RU violence

cadres and he was hiding

A team of Rab-2 arrested Reazul at a house in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj early yesterday. He was handed over to Siddhirganj Police Station in the afternoon. He would be sent to Rajshahi later on, Rab sources said.

Rab officials claimed that during preliminary interrogation Reazul told them the attack on Bangladesh Chhatra League on February 9 was carried out following a decision of Jamaat-e-Islami to capture eight dormitories of the university ousting Chhatra

Rab intelligence wing Director Lt Col Ziaul Hasan told reporters, "There was a directive of Jamaat to Shibir men to capture Rajshahi University dormitories and according to a plan the Shibir cadres swooped on the Chhatra League men in five groups."

"After the attack and the killing, the Shibir cadres fled the campus on instruction of their high-ups," the Rab unit ameer was also arrested

Reazul was brought before journalists and he narrated how the attack was made.

With the arrest of Reazul, so far eight accused in the Faruk killing case have been arrested. One other accused "found dead" by law enforcers Chapainawabganj district.

president Anisur Rahman,

who allegedly led the attack,

leaders and activists were

arrested in connection with

the violence in RU

Chittagong University, and

other educational institu-

Jamaat unit Ameer Ataur

Rahman, general secretary

Abul Kalam Azad, assistant

general secretary Siddiq

Hossain and 100 other

Jamaat-Shibir leaders and

cadres were arrested in con-

Chittagong city Jamaat

nection with RU violence.

Of them, Rajshahi city

tions across the country.

Over 600 Jamaat-Shibir

remain at large.

However, key accused in the Faruk murder case RU unit Shibir general secretary Mobarak Hossain and Shah Makhdum Hall Shibir unit

Television and satellite channel SuperSport will telecast the match live from the venue at 2:00pm tomorrow.

FROM PAGE 1

The minister said the government will launch a campaign among students and youths to drum up support for trying the war criminals within the shortest possible time.

The government is committed to trying war criminals as it was an electoral pledge of the

power in support of it, the minister added.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haq Tuku, Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also president of Chittagong city AL unit, lawmakers ABM Abul Kashem Master and Shamsul Haq Chowdhury and AL Organising Secretary Bahauddin Nasim were pres-

Tuku held the anti-liberation force responsible for the violence at Rajshahi University and hill districts of Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

The evil force became active when AL came to power with a commitment to try war crimi-

Failing to do the same at the Dhaka University and Chittagong University they turned to the CHT where they succeeded in fuelling violence.

remain alert against any con spiracy and resist the antiliberation force.

City dwellers

meet his emergency needs. "We use jar water to bathe

FROM PAGE 1

our two babies and to meet other necessary needs like drinking," he said.

Deputy Managing Director (operation and maintenance) of Wasa Liyakat Ali said chemicals used heavily to treat highly polluted water of the Shitalakhya and Buriganga at Syedabad Water Treatment Plant make the water smelly.

Pollution in the rivers increases in the dry season. The use of additional chemicals may somewhat change the taste of treated water but it is not harmful, he claimed.

Pollution in the Shitalakhya is rising day by day and the water level of the river this year is far lower than usual, he added.

Liyakat also said the government has taken an initiative to set up a pre-treatment unit at Svedabad Water Treatment Plant to solve the problem.

Dhaka residents, especially those who get water from the Syedabad Water Treatment Plant Phase-1 like Motijheel, Rampura, Shanti Nagar, Bashabo, Madartek, Khilgaon, Goran, Jatrabari, Syedabad, parts of Karwan Bazar and parts of old Dhaka, will get odour-free supply water from next year, said aWasa official.

The construction of the pretreatment unit under the second phase of the project will take a year to complete, said Liyakat.

"We hope to start work the next month as a contract has already been signed between the Wasa and Danish contractor MT Hojgaard on February 11," he said.

CHT violence

FROM PAGE 1

the Bengalee-Chakma clash regulated the violence from Dhaka and Chittagong and the intelligence agencies are working to gather detailed information, he alleged.

Asaduzzaman, however, declined to name the masterminds or the eight arrestees in the interest of further investi-

Tripura told the meeting the violence was instigated in a planned manner to destabilise the rugged region with an apparent objective to put the government in a difficult

situation. The senior leaders of the

indigenous people and Bengalee community yesterday staged several peace The authorities however,

rallies in the district. decided not to enforce the

curfew from lastnight.

