admits to Lakhvi's

ANI, Islamabad

finally admitted to the role of the seven terrorists currently in detention in connection with the 26/11 terror attacks, saying there is substantial evidence to prove their involvement.

In a report tabled before an anti-terrorism court,

statement of Ajmal Amir Kasab, the lone surviving

record against those arrested for orchestrating the Mumbai attacks," the report

which was accessed by the Dawn news channel, also said that almost all the attackers and the arrested extremists belonged to the LeT, and that the November 2008 attacks were master-

connivance of one another Mumbai. planned, trained, aided, abetted and made preparations to carry out deadly terror attacks in Mumbai on November 26 to 28, 2008, Thuraya satellite phone through their co-accused, causing the murder of 166

destruction of property in crores of rupees," the 61-

However, there was no mention of Jamaat-ud-Daawa chief Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, whom India considers as the main

page report added.

conspirator of the attacks. It may be noted that the Pakistan government, on November 25, reframed charges on all seven accused, naming Lakhvi as the mastermind of the terror attacks

It took the Pakistan 364 days after the horrendous attack that rocked Mumbai on 26th November 2008, but They also backed the the charges clearly appeared to be safeguarding Saeed.

The special anti-terror court set-up in Rawalpindi's "There is sufficient Adial jail had earlier rejected incriminating evidence on the 'no guilty' plea of the seven accused.

Seven LeT operatives including Lakhvi, communications expert Zarar Shah, The report, a copy of Abu al-Qama, Hamad Amin Sadig and Shahid Jamil Riaz are being tried by the antiterrorism court.

They have been accused of providing training, financial support, accommodation, equipment and communications gear to the 10 "The accused in active terrorists who attacked

Two other suspects, Jamil Ahmed and Younas Anjum Jamil have been accused of obtaining a SIM card of service from Jeddah and giving it to the attackers. innocent persons and injury Jamil is said to head JuD's to 304 persons, besides activities in Multan.

Green light

The government in December last year prayed to the court for withdrawal of the injunction order to clear the way for oil and gas exploration from onshore blocks. The HC began hearing the

writ petition on January 5.

government to enter such contracts. They said since the govern-

ment has ensured transparency by publishing the Model have, and the HC cannot PSCs online, on the basis of

judicial review of the matter. Abdur Razzaq told the court The HC yesterday observed that the court cannot interfere

> Additional Attorney General Murad Reza stood for the government.

Pasha arrested

FROM PAGE 16

hideout in the area, Assistant Commissioner of DB Mohammad Shahidullah arrested Pasha around 2:00pm, another DMP official

carrying during the clash could not be recovered yet, the

official added. The DB officials, however,

ing the arrest.

men who were seen with firearms in newspaper photos and TV footages of the clash on January 18 between the two wing of BNP. They were identified as former JCD leaders.

Pasha, in jeans and a black muffler in newspaper photos and TV footages, is a third-year student of political science department at Dhaka College.

during the caretaker government's rule, Pasha put up posters at Dhaka College and surrounding area under the exploded two hand-made banner of "Khaleda Zia Mukti Parishad", of which he was the president.

Pasha is also accused in several cases filed with the city's New Market, Jatrabari and Demra police stations on charges of extortion and other

Following the clash, Sub-Police charged batons to Inspector Mohammad Nasim filed a case with Shahbag Police Station accusing eight persons including Pasha and 300 others.

Blood bank shut for risky collection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday shut down a diagnostic centre at Abdullahpur in the city's Uttara on charge of collecting blood from "drug addicts" for its blood bank and arrested two persons including its

The mobile court seized 26 bags of "contaminated" blood from its blood bank and fined the diagnostic centre authorityTk2.2 lakh.

The arrested are Mohammad Fazlul Haque, 39, owner of the Crescent Diagnostic Centre in Uttara, and his employee Shamim, 22. Both are residents of Uttara sector-9.

When contacted, Flight Lieutenant Nasir Ahmed, operation officer of Rab-4, yesterday told The Daily Star that a Rab team led by executive Magistrate AHM Anwar Pasha raided the diagnostic centre and found Fazlul and Shamim collecting blood from drug addicts without conducting any medical check-up.

