96 ordinances

FROM PAGE 1

observers that there is no reason for worrying about the expiration of the ordinances' effectiveness.

"The bills will be passed with retrospective effect," she added. The parliament ratified only 23 ordinances so far, by passing 16 bills, and also placed three more bills to keep the same

number of ordinances

enforced. According to the constitution, the timeframe for ratifying the ordinances or for keeping their enforcement continued, by passing of bills by the parlia-

ment, expired yesterday. According to the prime minister's announcement, fresh bills are supposed to be placed in the parliament to make them into laws with retrospective effect from the dates of the promulgations of the ordinances.

Meanwhile, BNP-led opposition coalition lawmakers staged two walkouts yesterday in protest at treasury bench's intransigence to follow the rules of procedure of Jatiya Sangsad in placing and passing the bills'. They described the followed procedure as 'abnor-

The second walkout of the opposition lawmakers around 8:00pm prompted the prime minister to take the floor in a bid to clear the air about the fate of the automatically nullified ordinances.

The prime minister also blasted the opposition lawmakers for staging the walkouts and blamed them for the immediate past state of emergency.

"Their repression, killings, greed for power, violations of the constitution led the country to the emergency," Hasina said adding, "Their friendship has always been with the martial law, which does not have any constitutional authority."

Referring to the opposition lawmakers' contrariety to passing the money laundering prevention bill, the prime minister said they opposed the bill since they are involved in

Shady transaction FROM PAGE 16

transactions happened during the tenure of last four-party alliance government.

According to the notice of the central bank, Prime Bank's of forther chairman Salimul Haq, I breaking yard but this rule has and managing director M not been followed while con-Shahjahan Bhuiyan will have to structing the yard at submit their clarification over the mysterious transactions within seven days.

The central bank issued the notice following an investigation report, which found that corrupt politicians used to have transaction through Prime Bank bypassing the traditional banking norms.

According to the report, Prime Bank high-ups were involved in hundreds of mysterious transactions to benefit the corrupt politicians. The BB was kept in the dark about the transactions.

The BB report also said Prime Bank had been used for depositing corrupt money of the corrupt politicians.

The issue came up for discussion during the probe by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of the last caretaker government.

The ACC in a case found that the bank helped former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and seven others to deposit Tk21 crore bribe money involved in the murder of a Bashundhara Group director.

Ship-breaking

FROM PAGE 16

Sources said Anamul was FROM PAGE 1 seriously injured when a heavy iron-wire, used for tugging broken parts of the ship, fell on him at Mak International Ship-breaking

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the attending doctors declared

him dead. DCC polls

It might cost Tk 1 crore to

send the voters' slips by post. The commission yesterday held a meeting in this regard with the authorities of postal

department, the sources said. The EC Secretariat on Monday sent to the LGRD and cooperatives ministry a letter proposing the tentative dates

for DCC polls. Meanwhile, the EC Secretariat has already started taking preparations for con-

ducting the election. To assist the field level elec-

tion officials, the EC Secretariat has prepared a draft list of 1,970 polling stations for DCC election. The number of voters on the new voter list with photographs is 35.25 lakh.

The last election to the DCC was held in March 2002 and its tenure expired in 2007. But in the absence of a flawless voter list, and due to the state of emergency, election could not be held in time.

moneylaundering. Bangladesh Flag Vessels (protection) (amendment) Bill 2009, and Money Loan Court Bill 2009 were first placed in the parliament yesterday and then sent to parliamentary standing committees on respective ministries for scrutiny.

Another bill seeking ratification of the Citizenship (amendment) Ordinance 2008 was placed in the parliament on Thursday, and sent to the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry for scrutiny.

