WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Only citizens

of Bangladesh

would be tried

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh would try only its

citizens found guilty of war

crimes, said Foreign Minister

dispense "Victor's Justice," she

said when the visiting two-

member delegation of German

Parliament's Committee on

Economic Cooperation called

on her. The members are

Jurgen Klimake MP and Niema

discussed bilateral issues like

investment, water manage-

ment, climate change, human

rights, and trial of war criminals.

cooperation in energy and

renewable power generation

Dhaka Holger Michael was

POWER, WATER CRISES

BNP threatens

movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition BNP threat

ened to forge a strong move-

ment against the government if

it failed to immediately get rid of

the ongoing power and water

able to control the mass move-

ment with repression if it does

not solve the issues without

further delay," said Mirza

Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, senior

joint secretary general of the

procession rally organised by

Swechchhasebak Dal, which

placed the demands to solve the

gas, water and electricity issues.

initially carry out peaceful

demonstrations.

Alamgir said they would

"But the nation will not sit

Later, party leaders brought

the Jativatabad

He was addressing a pre-

party, yesterday at Muktangon.

"The government will not be

The minister sought more

German Ambassador in

During the meeting, they

Bangladesh would not

Dipu Moni yesterday.

Movassat MP.

projects.

also present.

PM okays 600MW

She also discussed the slow

progress of Bibiyana 450 MW,

Sirajganj 450 MW, Khulna 150

MW and Sirajganj 150 MW

formed committee on urgent

rental power held a meeting

plant for six to nine months.

Further discussions will be held

contacted US companies

General Electric and Alsthom

Rental, and some other interna-

tional companies. All of them

have experience of installing

and operating at least 2,000 MW

deals within this month or early

operation by late May or early

June," said a top official of the

SQ Chy cannot

The Appellate Division of the

Supreme Court yesterday

stayed the High Court order for

a week that directed the gov-

ernment to allow BNP leader

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury

Appellate Division Justice Md

Muzammel Hossain passed the

order upon a petition filed by

the government against the HC

Mahbubey Alam prayed to the

court to stay the HC order and

permit the government to file a

regular leave to appeal petition

with the apex court against the

Salauddin is a suspected war

criminal, and a process of

trying the war criminals is

he may not return home to

avoid the trial, Mahbubey

last year asked the government

to allow Salauddin to go abroad

for two months, which the

court extended to three

months on January 18 this year.

Hoque stood for Salauddin

A food ministry official said

the decision was taken on the

basis that the country showed

efficiency in handling food

crisis in the periods after the

The US Agency for

International Development

(USAID) and agriculture

department of the US are

working to provide the assis-

tance, said a food ministry

for Bangladesh, India and Sri

Lanka, said the food manage-

ment system in Bangladesh is

impressive, but the country

takes a lot of time in floating

tenders to import food, which

discourages other countries to

Food prices change rap-

Leishman, the US attaché

Quader Chowdhury.

Obama

natural disasters.

press release.

Advocate Shah Manjurul

If he is allowed to go abroad,

The HC on November 24

He told the court that

Attorney General

Chamber judge of the

go abroad

favour stayed

to go abroad.

underway.

Alam said.

HC order in his

"We aim at concluding some

The power ministry has also

nextweek, sources said.

Later in the day, the newly

power projects.

FROM PAGE 1 Frustrated with the poor performance of project implementation agencies under the power ministry, the prime minister emphasised quality instead of just low prices in securing

power deals. She asked the authorities to with British company Aggreko expand existing power deals for installing a 100 MW power with companies performing well so that they could increase power generation.

"The prime minister expressed her satisfaction with our planning of different power projects. But she expressed her unhappiness with their implementation," said the power ministry source.

The ministry made a presenrental power plants. tation on the on-going and upcoming power projects, and pinpointed some problems that next month so that these rental were slowing down the implepower schemes can start partial mentation process.

It also sought the PM's decision on a speedy approval process for power projects. "We have suggested that different ministries and agencies involved in the approval process of a power project be brought to a single table to speed up implementation. Such agencies include the finance ministry or the planning ministry. The PM has STAFF CORRESPONDENT agreed to this proposal," the source added.

The premier also asked the ministry to expedite power tenders which are gathering dust due to inefficiency of different agencies or other bureaucratic tangles. But the meeting did not discuss anything about influence of powerful lobbies which are responsible for slowing down some power projects.