The environment of the diagnostic centre is unhygienic and not suitable for running a blood bank, he said.

The Rab team found the blood bags kept in a refrigerator at a nearby house without maintaining the proper temperature for storing blood.

The mobile court arrested Fazlul and Shamim as they failed to pay the fine.

Mother, baby

FROM PAGE 16 narrow lane leading to the

Fire fighters along with

locals and police brought the fire under control.

Fire brigade sources apprehended that the fire might have originated from a woodburning stove.

Ctg hawkers

Earlier, the traders' leaders

from Reazuddin Bazar Banik

Samity and Tamakumandi Lane

Banik Samity and hawkers

leaders at the meeting with

CMP Commissioner Md

Muniruzzaman blamed each

filed -- two by each of the feud-

ing groups and one by the police

-- accusing 2,500 people in

Wednesday evening when

some hawkers assaulted

Reazuddin Bazar Banik Samity

president Salamat Ali for

obstructing them from occupy-

ing footpaths and blocking the

entry point of Reazuddin Bazar

in front of new Railway Station.

At least 10 people were

The evicted makeshift shops

injured in the clash and traders

evicted 200 makeshift shops of

were later burned down at

around 10:00pm Wednesday

triggering further clash vester-

ers of setting fire to their make-

shift shops, while the Samity

leaders alleged the hawkers

themselves burned the evicted

Prayers at JS

question-answer session were

only tabled vesterday, and all

other scheduled businesses in

the order of the day were sus-

pended. Then the sitting was

adjourned till 3:00pm on

February 2, to show respect to

Bangabandhu and the other

scheduled for 3:00pm, it began

at 3:45 in a somber mood.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,

one of the two surviving

daughters of Bangabandhu,

calmly entered the House at

3:40pm with the lawmakers

welcoming her thumping their

sphere, the speaker began his

brief speech. Citing article 27 of

the constitution that says all

citizens are equal before the

law and are entitled to equal

protection of law, the speaker

said it is a matter of great

repentance that the trial for

Bangabandhu's killing was

blocked by promulgation of an

Hamid also wondered

aloud whether the people, who

blocked the trial of

Bangabandhu's killers,

thought that they would get

country sent their representa-

tives to the seventh parliament

in 1996, which scrapped the

indemnity ordinance, paving

the way for the killers' trial.

He said the people of the

indemnity ordinance.

away with it.

Amid an emotional atmo-

Although the sitting was

victims of August 15 killings.

shops as a part of a plot.

The hawkers accused trad-

the hawkers.

day morning.

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The first clash ensued

connection with the clash.

Three separate cases were

other for the clash.

Textbook syndicate

FROM PAGE 16 and 57.16 lakh secondary school books.

The documents also show that till 19 January, the education offices in Dhaka failed to distribute 3.6 lakh primary school textbooks and 15 lakh secondary school textbooks, which NCTB found stockpiled in their offices.

Moreover, an additional 5.77 lakh "buffer" stock of primary textbooks remain undistributed. NCTB Chairman Prof Mostafa Kamal Uddin said this hoarding is the reason why there is an illegal market for such manipulated copies of these books.

On January 20 the government suspended Ruhul Amin Khan, the Dhaka district education officer for failing to distribute the books and asking for 1.80 lakh more books than required. However, no action has been taken against the district primary education officer, who is now on LPR.

The NCTB officials primarily suspect that there are about a 50 out of 915 printing companies, obtaining work order to supply about 19 crore textbooks by December 31, who were involved with the illegal book sale. The officials have been able to identify six such printers.

The Daily Star spoke to M Abu Zafar, owner of Messrs Moon Printing Press, who was accused of illegally selling textbooks in the market, but denied involvement. Instead he claimed it was the binder who was illegally selling 1200 textbooks in the market.

M Nuru Miah, owner of Nazma Book Binding, to whom Zafar gave the order for binding the books, however, denied the allegation. He said the thousands of textbooks being sold illegally have come from other

Talking to The Daily Star NCTB officials said they have no idea about the role of binders in this process and they do not know who the main leaders of the so-called "syndicate" are.