17 killed in Kabul

"I saw foreigners were crying

and shouting," said Najibullah,

a 25-year-old worker at the

high-rise Safi hotel who ran out

into the rain-slickened street in

just his underwear when he

Najibullah, whose face and

hands were covered in blood

said he saw two suicide bomb-

ers at the site. "It was a very bad

situation inside," he said. "God

helped me, otherwise I would

be dead. I saw one suicide

glass and debris, were mostly

empty because it was the first

day of the Afghan weekend and

a major Muslim holiday to mark

the Prophet Muhammad's

birthday. Afghan police, armed

with Kalashnikov rifles,

crouched behind traffic barriers

with guns ready as a light rain

fell and shots sounded from

aged woman in pink pajamas

out of the area. She wore a

brown sweater, but no shoes,

and her socks sopped up water

as she walked down the street in

a daze. "I haven't seen ... where

are my ...?" she said, speaking

aid worker, said he was awak-

ened by a large blast that blew in

the windows of the hotel where

he was staying and filled the

street fighting outside the guest-

house compound. It happened

very close by. After an hour, it

the US government issued

statements denouncing the

RMG factories

behind increasing casualties

every garment factory must

have at least two staircases --

one for regular use and the

other for emergency exit.

Although most of the factories

have emergency exit, the way

is narrowed by piles of materi-

als and goods. It is not easy for

so many workers to come

down the stairs when a fire

alternative staircases are not

useable because of their poor

public address system that

requires a control room from

where the workers on each

floor can be directed how to

leave the place in such situa-

tion. Usually, workers get

panicked and run helter-

skelter after hearing the fire

factories do not have emer-

during the crisis. This is why

the whole factory falls into

total darkness during a fire,

Some factories reportedly

President of Bangladesh

Garment Manufacturers and

had kept their gates closed

Fire service officials said a

Selim said many of the

The factories also lack

sparks, he said.

condition.

alarm

According to the rules,

in garment factory fires.

The Canadian Embassy and

slowly drifted away," he said.

There was very intense

Jack Barton, an Australian

only in sentence fragments.

Police escorted a middle-

multiple sides.

room with dust.

FROM PAGE 1

The streets, littered with

bomber blowing himself up."

heard the first explosion.

NEWS

FROM PAGE 16 on, the first car bomb exploded and the full roof came on my head.

The Kabul attacks came two weeks into a major offensive against the southern Taliban stronghold of Marjah, where thousands of US, Afghan and Nato soldiers are battling to drive insurgents out. The British government said one of its soldiers was killed Friday by an explosion while on a foot patrol the 14th international service member to die in the operation.

In recent weeks, more than two dozen senior and midlevel Taliban figures have been detained in Pakistan, suggesting the attack in the capital could be a way for the militants to show the insurgency remains potent.

In a statement, Karzai condemned Friday's assault as a "terrorist attack against Indian citizens" who were helping the Afghan people. He said it would not affect relations between India and Afghanistan.

Indian officials also condemned the attack.

"We are shocked at the inhuman attack on innocent lives," Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Vishnu Prakash said.

'Our ties are strong and deep (with Afghanistan) and will remain so. We are very clear that the forces of terrorism will not succeed and we will take every measure to defeat the forces of terror," he said in New Delhi.

Three police were killed in the attacks, Interior Ministry spokesman Zemeri Bashary said, adding that at least 38 people were wounded, six of them police. Kabul Police Chief Abdul

Rahman Rahman told reporters that the attacks began when a car bomb exploded outside the Arya Guesthouse where Indian doctors, who treat Afghan children in the area, were living. The blast levelled the build-

ing, also known as the Hamid Guesthouse. After the car bombing, a suicide attacker detonated his vest of explosives outside the demolished build-

Two other attackers then entered a second hotel known as Park Residence. Police surrounded the building. One of them holed himself up in a room and then blew himself up, killing three police officers and wounding six others. The other attacker was shot dead by police. The Italian diplomat who died had been assisting the police.

"From beginning of the operation, he was in contact with our units and gave us tips and even information regarding the terrorists' position, which was quite helpful for us," Rahman said, adding that the tips helped police rescue four other Italians from the scene.

"He was killed by the terrorists who realised that he was passing information to police forces," Rahman said. "He was in a room right behind the attackers and he could see where they were and what they are doing.