The ordinances ratified so far include Appropriation Ordnance 2007, Appropriation Ordinance 2008, Finance Ordinance 2007, Finance Ordinance 2008, Appropriation (supplementary) Ordinance 2007, Appropriation (supplementary) Ordinance 2008, Electoral Rolls ordinance 2007, Election Commission Secretariat Ordinance 2008, Répresentation of the People (amendment) Ordinance 2008, Representation of the People (second amendment) Ordinance 2008 Representation of the People (third amendment) Ordinance 2008, the President's (remuner ation and privileges) (amendment) Ordinance 2007, Income Tax (amendment) Ordinance 2007, Income Tax (second amendment) Ordinance 2007, Income Tax (amendment) Ordinance 2008, Income Tax

(second amendment)

Ordinance 2008, Bangladesh

Shilpa Bank (amendment)

Ordinance 2008, National

Board of Revenue (amend-

ment) Ordinance 2008, Money

Laundering Prevention

Ordinance 2008, Anti-

Terrorism Ordinance 2008,

Bangladesh Laws (revision and

declaration) (amendment)

Ordinance 2008. HC asks

FROM PAGE 16

The petition said the existing laws and regulations of the country prohibit destruction of trees in the green belt regions for constructing shipbreaking yards terming the initiatives taken by the public and private sectors in this regard completely illegal.

It is mandatory to get clearance certificate on environment to construct the ship-Sonaichhori, it added.

Petitioner's counsel advocate Iqbal Kabir Liton yesterday told The Daily Star that owners of ship-breaking yards--Md Alauddin, Abul Kalam, Siraj Ud-doula, Shawkat Azim and ASM Al Mamun have taken initiative to construct ship-breaking yards at Sonaichhari Mouza ignoring the laws and rules

concerned. He also said the local law enforcement agencies are found negligent though the forest department has lodged cases with local police stations

in this connection. Earlier on February 10, the BELA members served legal notices to three ministries, including environment and forest, and several other government departments, and demanded immediate halt to the construction of ship-

breaking yard. Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud argued for SM Alauddin while Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam Talukder stood for the govern-

Bigwigs

The teams are expected to submit their reports separately to the standing committee within a few days.

Interview of thana committee leaders under a few city corporations, including Dhaka, could not be held due to some complexities, the party insiders

Abdullah Al Noman, BNP joint secretary general responsible for Dhaka Division, yesterday told The Daily Star that he completed interview of upazila sources at the EC Secretariat level leaders except the thana leaders under Dhaka city.

"Decision about the thana leaders under city will be finalised in consultation with the high command," he said, adding that he will submit his report as soon as possible.

Besides, Selima Rahman who was assigned to discuss with the leaders of Khulna division hoped she would submit report before the standingcommittee meeting.

"We have heard opinions of thana leaders under Chittagong division. After compilation of the findings, the report will be submitted before the standing committee within a few days," Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, chief of the team that formed for Chittagong Division, told The Daily Star.

Starting on February 3, the upazila level leaders of the party have met central teams to give their opinion on the party's humiliating defeat in the parliamentary elections and its reorganising process.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 16 directed BDR personnel to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity to obstruct illegal trespassing and maintain law and order across the border.

Terming smugglers as enemies of the country, its people and economy, Sheikh Hasina said no compromise would be made in smuggling firearms, drugs and illegal commodities.

She also emphasised the importance of preventing smuggling of fertiliser and pesticides and asked BDR to remain alert in this regard. The prime minister said our economy is dependent on agriculture so we cannot afford any adverse impact on that sector.

The prime minister marked human trafficking across the border during last few decades a very sensitive issue. She asked the border guards to take stringent measures in this regard.

She also assured them of extending any kind of support from the government to stop smuggling. On her arrival at the BDR

headquarters, Sheikh Hasina was received by Home Minister Sahara Khatun and Director General of BDR Major General Shakil Ahmed.

A smartly turned out BDR contingent gave the prime minister a guard of honour. On an open sports utility vehicle, Sheikh Hasina reviewed the guard and took salute.

She distributed gallantry awards, BDR Padak, to four members of the force and President Rifles Padak to 10 for their outstanding performance and courage.