However, the NCTB has found that some printers, who received government paper to print schoolbooks, have been selling some of this paper to Nava Bazar market.

Having no work order, some other printers purchasing the government allotted original paper from the market and collecting the positive impressions of textbooks, print and market textbooks using the channel of the Bangla Bazar based syndicate.

Ratan Siddiqui of NCTB admitted that these kinds of things happened due to lack of monitoring by the NCTB offi-

However, the government has not yet taken any action against the printers and the government officials who were identified so far.

Move on

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alert notices against them," said the Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday while expressing his reaction to the reporters at his secretariat office.

He mentioned that out of 12 convicted, one died in Zimbabwe while six are hiding in different countries, including Canada and Libya.

Shafique said the Canadian government is helping Bangladesh to return fugitive Noor Chowdhury. "Only the legal formalities are pending now," he said.

The absconding killers have to face the similar fate as the five killers received, he told.

The minister said the execution of the five killers ful-

filled the hopes of the nation. The trial of the heinous killing should have been completed much ago, but it was not done because some governments rewarded the killers with jobs at the foreign missions instead of bringing them to trial, he said.

The minister said the present government would take measures to try other killings.

6 stay out of reach

FROM PAGE 1

instead of punishing the selfdeclared murderers.

General Ziaur Rahman and General Ershad, who became the president of the country, and former prime minister Khaleda Zia--all created opportunities for the killers and directly or indirectly rehabilitated them politically. They also assisted the killers in getting power and authority.

Sources in the administration and intelligence agencies said the government has specific information about two of the six absconding

Lt Col (retd) AM Rashed Chowdhury now resides in the USA and is trying for getting political asylum in Canada, they said.

The government has requested the US government through its embassy in Washington to deport Rashed

Chowdhury. Another convict Lt Col (retd) Nur Chowdhury, after a long stay in Germany, has also sought political asylum in

Canada. No specific information regarding the locations of four others is available, but different sources say they are hiding

in Libya, Pakistan, Kenya and

According to the sources Lt Col (dismissed) Khandaker Abdur Rashid, one of the key plotters of the massacre of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members, is settled in Benghazi, Libya, where he owns a construction business.

He used to be a frequent visitor to Pakistan before he was admitted to a hospital there after a road crash a couple of months ago.

One source says Lt Col (relieved) Shariful Haque Dalim is now in the UK, but Rashed Chowdhury, press minister of Bangladesh High Commission in London, told The Daily Star yesterday that they had searched for Dalim in the UK for the last one month but could find no trace of him.

Another source says Dalim lives in Pakistan and often travels to Libya, particularly Benghazi.

Dalim has a business in Kenyan capital Nairobi and some other African countries He even has a Kenyan passport, sources said.

Capt Abdul Mazed frequently visits both Benghazi and Pakistan while Risalder Moslehuddin lives in Libya.

Sea boundary

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secretary at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, headed a seven-member team at the talks. The maritime boundary

issue was a key item on their summit agenda when Hasina held talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Delhi on January 11.

In October last year, Bangladesh had approached the UNCLOS seeking arbitration to delineate the boundary of the continental shelf in the Bay of Bengal.

Dhaka's decision to move the UNCLOS came after India and Myanmar protested against Bangladesh allotting offshore oil blocks to two multi-national companies, ConocoPhillips and Tullow, last year. Before yesterday's meet-

ing, India and Bangladesh had held two rounds of talks on demarcation of maritime boundary in September 2008 and March 2009. Bangladesh has registered

its objection with the UN to India's claim over certain areas in the Bay of Bengal, three months after a similar

missive was filed against Myanmar's claim. The three nations have not clearly demarcated their maritime boundaries and are

moving the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), a UN body to deal with the law of the seas.

Dhaka had a stand-off with Myanmar in November last year and with India earlier this year when survey ships and naval vessels from the neighbourhood marked their presence in territory that Bangladesh claims as its own.