Witnesses said one explosion created a crater about three feet (one meter) wide in front of the Arya Guesthouse; the windows of the nearby luxury Safi

Miladunnabi

newspapers publish special articles on the day.

the GDP, though there have

been suggestions to increase it

substantially in view of the

The finance minister

prevailing security situation.

vowed to bring the govern-

ment's budget deficit, which

had soared to a 16-year-old

high of 6.9 percent, under

control as the new budget

counts on higher tax revenues

to sustain social sector spend-

To increase government

receipts, Mukherjee

announced a host of tax mea-

sures including a plan to

introduce a nationwide goods

and services tax aimed at

simplifying India's revenue

collection system by April 1,

The government would

review the fiscal stimulus it

gave to the industry to help

combat the global economic

recession in 2008 and 2009

and move towards fiscal con-

to sell stakes in state-owned

companies to raise Rs 25,000

He also announced plans

solidation, Mukherjee said.

2011.

FROM PAGE 16

BNP wants

FROM PAGE 1

committee decisions.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was also present.

The committee formed 19 teams with central leaders to ratchet up party's organisational activities. The teams will organise meetings for party workers as well as public meetings in all district headquarters by April 7.

Party Chief Khaleda will address public meetings in all divisional headquarters across the country during the period. "We are deeply concerned

about the two recent bomb

attacks targeting BNP

Chairperson Khaleda Zia. BNP

standing committee demands SSF protection for her," said Nazrul. He said since a law was passed to provide SSF protection to the premier and her family members, a similar law should be enacted to ensure

security of Khaleda, who was elected premier thrice. The BNP-led governments did not provide SSF protection to the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina.

The previous AL government enacted a law in June 2001, providing SSF protection to two daughters of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- Hasina and Rehana.

But the BNP-Jamaat alliance government scrapped the law in December 2001 right after assuming power. Asked if the bomb attacks

were staged by BNP itself, Nazrul said this insinuation was part of the propaganda by Awami League. "They are spreading the untruth as they don't want to offer Khaleda Zia any security." On Joy's joining politics, he said they hope and believe that

Joy's joining in AL as a progressive man will help the party change its "bad political culture of repression and hostility towards political opponents." "We see it positively. He [Joy] has come under political frame-

work and all his activities will be considered from a political perspective," he added. The committee also demanded immediate trial and

punishment to the perpetrators and their patrons in the killings at the BDR headquarters. BNP leaders called for "reinstatement of the army" in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and

expressed worries over the recent violence in the CHT. They also offered condolence to the bereaved family members of deceased gar-

ment workers in Gazipur and demanded compensation for them.

MRP scheme

Credit (LC) to a bank in favour of the company, the official

the negotiating bank of the company will collect raw materials for manufacturing passport booklets and passport personalisation machin-

After manufacturing the machinery, it would be shifted to the country and later taken to the directorate completing all customs formalities for trial production.

The machine would be finally installed for production after its successful trial run.

suffer abroad with their traditional passports, as the time frame given by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for stepping to the MRP-MRV will cross on March 31 next.

Contacted, a top official of the home ministry told BSS that the government will make a request to the ICAO to extend its time limit for stepping into the MRP-MRV arena.

Jamaat's

FROM PAGE 16 and local Shibir leaders was not true.

have any relation to the unrest at Rajshahi University," reads the statement.

incident. **OUR REPLY**

The Daily Star's report was based on information supplied by several top-level resigned Shibir leaders.

the top local Jamaat and local Shibir leaders.

Talking to The Daily Star two senior Jamaat leaders admitted there existed clear difference of opinion between some top central Jamaat and Shibir leaders centring some

Myanmar rejects

The 64-year-old democracy

icon was initially sentenced to

three years in prison with hard

labour in a trial that drew global

condemnation, but that sen-

tence was commuted to 18

months of house arrest by junta

for 14 years. Her National

League for Democracy won

elections in 1990 by a landslide,

but the military, which has ruled

Myanmar since 1962, refused to

will hold elections some time

this year under a constitution

that allows the military to main-

tain substantial power. It effec-

tively bars Suu Kyi from partici-

pating in the polls, the first

general elections since 1990.

Suu Kyi's party has not

announced whether it will

planned and Suu Kyi serves out

ner latest 18-month sentence,

If the vote goes ahead as

contest the elections.

during the elections.

The junta has announced it

Suu Kyi has been detained

chief Senior Gen. Than Shwe.

lakeside home.

cede power.

