# Pakistan, India to Tougher action Next polls crucial

an agreement to restart a second cross-border train service next month, the latest step in peace talks

"The two sides signed the agree-ment on the establishment of rail link via Zero Point Railway station near Khokhrapar (Pakistan) and Munabao (India)," stated a joint statement following a two-day meet-ing of senior railway officials from the two countries in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

a Pakistani desert in the region, will leave Mirpurkhas in southern Pakistan on February 18 and pass through the border town of Khokhrapar on the way to Munabao in India's western state of Gujarat. It will run every Saturday and return the same day.

Pakistan will operate the service

for the first six months of the year,

then India for the other six months. It will be the second train to operate between the two countries, who have fought three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947. A rail link between Lahore and New Delhi was restarted in 2004, weeks after the two nations began peace

Earlier this month, India and Pakistan agreed to open a new bus route between their parts of the divided Himalayan region of Kashmir, the focus of two of their

The peace talks have seen the two countries restore transportation, diplomatic and cultural ties, but progress has been slow on resolving their bitter dispute over Kashmir. The massive October 8 earthquake that killed more than 80,000 people on both sides of the border was expected to spur further peace gestures, but steps to open the border in Kashmir to allow survivors to cross has been mired in bureaucracy.

A fierce insurgency has raged in Indian-held Kashmir since 1989, with more than 66,000 people killed in the fighting. India accuses Pakistan's government of harboring and training some of the militants on its soil, a claim the Pakistanis deny.

# Forget internal feuds

ernment bigwigs for creating 'artificial crisis of diesel and oil to make

The programme was also attended by AL leaders Zillur Rahman, Abdul Jalil, Dr Mohiuddin

Khan Alamgir, Obaidul Quader,

Shyamoli traders

may attack any of us to avenge the

Defence lawyers in the case,

filed in connection with the shoot-

ing, did not plead for bail for Pintu

they asked the court to reschedule

the hearing on Thursday, which the

incidents will be given a compen-

sation of Tk 5 lakh each, seriously

injured persons would get Tk 1 lakh

and those having minor injuries Tk

cheaper electricity, he said the

issue will be settled soon in a meet-

ing with the power minister and

officials of Rural Electrification

were still on the streets last night

when this report was filed. Road

communication with the

Sonamasjid land port is yet to start

as a large number of felled trees still

remained on the road and a culvert

the land port is likely to be restored

by this afternoon, said Shibganj

staged demonstration in Rajshahi

and expressed solidarity with the

people agitating for cheaper elec-

LAWYERS PROTEST POLICE

Lawyers in Chapainawabganj start

a movement today protesting

police atrocities on rural power

subscribers in Kansat. They will

refrain from attending courts today

and stage demonstration demand-

action on January 4 and 23 that left

They asked the local adminis-

The decisions came at a meet-

nine people killed.

The lawyers have demanded

The road communication with

was left broken.

ATROCITIES

upazila nirbahi officer.

Several thousand local people

On people's demands for

The defence counsels however

court agreed to do.

Kansat

FROM PAGE 16

bail petition to Thursday.

FarukKhan.

FROM PAGE 16

former secretary Fazlur Rahman joined the AL with large number of

Hasina also asked her party leaders and activists to be aware of 'ill motives' of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government in the next

election. "They (ruling alliance) have earned a huge amount of money illegally in last few years and will try to manipulate the next election with

that money," she said.

About the preparation of the fresh voter roll, she said the election

Commission (EC).

Regarding BNP's Senior Secretary
General Tarique Rahman's comment on 65 lakh fake voters in the existing voter list, the AL chief said, "If such a number of fake voters had cast their votes in the 2001 election, then the election was obviously illegal. And if it was so then the present government should step down from

from 'a disease of stealing votes for the ruling alliance in the next election', which the physicians could

sion is activated, and that is the only

reason to keep the ACC inactive."

The ACC should find out how a number of Television channels have got licenses and the source of income of the channels' owners, who are mostly ministers of the

people in the recent police shooting said the BNP government killed 17 labourers and 18 farmers during their 1991 to 1996 regime and this time they killed ten innocent people who were demonstrating for ade-

ernment has politicised the Election Commission and the administrain the next election. "They know very well that people would not vote for them in the next election for their immense corruption, torture and harassments and for this they have finalised everything to rig the

Hasina also criticised the gov-

## Musharrat

country and its people."

Elahi, the brother of ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Q, (PML-Q) President Choudhary Shujat Hussain, said he was confident that Musharraf will get a second term as

foundation stone for a college in Rawalpindi on Monday, adding Whatever, the Punjab stands with

Elahi's comments were seen as campaign by pro-Musharraf politi-

dual offices. Musharraf, whose election was ratified by National and three provincial assemblies, was due for re-election after 2007 general

In his recent interviews, Musharraf sounded noncommittal about quitting the influential post of Army Chief which he had committed to quit by 2004 but went back on his word asserting it was required to con-

long march. Presided over by AL President Sheikh Hasina, the meeting also criticised the police excesses under government directive in the name of security measurers.