India submitted its claim on maritime boundary to the CLCS in May 2009, one month ahead of its deadline. Bangladesh lodged its

objection to Myanmar's claim last July. Dhaka's disputes over territorial waters in the bay

north to south.

out the boundary issue.

with both New Delhi and Yangon are in two areas -- that of natural prolongation of the continental shelf and the baseline. reports mentioned that Jubok India argues that the embezzled crores of taka by course of the natural proloncheating people through gation of continental shelf is different projects.

from east to west while Bangladesh says it is from However, Bangladesh and Myanmar had succeeded in

the BB referred the matter to sorting out the issue some the Anti-Corruption days ago as Yangon for the first Commission (ACC) in time accepted the principle of February last year for taking equity and both sides opted action. But the ACC returned for a combination of equity it, saying the central bank and equal distance in sorting should take necessary steps in this regard.

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are Abu Isa alias Enamul Haque. Golamur Rahman alias Golam Mostafa, Abul Kashem alias Tufan, Abdul Matin alias Bomaru Matin, Abdur Rahman alias Arifand Zakir alias Jayed. Except Zakir, who has been

on the run, all accused were produced before the court. Yunus, an economics pro-

fessor at RU, was knifed to death while on a morning walk near the campus on December 24, 2004. The courtroom was chock-

a-block when Judge Md Manjurul Bachhid began pronouncing the verdict at 2:45pm. The judgment is based on

judicial confessions, as there were no eye-witnesses, said the judge adding that Mahbub and Tarek can go to the High Court to appeal against their convictions in 30 days.

Rehana Yunus, wife of Yunus, told The Daily Star that she was not quite satisfied as some of the "killers have got off scot-free". Her daughter Sara Sudipa

said, "I can't get my father back, but the verdict will somewhat console our hearts, though partially." Abdul Halim, Yunus's

brother and complainant of the

murder case, died 42 days after

his brother's death. In the charge sheet, CID Inspector Helaluddin said 10 militants took part in the mur-

der operation. Of them, Ibrahim was killed

JMB supremo Shaikh Abdur Rahman, who was executed along with five other JMB leaders in March 2007, had ordered

Mahbub to kill Yunus. Mahbub picked the 10 to carry out the order.

The Criminal Investigation Department did not press charges against 13 Islam Chhatra Shibir leaders and workers who were earlier suspected by police of being involved in the murder. Those dropped from the

Salehin, former president o Binodpur unit Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami. Our RU correspondent adds: Teachers, students and different

charge sheet included Sirajus

organisations at RU yesterday hailed the verdict. RU Vice-chancellor Pro Abdus Sobhan described the verdict as a milestone in efforts

to establish the rule of law.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, JSD Chhatra League, Chhatra Union, Chhatra Moitree, Muktijoddhar Santan Command and Kendrio Sangskritik Jote demanded immediate execution of the convicts.

Salauddin

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leaders said Instructed by Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Mayor Sadque Hossain Khoka on Wednesday arranged a rally at Muktangon where a number of senior leaders were present as guests.

To thwart Khoka's programme, Salauddin declared another programme of holding rallies at different places in the city the same day. Enraged by his initiative, the party high-ups decided to expel him from the party.

Jubok pay

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against them, appointment of an administrator for the NGO ways of returning depositors money and estimate of the deposit.

A government circular said the commission has been formed under The Commission of Inquiry Act, 1956, for paying back the money deposited with Jubok, stopping harassment of depositors and finding a permanent solution to the problem. The commission will

include three joint secretarylevel officials of the ministries of home, law and finance; a deputy governor and a general manager of Bangladesh Bank as members. Earlier, following allegations of illegal banking by

Jubok, the central bank issued a show cause notice on it in May 2006. Later it ordered the NGO to stop taking all types of deposits and distributing The home ministry and the BB in separate investigation

The central bank directed Jubok to return all the deposited money by March 31, 2007.

As the NGO failed to do so, implementation of the verdict have put the rule of law on a strong footing," said Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain. He also urged the government to bring the plotters of August 15, 1975 under trial.