FROM PAGE 16 French Ambassador Jean Pierre

Myanmar, also known as Burma, has been widely criticised for its continued violation of human rights, including atrocities committed by its

her to 18 months of house say the junta holds 2,100 politiarrest. She was convicted last cal prisoners. August of violating the terms of The Singapore government, her previous detention by which normally refrains from briefly sheltering an American criticising the junta, said "it is of who swam uninvited to her

course very disappointing that her appeal did not succeed." It said a dialogue among the junta, Suu Kyi and all other political groups ahead of this year's elections "offers the best

cal stability of Myanmar." soon as possible," it said in a

statement. lawyers Thursday, Suu Kyi jokingly asked them if she had been behaving well, as junta chief Than Shwe had said she could receive amnesty if she

"Than Shwe already made the verdict for (Suu Kyi) and no judge will have the nerve to change it," said Aung Din, executive director of the USbased US Campaign for Burma, alobby group.

she would still be in detention "The judiciary system in Burma is just a part of the The court ruling also denied regime's oppressive mechanism," he said. "The only way to freedom to two female companions who share Suu Kyi's make the release of (Suu Kyi) and all political prisoners in house arrest. It comes nearly two weeks after the junta Burma is to keep putting maxireleased Tin Oo, the 82-year-old mum pressure on Than Shwe deputy leader of Suu Kyi's party, and his cronies until they feel from nearly seven years in

unanimously agreed Thaksin he was prime minister.

military coup for alleged corruption and abuse of power.

The court also agreed that he had shaped government policies on mobile phone regulations that profited the country's largest service provider, also controlled by his family.

ruling that Thaksin had hidden his shares in Shin Corp. while in office would lead to a court decision that government policies had benefited the company and constituted a conflict of interest.

year-long political turmoil is expected to persist.

abusing his position at the head of government in 2001-2006. They could order the confis-

cation of the \$2.29 billion of his family's assets frozen in Thai banks. Thaksin and an unknown portion of his family's wealth are safely ensconced abroad.

year jail term in Thailand, was monitoring the proceedings from exile in Dubai, where he was scheduled to provide a running commentary via video

ing the prosecution, the judges dismissed defence arguments that the process leading to the trial was illegitimate. The defence had argued that

a special committee set up to investigate Thaksin included appointees who were previously involved in the popular movement to oust him. It also questioned whether the committee had legal authority to bring the charges.

Friday, Thaksin insisted all the money he and has family accumulated was "with our own sweat, labour and brains. We nevercheated.'

Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva hopes Friday's ruling will lead to a return of stability, but has ordered a security crackdown around the country, claiming that the pro-Thaksin "Red Shirt" movement may be planningviolence. "We hope for the best," said

case in fear of attack," the OC "We are looking into the

matter whether Amzad was killed by miscreants," he added.

Family members said the criminals hurled bombs when Amzad was entering his house. Amzad was returning home

from his fish firm Gazi Fish and Hatchery, they said. Kamruzzaman, officer-incharge of Fultola Police

hefty amount of toll from him. "Although the criminals demanded toll from Amzad but he did not dare to file any

said.

parked his fortune with family

FROM PAGE 1 a military trainer of Shibir

League men from there.

director said.

3 probe bodies

committee, headed by its deputy director (administration and finance), to find out the cause of the fire. However, they suspect the fire might have originated from a shortcircuit.

also formed a seven-member committee in this regard. The factory will reopen on Tuesday.

On the other hand, BGMEA

The bodies of the victims were handed over to their families yesterday afternoon without autopsy although the bodies were brought to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for post-mortem early yesterday. The factory authorities

gave Tk 15,000 to each of the victims' families in presence of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association officials for transportation of the bodies and ourials. The dead are Mohammad

Abul Quashem, Sahera Begum, Salma Begum, Majeda Begum, Rahima Begum and Majida Begum from Mymensingh, Shantana Begum, Zarina Begum, Mohammad Shahinur, Mohammad Mostafizur from Rangpur, Sufia Begum from Faridpur, Rasheda Begum from Narail, Pradip Kumar from Jamalpur, Rina from Comilla, Afia from Narsingdi,

from Gaibandha, Jahanara Poor ventilation

Farida Begum from Pirojpur,

Badal Mia and Rawshan Ara

guard of the factory yesterday told The Daily Star that though 11 of them were on duty Thursday night, none knew