The four awarded are Col Md Anis-Uz-Zaman, Lt Colonel Syed Kamruzzaman, Captain (retd) Murad Salah Uddin Ahmed and Sipahi Md Imamul Hossain.

The recipients of the President Rifles Padak are Lt Col Md Badrul Huda, Lt Col Md Abdul Mukim Sarkar, Maj Md Maksudul Haq, Maj Akramuzzaman, Subedar Md Ali Akbar, Subedar Mohammad Ali Sarkar, Nayeb Subeder Md Azir Uddin, Habilder Md Younus Ali, Nayek Md Ishak Ali and Nayek Md Jahangir Alam.

Army-BDR's

FROM PAGE 1

talks with the EC in November 2007, it accepted the provision. Because of the provision, the armed forces---army, navy and air force--and BDR men could remove notices, signs, banners or flags used in election campaigns in breach of the electoral

They could also seize instruments or apparatus employed in contravention of electoral laws. Besides, they could resort to use of force if they deemed that necessary to enforce election laws on the election day.

The armed forces and BDR were deployed during the parliamentary elections in 2001 and 2008.

Last year, the EC allowed them to exercise the authority in

city corporation polls as well. In his arguments for ratifying the ordinances, the law minister said most of the amendments to the RPO were required for free and fair conduct of the ninth

parliamentary election. "December 29 national election could be held in a free and fair manner because of the electoral reforms. In fact, there's no logic behind resolutions for disapproval of the ordinances,"

he observed. Later, the resolutions were rejected in voice vote.

MP advice

The Awami League-led government in 1998 reintroduced the Upazila Parishad Act with the controversial provision that made lawmakers advisers to the upazila parishads in their constituencies. It also said the upazila parishads shall follow suggestion of the lawmakers in carrying out

their activities. The law was enforced February 1, 1999, in an official gazette but the elections to the upazila parishads was not

held till January 22, 2009. The last caretaker government led by Fakhruddin Ahmed first amended the Upazila Parishad Act, 1998, in an ordinance scrapping the provision that made lawmakers advisers to upazila parishads.

Later, it repealed the act and promulgated the Upazila Parishad Ordinance, 2008, introducing two vicechairman posts, one exclusive for women. The ordinance also made it mandatory for chairmen and vice-chairmen elect to resign from their respective party posts before

taking oath. Yesterday's bill also proposed to keep two vicechairmen posts in upazila parishads. However, this bill does not have any provisions that make it mandatory for elected chairmen and vicechairmen to resign from their party posts before taking oath.

Abu Karim

FROM PAGE 1 Advocate Omar Faruque filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka accusing Abu Karim and Sayeed Bari, proprietor of the Suchipatra Prorkashana while AL leader CS

Alam filed another case with the

same court accusing only Abu Karim. After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Kanika Biswas recorded statements of both complainants and fixed March 2 for order on the cases.

In his complaint, advocate Omar mentioned that the accused had written a verse titled 'Baganey Phutey Achhey Anek Golap' in February 2006 and Suchipatra Prokashana published the book in Ekushey Book Fair in 2008.

The Daily Amader Samoy published an excerpt from the book on February 20 this year and the complainant learnt about the publication from the its front organisations.

The daily quoted different member of Awami Bastuhara lines from the verse where the accused claimed that 'only 30,000 people were killed during the Liberation War in 1971 and now that figure was being altered to claim that 30 lakh people had been killed'.

The complainant said that this kind of distortion of facts can create a wrong idea among the 14 crore citizens of Bangladesh and is also a threat complainants.

to the sovereignty of the nation. The accused defamed the independence of the country and belittled the sacrifices of the war martyrs and such heinous offences and activities are subversive to the state, the complainant added.

The accused also hurt the religious sentiments of the Muslims in the country by making a blasphemous remark about Islam, the state religion of the country, he said.