Meeting sources said Hasina warned the alliance government of tougher movements if such harassment continues and any obstacle is created to foil the long march.

Talking to The Daily Star 14-Party Convenor and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said the meeting discussed overall preparation for the long march. Another 14-Party senior leader

told The Daily Star that if the alliance government creates any trouble to foil the long march, they would go for the "final" anti-government movement that might include indefinite hartal across the country.

14-Party senior leaders includ-ing Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Abdur Razzaque, Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Nurul Islam, Dilip Barua and Bimal Biswas attended the meeting.

### Beximco case

FROM PAGE 16 It was stated in the case that Managing Director of the QC Container Lines Limited Jamaluddin Qader Chowdhury and its Directors Giyasuddin Qader Chowdhury and Saifuddin Qader Chowdhury had misappropriated Tk 95 crore of the QC Container Lines Limited by showing additional fares from its four ships and siphoning off the money abroad.

Earlier, the High Court bench fixed January 30 for hearing the

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq will move for Beximco Holdings while TH Khan for three brothers of Salauddin Qader Chowdhury.

### Aktheruzzaman and Col (retd) Sunny

officer (IO) of the Jatrabari bomb blast case to take necessary steps for producing Sunny before the courtyesterday.

arrest of their leader," said a local The two cases, one under the Arms Act and another under Explosive Substances Act, were filed with Saharibach, 2.11 businessman seeking anonymity. They demanded deployment of adequate law enforcement forces filed with Sabujbagh Police Station on September 8 last year. in the area to ensure their safety.

Judge Mohammad Monzurul Officer-in-Charge of Mohammadpur Police Station Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Shahanur Khan said they have Court fixed March 2 for framing of taken adequate security measures. the charges against them. "If extortionists enter the area they Earlier, the same court directed will be arrested," he said.

the jail authorities twice to produce The Mohammadpur police before it Sunny, who is also the younger brother of JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman, but the arrested Pintu on Sunday night from Adabor after another alleged gang member arrested on charge order was not complied with, court sources said. of shooting at a private car show-As per law, if any court orders

room on Ring Road on January 26, the jail authorities to produce an named Pintu as their leader. accused, the latter are to inform whether the accused is in jail or A gang opened fire on the car showroom, Top Corporation, and another place. But the court did not vandalised four cars after the get any information about Sunny from jail authorities as of yesterday, owner of the showroom had refused to pay the gang a toll of Tk said the same sources.

The other accused are AHM Shamim, 23, Zakaria alias Jewel, 21, Nur Azam Siddique alias Yeasir, 27, Belal Hossain alias Tamim, 21, Aleya Ferdous, 27, and Akramul during the scheduled hearing of the bail petition yesterday, instead

The Rab on September 8 last year arrested five of the accused, house in the city. Sunny had rented the house to coordinate the August 17 countrywide serial blasts.

refused to make any comment to In November last year, Rab arrested Sunny in Dhaka, and following his information, recovthe media about why they wanted to move the date of hearing of the ered huge arms and ammunition from South Manda in the city.

The Criminal Investigation Department on October 10 last year submitted the charge sheets of two cases to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka. All of the arrested accused except Sunny gave confessional state-ments to magistrates on different

### Govt seeks

FROM PAGE 1

ministry Lokman Hakim, Badrul Alam Tarafdar and Md Abdur Rab Hawlader, its Deputy Secretary Md Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury and Senior Assistant Secretary Md Khalilur Rahman, Deputy Secretary of the law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry Shafiqul Islam Talukder and its senior Assistant Secretary Mohammad Harunur Rashid, and Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet Division Md Fazlul Huq and Deputy Secretary of finance ministry AKM Motaleb Hossain.

The Awami League-led 14-party Expressing annoyance over the opposition combine yesterday government's delay in carrying out the directives of the court, the SC had against the police atrocities on the refused to exempt nine bureaucrats rural power subscribers of Kansat from the contempt charge.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed Sunday told a press conference that the government would seek another four months to separate the judiciary in accordance with the SC directives.

"We will seek four more months on some technical grounds regarding separation of the judiciary on February 1. Separating the judiciary is an administrative and structural problem for the government," he

Separating the judiciary in line with the SC directives warrants some changes to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the government needs more time to make those amendments, said sources.

The Supreme Court Bar Association will stage sit-in demonstrations in front of the main entrance to the SC today in protest at the government's plea for further time extension.

The programme was announced at a discussion between SCBA and representatives of different professional bodies yesterday.

ground, the prime minister accused the opposition of creating chaos and unrest at the "instructions of their guardians" to turn the country into a satellite state and a monopoly market

they are conspiring to cripple the economy and push the nation backward at the directives of their masters and with the help of hirelings," she

Criticising the planned move-ment of the Awami League (AL)-led 14-party combine, the prime minis-ter said they (AL) may create anarchy with the help of their allies but will not be able to assume power and fulfil the

They had given several ultimatums to the present elected govern-ment and demanded its resignation, but people did not respond to their movement," Khaleda said, adding: "When people are living in peace, a particular party lives in unhappi-

and the Election Commission, the prime minister said all political parties will contest the elections on a level-playing field under a non-party caretaker government. She claimed that the Election Commission is completely neutral and will be func-

taker government or the Election Commission can not salvage you," she said, adding that they came to power seeking apology to the people but they could not keep their word

commissioners despite objections of the opposition at that time.