how to operate fire extinguishers and hydrants. "Some of us tried but could do nothing," he said. Mozammel Hossain, shift-

n-charge (security) of the factory, said when the fire broke out on the first floor, 18-19 workers were on the sixth floor and 20-25 on the second. Most of those on the second floor managed to get out, but

floors lost their nerves and way in smoke, he told The Daily "We mistakenly thought the other workers must have got

their fellows on the upper

out using the rear exit," he Firefighters had to cut grills of second floor windows to

rescue four to five workers. Chowdhury Qudrat-e-Elahi, director (marketing and development) of Garib & Garib, said no gate or door was closed. They usually keep all gates open for loading and

uploading of products. He also claimed all their workers had proper training on fire safety. But it all happened so fast that they could do little to douse the blaze started by an electrical short-circuit.

Also, he observed, it was too ate when those on the tinroofed sixth floor grasped the gravity of the situation. After visiting the factory yesterday, BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshedy said the fire spread quickly and caused thick smoke because of

To make matters worse, heavy-grill windows and Thai glasses did not let the smoke out, he added. Meanwhile, Bangladesh

acrylic yarn that the factory

uses to produce sweaters.

Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has announced a three-day mourning. It has also decided to give Tk 2 lakh to each of the victims'

families and arrange better treatment for the injured work-

Begum from Jamalpur, ormed a three-member Alamgir Hossain from Thakurgaon and Mamtaz Begum from Sirajganj. All the deceased were buried in their respective

fighter.

villages. The fire broke out on the first floor of the factory Thursday around 9:10pm. Fire fighters brought the fire under control around 11:30pm. On August 21 last year, fire broke out at the very same factory that killed a fire

Materials and machinery on the factory's first floor were totally destroyed while those on the other floors remained unharmed, as the fire did not spread to other floors. The owners of the sweater

factory could not be reached

after several attempts. In a

press release, the factory authorities condoled the death of the workers and announced compensation to the victims' families. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound

shock over the incident and

conveyed condolences to the bereaved family members. State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak and members of different garment workers' organisations and rights organisations visited

FROM PAGE 1 20 killed at Jahanara

Fashion, Narayanganj

the factory yesterday.

Dhaka 2000 Sources- National Garments Worker's Federation and

12 killed at Globe Knitting.

newspapers

DCC elections

The announcement came a day after the High Court cleared the way for the Election Commission's declaration of schedule for holding elections to the DCC and its wards, by discharging five separate writ petitions challenging the process of demar-

cating the DCC areas. Candlelight

commemorators for a minute in memory of the martyrs. All stand up with candles in their hands to pray for the martyrs in the Pilkhana car-

Nagorik Committee and Col Mojib Trust yesterday jointly organised the programme titled "Lest we forget them; we wear the apparel of mourning" where several thousand people gathered in a spirit of accumulating strength against the backdrop of mourning by the Breaking the silence of the

gathering, the artists of the Padatik Natta Sangsad sang a song seeking eternal peace and harmony in life. The recitation of Hasan Arif began with an appeal to the visitors asking them to stop and listen to the cries of hearts with hearts...to heed the wails of the widows of the army officers and their children. The commemoration

the national anthem: "Amar Shonar Bangla...ami tomai valobashi... "The respected heroes, we have not forgotten you... we will never forget you", said M Emamul Haque on behalf of the organisers in deep condo-

ended when all stood up to sing

England will be captained by left-hand batsman Alastair Cook in absence of regular

skipper Andrew Strauss. The playing eleven of both teams will be announced today. State-run Bangladesh

Tigers

FROM PAGE 16

the Dhaka Test.

Hasan's shoulder.

suffered a horrible injury in

makes his international come-

back against England follow-

ing his nine-month lay-off due

to his latest injury. He will not

be captaining the team as that

responsibility is on Shakib Al

Interestingly, Mashrafe

Syed Ashraf

ruling party, he said. People voted the party to

They first instigated violence at RU that led to the deterioration in law and order there.

Tuku urged the party men to

The scene was chaotic. A body of a man wearing a red shirt was lying near a burnedout vehicle in the rubble. The remains of another man laid in a gully near the epicentre of the

blasts. Policemen ran down the streets carrying the injured.

Landmark Hotel were blown

FROM PAGE 1

various programmes. Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television and private TV channels will air special programmes while

during fire incidents. On January 6, 2005, during a fire at Shaan Knitting and Processing Ltd in Narayanganj, all the gates of the building were kept locked. The incident claimed

23 lives.

they added.