The PM asked officials why PDB's latest bid to ensure 530 MW of rental power failed. She said if PDB could ensure the bids from qualified companies, the country would not have faced so much power crisis now. The power secretary then

told the PM that as per the government's procurement regulations, the authorities had to award contracts to the lowest bidders even if they were not competent enough for the job.

Sheikh Hasina also discussed how the one-year old ender for a 300 MW power project in Siddhirganj funded by the World Bank had become totally uncertain due to opposng stance of the tender authoriies Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB) and theWB. TheWB had imposed a condition that it would not fund the project if the selected bidder used Siemens equipment till the end of 2010. The WB was investigating a corruption charge against Siemens. But the EGCB wanted to award this contract to a Chinese company that uses

Siemens equipment. The PM noted that Siemens nad become controversial and therefore the authorities should avoid awarding contracts that would benefit Siemens.

Women

ROM PAGE 1 by their superiors at educa-

ional institutions. The verdict came after a writ

petition was filed seeking HC directive following a newspaper report that an upazila education officer of Kurigram insulted a female teacher by making a disgraceful remark in June last

The court on May 14 last year

directed the authorities con-

cerned to form a five-member

harassment complaint com-

mittee headed by a woman at

to investigate allegations of

members must be women, it

The bench yesterday asked

the secretary to transfer upazila

education officer Arif Ahmed

who made the offensive remark

on Sultana Arjuman Huq,

headmistress of Atmaram

Bishweshwar Government

Earlier in January this year

Arif apologised to Arjuman

before the HC and the court

acquitted him of the charge, as

26 last year reported that

Upazila Education Officer of

Kurigram Arif Ahmed had called

Sultana Arjuman Huq 'Beshya'

(prostitute) at an open meeting

in the upazila auditorium on

Anjuman felt insulted and

Following the report,

Salahuddin Dolon, a Supreme

Court lawyer, filed a writ peti-

tion seeking HC directive upon

the government to take action

against the accused and to

prevent harassment of women

working at educational institu-

Service Trust later became a

appeared for the petitioner.

party to the petition.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and

Barrister Sara Hossain

became sick after the incident,

The daily Shamokal on June

Anjuman pardoned him.

Primary School.

lune 25.

the report said.

Majority of the committee

harassment of women.

idly in the international mar-The HC bench of Justice ket. If Bangladesh cuts time in Syed Mahmud Hossain and floating tender, more and lustice Sveda Afsar Jahan also more countries and exporters asked the education secretary can participate in the bidto carry out the directives given ding," he told the minister. by this court in May last year on sexual harassment of women at the institutions.

The US will help Bangladesh enhance its capacity for food security and agriculture, Leishman said.

He, however, mentioned the US does not provide food grains free of cost, except for specific programmes like every workplace and institution feeding of schoolchildren.

> Abdur Razzaque said the country has seen an increase in food production, but it is yet to achieve autarchy. However, the government is working to that end, he noted.

Rental plant

The power plant finally started a test run on April 5. According to PEL officials, since then, they have been supplying 57MW electricity to the national grid.

PEL claims it has 15 powergenerating units each capable of producing 4MW regularly. Of the production, they will commercially supply 55MW to the national grid and the rest 5MW will be used for their own pur-

On June 1, 2009, the establishment work of the Precision Energy's plant was started on one-acre land leased from Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited.

MWM, a German company, undertook the engineering and implementation works for power generation while local

Energypac Engineering Limited implemented Substation EquipmentWorks. Engineer Ruhul Amin, plant manager of PEL, said the high-

tech power plant is sufficient to meet the demand of adjacent two districts.

three acres of land for the plant.

He added they need at least

MOLESTATION

Baby girl out of danger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-year-old girl, who was violated by an unknown pervert in the city's Uttar Khan on Tuesday and later admitted to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, is now out of danger. Talking to The Daily Star

vesterday, the doctors also said that sample has been collected from the victim for forensic DNA testing to identify the criminal.

Meanwhile, police arrested Shahin against whom the girl's mother has filed a case in connection with the incident.

Police already started quizzing Shahin after a Dhaka Court granted one-day remand for him yesterday, said Uttar Khan police. Sub-Inspector Yunus

Khandker of the police station

said that they are searching for the other teenaged suspect Nayan, also brother of Shahin. The Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association

appointed a lawyer at the One Stop Crisis Centre of the DMCH for her legal aid.