In the book, the writer referred to Bangabandhu as Latifur Rahman and also called him 'Alubokhra' (plum), he referred to Sheikh Kamal as Kamalakoli, Sheikh Jamal as Jamtoli and Sheikh Russel as Roskoli, the complainant said. Such defamatory writings

mined the image of Bangabandhu's living family members -- Sheikh Hasina, Sheikh Rehana -- and his party Bangladesh Awami League and In his complaint, CS Alam,

have damaged and under-

brought the same charges against the accused. Both the complainants prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against the accused for

League Central Committee

Advocates Kazi Najibullah Hiru, Fazilatunnessa Bappi Abdul Khaleque Miah and Moshiur Malek appeared for the

committing such offences.

Ganges Barrage

FROM PAGE 1

Former electricity, water resources, and flood control minister Kazi Anwarul Haq laid a foundation stone for the proposed barrage at Moslempur point in Bheramara upazila of Kushtia on December 27, 1980.

An observer's bungalow was also built there to initiate construction of the barrage. The government then spent about Tk 15 crore to carry out a model study for the barrage. But since then the project hardly had any headway till date.

The history of the Ganges Barrage Project dates back to 1957, when the erstwhile Pakistani regime took an initiative to build a barrage on the Padma, three kilometres downstream from the Hardinge Bridge, after India had started constructing the Farakka Barrage across the Ganges River, about 11 miles up stream from the common border, according to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in

Kushtia. "Had the barrage been constructed, the problems would not have deepened to the present extent," said Mir Sazzad Hossain, a member of Bangladesh-India Joint Rivers Commission (JRC). "We would be able to resolve the crises by effectively using harnessed water if the barrage had been

built, "headded. Sazzad said a site for the project will be finalised after carrying out yet another model

study. The people of the southern region have been demanding the barrage for a long time, especially farmers and fishermen who are directly affected by less water in the rivers in dry

seasons. Manjer Ali, a farmer of Charkol village in Mirpur upazila of Kushtia, who cultivated rice on four bighas of land, said they are frightened in dry seasons thinking of where they would get water.

Another farmer, Ansar Talukdar said they are forced to spend additional money for irrigation increasing the production cost. "It also hampers production," he added.

They demanded that the government takes an effective measure for immediately building their long desired barrage to save the region, covering the country's 37 percent area.

They also said the region has been facing manifold crises due to India's unilateral holding of water with the Farakka Barrage, which has been posing a great environmental threat to the coastal area around the

WB to fund

FROM PAGE 16

plants and look how to involve the private sector in such initiative, said the World Bank official.

As decided earlier, the World Bank will provide \$150 million for formation of southern region power distribution company under the development policy loan and another \$100 million for REB.

The World Bank is eager to provide financial assistance for renovation of old power plants and enhancing capacity, use of renewable energy for power production, saving mises." energy, corporatization of southern region power distribution company and improvement of distribution system of rural power, said Xian Zhu,

Sundarbans, a world heritage site for conservation.

The flow of once mighty Padma River has also ebbed alarmingly, leading to drying up of at least 15 other big and small rivers in the region.

The Ganges Barrage Project was designed to harness water of the River Padma and to divert it to those 15 rivers during dry seasons A 1991 government data

show, since Farrakka Barrage became operational in 1975, the region has been incurring a loss of more than Tk 300 crore each year through additional spending for dredging and irrigation. "The River Gorai used to channel water to other rivers of

the region. But that hasn't been possible for years due to scarcity of water in the Gorai," said Sazzad Hossain, terming the proposed barrage as the ultimate solution for all the prob-As about 15 rivers in the region are facing severe ebb saline water is also entering into

salinity in the upper streams too, posing threat to the ecology of the Sundarbans, said environmentalists. Due to a lack of water in the Padma, the Ganges-Kabadak Irrigation Project, which was initiated in 1959 bringing 1.16 lakh hectares of land under

the rivers easily, increasing

irrigation, is also not running If the Ganges Barrage was built, the experts said, it would increase navigability of the rivers in the region decreasing salinity in the rivers, ultimately saving the Sundarbans, and the population of the region.