Exporters Association (BGMEA) Abdus Salam Murshedi said every garment factory has to maintain regular drills to ensure compliance with rules. In Bangladesh, about 4,500

garment factories are now in

operation. Over 70 percent of

them are located in and

sharp increases for education,

health, rural and urban infra-

structure and farmer assis-

allocation, the budget appor-

infrastructure.

8 lakh.

well," he said.

tions Rs 1.73 lakh crore to

However, the major high-

lights are the drastic changes

in the personal income taxes

that will benefit the middle-

class immensely. The income

tax bracket has been

changed drastically, taking

the bracket of ten percent up

to annual income of Rs 5 lakh

and 20 percent bracket to Rs

financial downturn. "I can say

In perhaps the bigges

around the capital.

Defence budget

funding.

large number of garment gency lights, which can be turned on without electricity

Receiving the LC money,

All these formalities will take four to five months causing delay implementation of the project, the official added. According to a senior official of the Directorate of Immigration and Passport, the people of the country may

crore in the next financial year to help fund social sector

Mukherjee focused on the common man, announcing

"Jamaat and Shibir do not

It also says: The Daily Star's report has unnecessarily tried to involve Jamaat and Shibir with the Rajshahi University

Jamaat leaders and recently Our report did not mention difference of opinion between

He said the government wanted to revert to the nine percent economic growth it enjoyed before the global with some confidence that we have weathered this crisis recent incidents. Lafosse said Suu Kyi was "the victim of a sham trial." Suu Kyi's lawyers appealed to the court last November after

a lower court a month earlier military against ethnic minority upheld a decision to sentence groups. Human rights groups

prospects for national reconciliation and the long-term politi-"We thus hope that the Myanmar authorities will, in their own interests, allow her to participate in the political process in a meaningful way as

During a meeting with her serves her time according to the prescribed regulations.

members because he was not

allowed to hold company

shares while prime minister,

and whether his administration

implemented policies to benefit

his family's businesses, an

offence that has been termed

telecoms liberalisation mea-

sures unfairly benefited the

country's main mobile phone

service provider, then con-

trolled by Thaksin's family; and

whether he unfairly promoted a

US\$127 million low-interest

loan to neighbouring Myanmar

to benefit a satellite communi

cations company also con-

guilty verdict as the culmination

of a process to cleanse Thai

politics that began with protests

in 2006 calling for his ouster for

alleged corruption that segued

into a military coup in

September that year. They also

accuse him of disrespecting the

country's constitutional mon-

arch, 82-year-old King

such a ruling as the latest in a

series of injustices that drove a

democratically elected leader

from office despite two sweep-

ing election victories. They

believe he is being persecuted

because the traditional urban

ruling class felt threatened

when he empowered the coun-

try's rural majority, which was

grateful for Thaksin's innovative

sides led to the occupation of

the seat of government for

several months and the seizure

of the capital's two airports for a

week by Thaksin's opponents in

2008, and rioting and disrup-

tion of a conference of Asian

heads of government by his

continue to rally on his behalf

and have promised a "million-

ahead of a 2008 conviction on a

conflict of interest charge, rallies

his followers by video and over

died on the spot when the

Fish trader

man" march next month.

His Red Shirt supporters

Thaksin, who fled into exile

supporters last year.

The passions held by the two

social welfare programs.

His supporters would see

Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Thaksin's critics would see a

trolled by his family.

Issues include whether

policy corruption."

Thai court seizes

FROM PAGE 16

and his ex-wife still held shares in Shin Corp., a telecommunications giant he founded, while Thaksin was ousted in a 2006

Legal experts have said that a

Tight security was in place around the courthouse, amid government fears that Thaksin loyalists could react to the verdict with violence. Whatever the decision, Thailand's four-

The Supreme Court is broadly applying mostly untested anti-corruption statutes in determining whether Thaksin a telecommunications tycoon before entering politics became "unusually wealthy" by

Thaksin, who faces a two-

In an early decision favour-

In a message on Twitter early

The government of Prime

government spokesman Panitan Wattanayagorn. "Of course many people fear for the worst but we are ready to manage whatever comes.' The judges will look at whether Thaksin illegally

criminals threw two powerful bombs at him around 10:30pm.

the Internet.

FROM PAGE 16

Station, said earlier a group of local miscreants demanded a