Take action

FROM PAGE 16

endorsed a 246-page probe report of the sub-committee and made the recommendations.

The committee also recommended cancelling appointment of 313 staff including teachers, consultants and medical officers as they were appointed illegally during the time. Of the 313, 42 are teachers

while 61 consultants, 198 medical officers and 12 offi-

"The committee also suggested taking stern actions against the chairman, members and membersecretary of the selection board, chief of the central purchase committee and its member-secretary and members and depositing the money to the university fund after realising it," Selim, chief of the committee, told report-

The committee also asked the authority concerned to realise Tk 59.44 lakh from those who spent the money unlawfully on the occasion of the visit of the Saudi health minister to BSMMU in 2004.

The report says the Saudi minister did not come finally but the then authority showed expenses on the visit in the name of various pur-

Even 2,076 staff, including officials and doctors, drew Tk 84.71 lakh illegally from the ultra-poor medical fund, the

report adds. According to BSMMU rules, no staff and official is entitled to receive grant from the fund, which helps treatment of the ultra poor people,

On irregularities in recruitment at DMCH, the committee chief said they have asked the health ministry officials to take proper measures to this end.

'Toxic' ships

Interestingly, the environment ministry itself took a position in favour of polluters and requested the commerce ministry to relax the import policy. It also allows shipyard owners to operate without taking any environmental clearance certificate, sources

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan yesterday said, "From now on the Department of Environment will verify if the imported scrap ships were really cleaned according to the

certification.' The government considered both development and environmental issues while changing the previous decision, he added.

A source working with the ministry concerned said as huge money is involved in this business, some high-ups of the commerce, shipping and environment ministries are keen to favour the shipyard

Import of such toxic ships poses risks of health for shipbreaking workers and widespread environmental pollution in the country's coastal Every year around 100 ships

are scrapped in Sitakunda, meeting around 25 percent demand of iron scraps for producing iron bars. But it takes heavy tolls on

the lives of the workers. In the last two years, 38 workers died and 49 became maimed while working in shipyards. According to a report of the

International Labour Organisation, 551 minor and 42 major accidents took place in Bangladesh's 36 shipbreaking yards during 1996-

unchanged, he said.

Murder too over

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1

A gang of 25 led by Jubo League activists Hossain Ali, Murad, Shamim, Rahul and Dony attacked Bangladesh Railway contractor Ali Asgar Hossain, and his friends including Sanjit at a club at Tigerpass at about 7:30pm. Equipped with iron rods,

sharp weapons and firearms, the attackers dragged Sanjit out of the club and beat him up. A fatally wounded Sanjit was rushed to Chittagong

Medical College Hospital

where a doctor declared him

dead. Police said the attack stemmed from a dispute between Ali Asgar and local criminals over submission of bid documents at Bangladesh

Railway. DINAJPURVIOLENCE

At least 10 people were injured in Dinajpur as two Awami League factions clashed over dropping tender documents for a Tk 14 crore work of Dinajpur Public Works Department.

Some activists of district unit AL and followers of Mirza Ashfaque, joint secretary of Dinajpur AL and APS of State Minister for Land Mostafizur Rahman, took position in front of the PWD office in the morning and prevented bidders from dropping bid documents, a PWD official said.

When district AL activists tried to drop tender document, Ashfaque's followers attacked them with sharp weapons and sticks, leaving 10 people wounded. The injured are Shamiul Islam, Rafiqul Islam, Towhid,

Jasim, Chhutu, Jemi, Tutul, Jaman and Ananda Mohan. They received treatment at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital. In Patuakhali, a group of 10-12 AL cadres led by Safiz Uddin entered Baufal municipality

Baufal Bazar. They snatched tender documents from present leaseholder Mizanur Rahman and damaged office document when a few officials tried to stop them.

office at about 4:00pm yester-

day, the last day for submitting

tender documents for lease of

Water crisis

their relatives' houses in other

While people are suffering like Kanchan and Ekram, many others, who are having a modest quantity of supply water, are complaining the supply water is stinky and filthy. In the blistering summer, the water crisis is just adding to the people's sufferings.