Dictionaries

FROM PAGE 16 sale centre to buy copies of the

Arabic to Bengali dictionary. "The academy's dictionaries are affordable and of standard quality," Ibrahim said. "Tomorrow we will be back to buy their Bengali to English

dictionary," he added. Bangla Academy has brought out 15 new titles for the fair this year. These include 'Mujibnagar Sarkar O Bangladesher Muktijuddho' Muhammad Fayezuzzaman

'Bangladesher Lokogiti' by Dr Abdul Wahab, 'Gangawriddhi Theke Bangladesh' by Justice Habibur Rahaman and Nirbachito Darshonik Rachana: Karl Paupar (2nd part)' translated by Aminul Islam Bhuiyan.

Meanwhile, the presence of popular writer Humayun Ahmed added glamour to the fair yesterday as he came to the fair for the first time this year. Huge crowds seeking to talk to him and collect his autograph swarmed him.

The popular writer later told journalists that the fair venue is not large enough to accommodate all visitors. "I don't think that the

Amar Ekueshy Boi Melahas to be organised on the Bangla Academy premises every year as the crowds are is increasing each year. In future it would really be difficult to accom-Mollick, Uzan Mollick and modate such large crowds from some women at Kaliganj only on the academy premain bus stand.

"The government could choose a larger venue to hold the fair next year," he sug-A total of 85 new titles

arrived at the fair yesterday.

soon," said Jubayer Hasan, a

resident of sector-7 of the area. "We had experienced severe difficulties in moving around in the area during the

first phase work as it took a huge time to complete it," he added. He also said the Wasa has dug many roads, including one of the main thoroughfares named Rabindra Sarani, piled up the earth dug up on the roadside and also blocked

a large portion of the road by

storing large pipes on it. People have been suffering from respiratory problems as the roadside earth is producing a huge amount of dust and increasing air pollution. Besides, movement on the road is now risky as it became narrower due to the digging, Jubayer said.

Moksud Reza, an official of a private university and resident of sector-14, said that Wasa has dug up the main thoroughfare of sector-14 and stored its pipes beside the road creating difficulties in movement.

"In the daytime, a mist of dust hangs over the road from the earth dug up to make the drain," he said adding, "Now I need more time to go to work as I have to make a detour.'

"Wasa is now setting up around six km long storm sewerage lines in different areas of Uttara. This second phase of work will take around one and a half months more to complete," said Waliullah Sikdar, superintending engineer of Wasa's drainage circle.

Waterlogging is a major problem in Uttara during the rainy season and after the entire drainage system is completed, the rainwater will be channelled into Abdullahpur canal, near Tongi Bridge, through this drain, a Wasa official said.

Minister tells

FROM PAGE 16

Dr MA Mannan. The minister said the Private Infrastructure Committee in its seventh meeting in principle agreed to enlist the project for setting up of subway system in Dhaka city. The proposal was sent to the Board of Investment.

Responding to another

question from ruling party lawmaker Kazi Keramat Ali, the minister said, the govern ment has a plan to build the second Padma bridge a Daulatdia-Paturia Point.

"Necessary steps will be taken to start construction work of the bridge on time subject to the arrangement of money," he said. Answering to a question

from Awami League Lawmaker ABM Golam Mostafa, the minister said the government has undertaken a plan to elevate Dhaka Chittagong Highway (Daudkandi-Chittagong part) to four lanes.

"A pre-qualification tender for preparing a list of qualified contractors has been called in a bid to call a tender for construction of four-lane Dhaka-Chittagong Highway," he said.

