to. For an instance we entertained almost every complaint having merits against LGED. registration department, police and customs," an ACC official said preferring anonymity. "If evidence is found that ACC officials were involved in the brib-

ery case against former Justice

Fazlul Haque, action will be taken

against them," said Hanif Iqbal

when asked if the people arrested

on charge of taking bribe from Fazlul Haque to get him acquitted in a case had connections with a number of ACC officials. Replying to a question over the release of high-profile corruption suspects on bail, Hanif said, "A case against a corruption suspect will run until the higher court quashes it. Until the case is disposed of at

considered a corruption suspect." "There can be no question about the ACC being 'managed'," Harrif Iqbal said when asked if the ACC was "managed" since highprofile corruption suspects are

The charge sheet against Kazi

higher courts, the accused will be

getting bail. **CHARGE SHEETS**

Aminul Haque will be submitted in connection with concealing information about wealth worth Tk 34.30 lakh from the commission and amassing wealth worth Tk 55.47 lakh beyond known sources of his income. In the other charge sheet

approved yesterday, sub-registrar

of Rajshahi Dewan Mojahar

Hossain will be accused of conceal-

ing information about wealth

known sources of his income. The ACC yesterday also approved filing of a case against former chief engineer of WDB. Dhaka Azhar Ali and 12 others in connection with abusing power and corruption causing a loss of Tk

worth Tk 31.48 lakh and amassing wealth worth Tk 49.96 lakh beyond

57.35 lakh to the state.

Tarique, the eldest son of detained