The severely affected areas in the capital include parts of Mirpur, Kazipara, West Kafrul, Sheorapara, Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Uttara, Purba Nakhalpara, Uttar Badda, Manda, Madartek and Shah Alibagh. "We have no choice but to dig

wells to survive this two-monthlong crisis," said Arifur Rahman of Mirpur section-12 who actually started digging a well like Another resident of Mirpur-

12 Tito claimed that the pump of the area has been selling water in lorries while they could supply it through pipelines. Operator of the pump Md Ali

said the production of the pump has reduced to 2,600 litres per minute from 3,000 litres for the last two months. It remains

inoperative for about 10 hours a day due to load shedding, as the generator is out of order, he Wasa Managing Director

Taqsem A Khan said load shedding is causing low water preswater crisis.

Wasa Deputy Managing Director (Operation and Maintenance) Liakat Ali said the army has been assisting Wasa distribute water in the crisis zones from Wednesday.

generators for 546 pumps. A process of purchasing two hundred generators at a cost of aroundTk54 crore is underway.

ity have already been given to 82 pumps in DPDC and DESCO areas to keep them running round the clock. Some 40 to 50 more pumps will soon be brought under the initiative, added Liakat.

Earlier, Detective Branch of

police arrested a number of

top LeT leaders from India and

Pakistan who were residing in

Bangladesh. The detectives

also arrested four suspected

LeT operatives in Chittagong

and Dhaka last year on charge

of devising a plot to attack the

Indian and US missions in

The LeT was founded in

1990 to fight Indian rule in

Kashmir and is blamed for a

number of terror attacks in

India including that of

The militant outfit was

AL candidate

Nayapaltan, party leader

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday

said the local administration is

helping to ensure victory of AL

candidate Nurunnabi

Chowdhury Shawon in the

upcoming by-election, and

team consisted of party's

standing committee member

Nazrul Islam Khan and senior

joint secretary general Mirza

Fakhrul Islam Alamgir will

electoral campaign of party

candidate Hafizuddin Ahmed,

also vice chairman of the

Alamgir informed The

The Bhola-3 by-election

Rizvi, also BNP's joint

secretary general, said the

ruling party candidate is

violating electoral laws as he is

staying at the government dak

bungalow in Lalmohan

upazila and campaigning for

lodged complaints with the

local administration and the

election commission regard-

ing the issue but did not get

The BNP leader alleged

that ruling party activists are

obstructing electioneering of

He also said his party had

the election from there.

any response yet.

Daily Star that they were to

leave the capital for Bhola

will be held on April 24.

They will also participate in

Against this backdrop, a

the commission is silent.

Mumbai in November 2008.

banned in Pakistan in 2002.

FROM PAGE 16

visit the area.

yesterday.

Lashkar organiser

Dhaka.

vouths for LeT and carrying funds for its activities in Bangladesh from Pakistan as assigned by the top Lashkar leaders, they add.

The sources say apart from LeT, he used to look after the interest of different local and foreign militant organisations as an ISI agent. He used to reside in Uttara Sector 4.

Hailing from Karachi, Yahia is skilled in using various types of firearms including AK47.

"We are trying to determine how many people he recruited, his source of funding, network in Bangladesh and whether he maintained connection with other militant organisations in Bangladesh," Commander

Sohail said replying to a query. Rab officials say they arrested Yahia in Chankharpool around 11:30pm on Wednesday with a laptop and a notebook. They add he came out of jail a couple of weeks ago on expiry of a four-month detention but was always under their surveil-

Speaking anonymously, a senior official of Dhaka Central Jail however said Rab arrested Yahia at the jail gate soon after he was released on

Yahia's seized passport reveals before his arrest he visited Pakistan 12 times and once he entered Bangladesh

Markets

FROM PAGE 1

Sheikh Hasina who holds the charge of the Ministry of Energy, Power and Mineral Resources.

The meeting decided that power supply from the national grid to the markets and shopping malls in the capital would be stopped at 7:00pm from Thursday. Hasina also asked the

authorities concerned to ensure that load shedding at a particular time does not continue for more than an hour. "If anyone wants to keep

one's own shops or malls open beyond 7:00pm, they will have to make their own arrangement for electricity," PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said.

their candidate, and in doing so the AL activists even However, weekly holidays attacked their workers during for respective shopping malls electoral rallies. and markets will remain Earlier on March 22 and April 5, a BNP delegation met

Chief Election Commissioner "The premier has given the ATM Shamsul Huda and directions for convenience of the people," he added. placed their demands.

sure in the pipelines due to which many pocket areas including some parts of Gulshan and Dhanmondi are facing "As an alternative, we are

providing water to the affected areas in lorries," he said.