Fake milk

FROM PAGE 16

Ramnagar village of Sadar upazila Monday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Detective Branch (DB) of police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) raided the house of Khokan at about 8:30pm and busted the fac-

They later recovered two maunds of adulterated milk, 30kg substandard powdered milk, three blender machines, two motors and some gheemaking ingredients from it. The law enforcers arrested

house owner's wife Alladi Rani who was preparing the milk but Khokan managed to flee. On her confessional statement, police recovered two

sacks of substandard pow-

dered milk from the shop of

Ranjan Kumar in Kaliganj town yesterday noon. Alladi's son Prosanto told The Daily Star that he supplies 200 to 250 litres of milk every day to Kaliganj Brac office for its Aarong brand milk after mixing Indian powdered milk

with it.

sellers supply only 50/70 litres of such milk to the office, he claimed. He also said he buys the Indian powdered milk from the shop of Niranjan, Bikash

Twenty-four other milk

When contacted, Jahangir Alam, manager of chilling centre of the Brac office, said, "We can't detect any fault in such milk, supplied by Prosanto as he mixes cream with the milk."

Uttara torn up | Thaksin supporters

FROM PAGE 16

Tuesday cabinet meeting to the beach resort of Hua Hin, where he will host a summit of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) leaders from Friday.

Abhisit insisted that he would go to work at Government House on Wednesday as usual.

"I can walk in but protesters

must be unarmed," he said. "Protesters said they will not obstruct officials from working. Core leaders must give assurances that protesters will comply with their promise."

Police said around 10,000 flag-waving demonstrators dressed in signature crimson Tshirts had massed outside Government House after travelling on motorbikes, trucks and on foot from a downtown Bangkok parade ground. Some tried to overturn a

police truck before a group carrying hammers and wirecutters broke through the huge coils of razor wire sealing off the main road in front of the building. Protesters using crowbars

also smashed up concrete barricades behind the sprawling complex. Authorities have deployed about 3,700 police officers and

1,680 soldiers for the protests but Abhisit insisted any crowd control would be peaceful. "My government has no policy to resort to violence. If we need to maintain rule of law, we

will use legal measures," he said. In addition to calling for elections, the Red Shirts have demanded the sacking of Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya because of his links to the anti-Thaksin People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) movement.

The yellow-clad PAD occu-

pied Government House for three months last year -- during which violent protests outside parliament left two people dead -- and seized control of Bangkok's two airports for a week in November-December. They ended the sieges in

December when the court George Harrison

in the historic Concert for Bangladesh, it moved 40,000 people who had assembled in New York's in August 1971. To help the new generations know about the quiet Beatle's contribution to the cause of

FROM PAGE 16

yesterday unveiled a bronze plaque in his memory. unveiling the plaque received in the sector and bring them to from British singer Danis justice,"headded. Theophilus urged the government to confer state honour on Harrison and Pandit Ravi Shankar for their outstanding role in creating world opinion

Bangladesh's independence,

the Liberation War Museum

during the Liberation War. The two organised the Concert for Bangladesh, the first benefit concert of its kind. The concert raised \$243,418.51 for Bangladesh relief, which was administered by UNICEF.

Ajit Roy and Shaheen Samad of the then Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra placed the plaque where the trustees of the museum Akku Chowdhury, Mofidul Haque, Dr Sarwar Ali and Tarek Aliwere also present. Born on February 25, 1943 in

England, Harrison built his carrier as a rock guitarist. He died on November 29, 2001. Liberation War Museum will observe the birth anniversary of George today at city's Engineers' Institute to pay

tribute to the great friend of

dissolved the ruling party, paving the way for Abhisit to win a parliamentary vote.

The Red Shirts also want the return of the 1997 constitution, which was replaced by a new constitution following the 2006 coup that toppled Thaksin, and the speeding up of prosecutions against PAD leaders.

Public universities

chemistry at the JU, replaced acting VC Muniruzzaman.

Dr Sobahan, professor of physics and electronics engineering at the RU, replaces Pro VC Mamnunul Keramat, who was holding additional charge ofVC.

Dr Yusuf Alam, professor of Islamic history and culture at the CU, was appointed new VC in place of Dr Badiul Alam. Bangladesh Chhatra League

was demonstrating on the campus for long demanding Badiul Alam's resignation. Dr Salehuddin, dean of social sciences faculty at the CU.

replaced Dr Aminul Islam.