Two JMB men 11th SA Games

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extravaganza open in the afternoon. Bangladesh Television will telecast the colourful opening ceremony live from 4:00pm. Some 17 giant screens have been put up at different points in Dhaka and divisional cities for the general public so that they can enjoy the spectacular ceremony.

Asian Olympic Council vice-president Syed Arif Hasan and International Olympic Committee member Randhir Singh are expected to attend the lavish opening ceremony along with foreign guests at the big bowl, which is all set to stage something different besides Bangladesh's history and culture.

The 133-minute opening ceremony has been split into three parts. The first part will include taking seat by the prime minister, march past by the athletes, entrance of Games mascot 'Kutumb' -which represents national bird doyel (magpie robin) -and oath taking by the athletes before Runa Laila renders the theme song of the Games. The second part will be a

riot of colours to be displayed by some 7,500 performers from different schools, colleges, Bangladesh Army and Ansar and VDP.

The core and third part of the ceremony is the aquatic and laser show, which will be

first of its kind in this subcontinent. The historic speech by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 7, 1971 and John Harrison's famous song on the War of Liberation will be staged through water and laser.

"The opening ceremony may not be like the Beijing Olympics, Commonwealth Games or Asian Games as we have a lot of limitations. But it will be a memorable as well as a colourful one," said the Games' organising committee secretary and Bangladesh Olympic Association's general secretary Kutubuddin

He also informed Khulna, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Chittagong will also stage a brief opening ceremony in their own style and those cities are fully ready to play their part in the Games.

Football legend Kazi Salahuddin will kindle the torch after some of the country's renowned sports personalities taking part in the torch rally. Nearly 1,800 athletes from

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Afghanistan and hosts Bangladesh will compete for 156 gold medals in a Games record 23 disciplines.

"There are sensitive participants like India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and we have taken tight security measures," said Kutubuddin.

Nation rids itself

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Chowdhury, adding that she had been waiting for the executions for long. "The nation was waiting for the day," she said. Other AL leaders also

with the executions, and

demanded immediate extra-

dition of the other six fugitive condemned killers. The parliament in a special munajat also expressed deep gratitude to the Almighty yesterday for the

executions. LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam said the executions prove that the rule of law exists in the country. It also proves that nobody can escape the long arm of the law after committing a crime, the AL general secretary told reporters at a capital hotel

expressing his reaction. Our Patuakhali correspondent reported, Milton Talukder received his cousin AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed's body around 2:30pm.He was buried in his family graveyard at 2:45pm after a hurried namaz-e-janaza. About 200 people however staged a demonstration there protesting against the funeral. They also manhandled AKM Mohiuddin's another cousin Kabir Hussain Talukder, and

threw shoes at the body. AL activists and other local people brought out a march when Mohiuddin Ahmed's body reached his Nijkata village around 3:15pm. Abul Hossain Howlader, an uncle body. He was also buried following a namaz-e-janaza. Golachipa AL unit leaders and activists staged demon-

of Mohiuddin, received the

strations against allowing

funerals for AKM Mohiuddin

expressed their satisfaction Ahmed and Mohiuddin Ahmed when the bodies entered the upazila town around 11:40am. The namaz-e-janaza of Bazlul Huda was held in Hatboalia High School field around 12:05pm, reported

> Huda's younger brother Nurul Huda received the body. Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan's son Ashraf Rahman Khan received his father's body at Gopinathpur around 6:30am. Sultan was buried in

our Kushtia correspondent.

his family graveyard, our correspondent reported. Syed Farooq Rahman's body reached his village Marma Mallikpur around 8:45am reported our Rajshahi

correspondent. Police handed over the body to Farooq's cousin Dewan Asadur Rahman Mithu. His janaza was held at 9.30am.

People at the janaza demanded to see Farooq's uncovered body before burial, and police allowed them to have a look, following

which he was buried. Local AL activists brought out a procession near Faroog's house after the burial, celebrating his

exceution.

BNP, Jamaat

the long-expected event of the execution of the killers.