He said Wasa now has 295

idle for long if the government fails to come up with answers, he said. out a procession from Dual connections of electric-

Muktangon, which ended in front of the party's central office. Hundreds of supporters of the opposition party took part in the procession with slogans demanding electricity, gas and

CA students stage demo for fee hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Institute of Chartered Accountants (CA) of Bangladesh last night staged demonstrations at the CA Bhaban in the city's Karwan Bazar in protest of increasing examination and registration fees.

The agitating students kept close the main entrance of the bhaban for around two and half an hour to press home their demand. No one could enter the

bhaban or exit from it causing sufferings to the people inside. With the police members' initiative, students became calm and later a section of students held meeting with the authorities.

Khoka's remark

FROM PAGE 16 sanction from the authorities

concerned. A freedom fighter from Madaripur upazila, Siddigur Rahman, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, on April 5.

In his order, the magistrate said the defendant had sought to create anarchy by making such comments against the state. But sanction from the authorities concerned is required for bringing a sedition charge against any person.

The OC was asked to seek such sanction, if not already taken, so that the court can take the sedition charge against Khoka into cognisance, the court said. The complainant alleged

that at a March 27 discussion in the capital, Khoka said Ziaur Rahman is the proclaimer of independence, and also first president of the country. Zia not only declared independence but also took charge

LiberationWar in 1971. Such comments amount to violation of the higher court verdict that had declared Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the proclaimer of independence, and constitute

sedition, Siddiqur said.

of the government after the

BCL goes berserk FROM PAGE 16

Earlier, the provost council led by its president Prof Belayet Hossain and steering committee members of Progressive Teachers' Society separately met RU VC Abdus Sobhan and demanded immediate action against the BCL workers.

US, Russia agree

FROM PAGE 16

Agreed after months of hard bargaining, the two presidents signed the treaty in the renaissance Spanish Hall of Prague Castle.

Medvedev and Obama sat side by side to sign the successor to the 1991 START treaty, which was also a major step in efforts to ease the often-strained relations between their countries. Obama called it "an extraor-

dinary event" and an "important milestone" for attempts to restrict nuclear arms as well as for US-Russia relations. He called the treaty "one step

on a longer journey" which would lead to further cuts in the universal arsenal. Obama said the two nations, which between them have more

nuclear arms, had to show "responsible global leadership." Medvedev said the treaty enables us to rise to a higher level of cooperation between Russia and the United States"

while also declaring that the negotiations "have not been It was in the Czech capital exactly 12 months ago that Obama gave a keynote speech committing the United States to

the aim of a world without Pak HC nuclearweapons. He reaffirmed his comment from a year ago that disarmament was "a long term goal, one that may not be achieved in my

ifetime. The treaty was signed in a key vear for efforts to contain nuclear proliferation with the international community struggling to persuade North Korea to disarm and to restrict Iran's nuclear drive.

Obama this week announced

a new US nuclear posture under which the United States would not stage an atomic attack against a country that does not have nuclear weapons. Though he pointedly said that this would not include Iran or North Korea.

The US leader is to host a nuclear security summit in Washington next week and a nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference will be held at the UN headquarters in NewYork in May.

Airport

FROM PAGE 16 senior security officer of Civil

Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) told The Daily Star. After a meeting around

enhanced security at the airport withdrawing the alert. Deputy Commissioner Nisarul Arif of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Uttara division) also confirmed that a

and later withdrawn. He added vigilance was heightened at the entrance of the airport and additional

police forces deployed. Group Captain M Sayeedul Hasan Khan, a member of CAAB operations and planning, said as a daily routine they had discussed the airport

Ctg mayor

FROM PAGE 16 Tuesday.

Ferdous Begum Munni, councillor of ward-1, 2 and 3 filed the case with Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's Court around 12:00 noon.

The court in its order asked deputy commissioner (North) of Chittagong metropolitan police to investigate the matter and submit a report by June 14 this year, court sources said.