Dr Alauddin, professor of applied chemistry at Islamic University, is now VC of the same university. On Monday, the government

appointed DU history professor Kazi Shahidullah and physics professor Dr Mesbah Uddin Ahmed as VCs of the NU and JNU respectively. Last month, DU mass communication and journalism

Siddique was appointed VC of the university. Price spiral

professor AAMS Arefin

"I think the mentioned percentage of people still in poverty is a fact. It increased during the last two years as prices of essentials

and food rose," said Minister for

Food and Disaster

Management Mohammad

Abdur Razzak while speaking as

FROM PAGE 16

the chief guest at the workshop. He held the previous fourparty alliance government and the caretaker government responsible for the price havoc. He also mentioned that 60

percent of the total cultivable

land is loosing its natural pro-

ductivity and we must sort out measures to ensure food security for all. "Under the circumstances our development goal of the millennium should be reoriented, or else many of the

poor would exist under the poverty line," said prominent economist Dr Atiur Rahman. "A team from ACC needs to be consigned to identify the The speakers at a function culprits involved in corruption

> People's rights and right to information should be given top priority to make the safety net program a success," said human rights activist Sultana Kamal. The report identified inade-

> quate income, employment crisis, low wage rate, natural disaster, high price of food and lack of awareness and education as the prime reasons for poverty

> > The report revealed that 9.6

percent respondent families

take meal once, 74.8 percent

twice while 15.6 percent can afford meal thrice a day. The report also mentioned that about 35 percent of public expenditure equivalent to 5 percent of GDP assisted to the poor could ideally eradicate poverty. However, at present less than 4.4 percent of public expenditure equivalent to one percent of GDP is earmarked for

Bangladesh. the safety net programme. Satellite to monitor

FROM PAGE 16 orbit," said Nasa TV announcer

George Diller. "We are still evaluating the status of the location and the exact state" of the spacecraft, Dillersaid

"We have not had a success-

fullaunch tonight," he said. "The vehicle... landed just short of Antarctica in the ocean," announced John Brunschwyler, program director for the Taurus launch rocket at the private company Orbital

Sciences Corporation. It was unclear exactly why the mission failed or what happened to the rocket and the its load, Nasa said. Agency officials have announced a press conference on the launch set for no earlier than 01300 GMT.

from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California aboard a Taurus XI. rocket, at 1:55 am (0951 GMT) live images on NasaTV showed. It was the first time Nasa has used a Taurus rocket, built by Orbital Science Corp., the US

space agency said in a state-

The satellite was launched

ment posted Monday on its website. The liftoff was smooth," Jet Propulsion Laboratory spokesman Alan Buis told AFP. "It was pretty far along in the ascent" over the Pacific Ocean when the "contingency" was declared, Buis said, adding no further

The mission of the Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) was to map the global distribution of carbon dioxide and study how that distribution changes over time, Nasa said in a statement.

Carbon dioxide is the leading greenhouse gas driving climate change.

mentary during the launch there was little visual indication on Nasa TV that the satellite had failed. Several minutes into the flight, launch managers declared a contingency when

the fairing failed to separate

properly," Nasa said in a brief

Other than the verbal com-

statement, refering to the satellite's protective shield. It was Nasa's first spacecraft dedicated to studying carbon dioxide, though not the first in orbit: on January 23 Japan launched the world's first satellite dedicated to monitoring

The Japanese mission will

help scientists measure the density of carbon dioxide and methane from almost the entire surface of the Earth, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said. A Japanese-made H-2A rocket carrying the Greenhouse

greenhouse gas emissions.

(GOSAT) blasted off from Tanegashima, a small island in southern Japan. The satellite is collecting data from 56,000 locations around the world, a dramatic increase from the 282 observation points available as of last

October, IAXA said.

Gases Observing Satellite

Japan hopes the mission will provide governments with useful data as they come under pressure to meet their 2008-2012 Kyoto Protocol goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

yard at about 9:30am.