BNP's standing committee member Moudud Ahmed, also a former law minister, said: "The party will give its reaction and that is why I should not comment over it,"

he told The Daily Star. Asked about the party reaction, BNP's senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, however, said they had not yet taken any decision on it adding: "We will take our decision in consultation with the senior leaders including the secretary general."

Nazrul Islam Khan, member of the standing committee, said BNP may give its reaction but he does not know anything about it as he was busy.

However, a senior leader of the party expressing anonymity said all leaders are cautious about giving any reaction as individual reactions given by some leaders on the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case on November 19 had irked all the party top brass. Meanwhile, different polit-

ical parties hailed the execution of the court verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case. "Trial of the killers and

Mahmudur Rahman said the nation got relieved from its long-standing stigma after the court verdict was implemented. Workers Party in a statement said the rule of law was

upheld by ensuring the pun-

ishment of killers. The party

also urged the government to

bring back fugitive killers of

11-party Coordinator

Bangabandhu who are still holing up abroad. Hailing the execution of the verdict, Communist Party General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement said foreign forces that were behind the conspiracy should

also be identified. Demanding quick trials of other killing cases he also urged the government to put the war criminals under trial.

Jasas man dies

court yesterday. He was

rushed to National Medical

College Hospital where he

FROM PAGE 16 area Wednesday afternoon in

connection with the extortion case. Aminul fell sick when he was produced before a Dhaka

died in the evening, said the However, Aminul's family members alleged that police

arrested him from Jasas office at Bijoynagar but did not produce him before the court within 24 hours. Instead, police filed an extortion case against him, they said.

Pakistan finally role in 26/11 Saeed still 'untouched'

Pakistani investigators have

Pakistani investigators said there is "sufficient incriminating evidence" against the arrested terrorist, including Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) operations chief Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi.

Mumbai gunman.

minded by Lakhvi.

Counsel for Petrobangla told the court that the procedure for signing PSCs comes under the Petroleum Act 1974 that expressly empowers the

which the PSCs are negotiated, there was no scope for

with the policy matters of the government. "In a democracy, the government of the day remains responsible to the parliament as well as to the entire population as a whole, for all their policy based activities and hence it is the parliament,

Court, which is the best placed to scrutinise policy decisions adopted by the government," the court said. If the government frames any policy for oil and gas exploration and there is any inconsistency in policy mat-

rather than the Supreme

ter, the HC can deal with this issue, observed the court. BCL men fight

chasing one another for over

wo hours. Movement of

FROM PAGE 16

ons in the clash.

vehicles on the adjacent roads reduced for a while and shops were closed fearing attack. Cadres of both groups carried and used wood sticks, hockey sticks and sharp weap-

both sides received treatment at different hospitals including National Medical College Hospital and Sumana Clinic. The college unit BCL President Mohiuddin Sarker blamed the university unit Chhatra League for clash. He

claimed that attackers

bombs on the college campus.

The injured BCL men of

Nazrul College sources said some BCL leaders of Jagannath University were allegedly earning money by arranging admissions for students to the college. The college unit Chhatra League men are also involved in this illegal trade.

Sub-Inspector Sirajul Islam of Sutrapur Police Station said Chhatra League men threw brickbats that wounded at least three policemen.

disperse the groups.

The CMP imposed section 144 in the adjoining markets and on The HC bench of justices both sides of a two-kilometre Mohammad Anwarul Haque stretch of the road from BRTC and AHM Shamsuddin bus station to Reazuddin Bazar Chowdhury Manik came up

tioners, government and Petrobangla, a respondent of the petition. Counsel for Petrobangla Dr Kamal Hossain told the court that policy matters and guide-

lines on oil and gas explora-

The government is the

tion lie with the government.

with the verdict and observa-

tions after hearing arguments

from the counsels of the peti-

authority to decide on what kind of policy the state will interfere with the policy matters, he argued. During the hearing, petitioners' counsel barrister

that the mineral resources cannot be exported without an appropriate national policy.

was under police interrogation at DB office. On information about his

The firearm that Pasha was

remained tight-lipped regard-Pasha was one of the three factions of JCD, the student

After BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was arrested

criminal acts.

Pasha was the first arrestee among the accused.