In the case statement, Munni, also women affairs secretary of Bayezid thana Awami League, said Mayor Mohiuddin misbehaved with her in presence of guests during a membership renewal meeting of JalalabadWard AL that started at Baluchhara around 4:30pm

Mohiuddin, also Chittagong City AL president, arrived at the programme around 6:30pm.

on Tuesday.

"As soon as Mohiuddin noticed me in the meeting, he ordered me to vacate my chair and leave the place immediately in a most insulting manner," Munni said in the case statement.

"Later the mayor pulled me off my chair and threw it away," she alleged.

She also mentioned that the mayor insults the women councillors very often at different meetings of the city corporation and forcibly sends them out. Advocate Rana Das Gupta

assisted by Ward Councillor advocate Rehena Begum Ranu appeared for Munni. Rana Das Gupta told The Daily Star the incident seriously

damaged the reputation of Munni, which she earned over years. However, Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Mohammad Kamal Uddin termed the allega-

tions false and baseless.

corporation election.

Meanwhile, ward councillors loyal to the mayor in a press conference at city corporation conference room

In a new warning to Iran over its nuclear actions, Obama said the United States and its allies "will not tolerate actions that flout the NPT.

He called for "smart" and "strong" new UN Security Council sanctions against Iran. Medvedev also said new

sanctions were increasingly likely. "Unfortunately Tehran is not reacting to an array of constructive compromise proposals. We cannot close our eyes to this," Medvedev told a press conference with Obama.

The treaty has to be passed by the Russian parliament and the US Congress, and Obama's Democrats do not have the required two thirds majority in the Senate.

Analysts have also highthan 90 percent of the world's lighted how both the United States and Russia have thousands of nuclear weapons that are not officially deployed and do not come within the new treaty. The negotiations became

bogged down by various disagreements, particularly over US missile defence plans that Russia opposes. Obama said the two sides had agreed to step up talks on plans for a US defence shield for Europe.

FROM PAGE 16

Minister Faruk Khan at the latter's office in the afternoon.

Islamabad

Asked about the trial of war criminals, Qureshi said it is an internal matter of Bangladesh. Replying to another question, he said his assignment in Bangladesh is to develop

relations between Dhaka and

Later, Faruk khan told the

reporters that Pakistan will have to seek apology for their activities during Bangladesh's liberation war in 1971. The issue of 1971 should be settled to develop relations

Pakistan, he said. The government has initiated the process to try the war criminals to settle one impor-

between Bangladesh and

tant issue, he added. About the bilateral trade, Qureshi stressed the need for introducing waterways link with Bangladesh to increase the bilateral trade.

DCC election

Minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak

said the Election Commission being an independent body will set the time for holding the City Corporation elections and the government will execute the EC's decision. However, he said winter is

the best time for any elections. Talking to reporters at his ministry Nanak said presently red alert was put at the airport the country is experiencing

hot spell, which will be followed by monsoon and floods. The Election Commission would face difficulties in holding the elections this

The State Minister also referred to the problem concerning the delimitation of the area of the city corporation and the government is trying

the problems. "The government will not interfere into the Election Commission's decision regarding the City

FROM PAGE 16 the chamber.

Feelings of joy are visible in the house," said Mirza. 'This is a historic day for all of us," she said. Lawmakers chanted slo-

"It is a matter of celebration

for all the democratic parties.

endorsed the clauses declaring Pervez Musharraf's

citing officials.

October 12, 1999 coup as illegal and erased Zia ul Haq's name from the constitution. The National Assembly or the lower house of the parliament, has unanimously

parties had approved the

the constitution gave sweeping powers to the president, including power to dissolve the national and provincial assemblies.

North West Frontier Province (NWFP) as Khyber-Pakhtoonkhwa.

recommendations of the

9:30pm, the CAAB officials

to solve it. Asked if the government wants to defer the city corporation elections, fearing debacle due to current crises of electricity, gas and water, he said present crisis has been created by the past governments. The present government is trying hard to resolve

Corporation elections,' he told

Zardarı

the reporters.

gans against former military rulers when the house

approved the termination of the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, Xinhua reported

The assembly has adopted Section - 2 of the Constitutional Reforms Bill (18th Amendment) relating to the elimination of the 17th Amendment introduced by former president Pervez Musharraf. Last week, the political

Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms. The 17th amendment to

The National Assembly has also decided to rename the

alleged that a vested quarter is trying to tarnish the image of the mayor ahead of the city