"Since we have firm faith in Allah and the people, we have won with two-thirds majority in 2001, freed the nation from terrorism and ensured development," she told the rally.

Khaleda said all conspiracies against the nation were foiled through the elections in 2001. "We did not and will not allow Bangladesh to be a vassal state."

About IMB militancy, she said recently an outfit had unleashed bomb terrorism in the name of Islam. However, she said, some 30 lakh people attended the Akheri Munajat of Biswa Ijtema peacefully and there was no disturbance.

Chaired by local MP Akbar Ali, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmud, State Minister for Education Ehsanul Huq Milan, Abdul Mannan Talukdar MP and Dr MA Matin MP.

Earlier, the prime minister laid the foundation stone of the acad-emy building of Ullapara Science College and addressed the students

Addressing a public meeting at Sayedabad on the western side of Jamuna Bridge, the prime minister urged people to get ready to drive out the godfathers of a party, as they are trying to return to the country during the period of caretaker government.

"Their (indicating her political opponents) godfathers are not living in the country. They are trying to come back, but people will drive them (godfathers) out the way they did in the past," she said. At Saydabad, the prime minister

unveiled the plaque of the founda-tion stone of Sirajganj 450 MW power station, involving Tk 619 crore. The project is scheduled to be

# Biman's NY plane

FROM PAGE 16
"All efforts by aviation engineers of KLM and Belgian airlines Sabina to repair the faults and make the aeroplane operational failed yes-terday afternoon. Now we are arranging for other European airlines to ferry the stranded pas-sengers to New York. They include 21 in Business Class and 203 adults and 13 infants in Economy Class, " said senior Biman official in Dhaka

Besides, under Biman's bilateral arrangement with KLM, a replacement engine was being sent to Brussels from Amsterdam while engineers from Dhaka started to catch first available flights to London to reach Brussels to make

the DC-10 operative at the earliest.

The national flag carrier has earned the bad name of erratic schedule manager by operating flights to as many as 26 international and six domestic destina-tions with a dwindling fleet of only 13 aircraft -- five wide-bodied DC10-30s having 274 seats each, four mid-haul Airbus A-310-300s with 220 seats each and four F-28s

Hundreds of passengers suffer every day due to irregular flight schedules of Biman and in the worst cases, many of them have to wait overnight and also for days together to get a berth in the flights. and Biman pays fat bills for food and accommodation of the waiting

Official sources confirmed that more often than not Biman fails to operate its flights on schedule, particularly in international routes. Every day several flights are delayed by 6 to 24 hours, forcing the financially weak national airlines to pay at least \$20 for each stranded passenger for food and lodging.

When contacted, Biman's acting Managing Director

### Black market FROM PAGE 1

supplied from the newly installed Kazirhat floating oil depot a day, compared to some 350 lorries of oil that used to be supplied on average from Baghabari depot, reports our Bogra correspondent Hasibur

However, the authorities yesterday expressed the hope that with rail wagons carrying more fuel supplies from Chittagong and Khulna to the northern districts, the current crisis would be subdued to a large extent soon.

# Bombs, explosive

FROM PAGE 16
containing two bombs, 50gram
sulphur, 40 pieces of red metal
string and six pencil batteries.
The law enforcers picked up Pir

Siddiqur Rahman and his adherents-- Selim, 35, a schoolteacher, Ziaur Rahman 22, Samad 45, Dulal 32 and Rabiul 39--from a room of the house and took them to Khoksa Police Station for quizzing.

Earlier in December last year, an unidentified person sent a letter to the Khoksa upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and the officer-in-charge, urging them to demolish the house terming it a den of immoral activi-

The Pir, Idris, then filed a general diary (GD) with Khoksa Police Station seeking security of the

When contacted, the officer-incharge of the police station said they are interrogating the

# EC secretary

FROM PAGE 16
Khan was the secretary of the health and family welfare ministry

He was transferred as the secretary to the president. The previous secretary to the president, Kamaluddin Ahmed, has been appointed as a member of the Privatisation Commission.

### Govt may import FROM PAGE 16

these measures in the wake of the price hike of sugar, now selling between Tk 52 and Tk 54 a kg in the retail market.

According to TCB, sugar price has increased by more than 60 percent in a year. The essential commodity was sold between Tk 32 and Tk 34 a kg a year ago.

Explaining the reason, the minister said sugar price in the international market has gone up unusually, reaching \$420 per tonne, which was \$193 one and a halfyears back.

.The current import price of the essential commodity is as high as \$500 per tonne that includes carrying cost, insurance bills and other costs, he added.

Altaf also said the high price of dollar is another reason for the increase in sugar price.

The country is heavily dependent on import as the local sugar production is only 1.35 lakh tonnes against the total annual demand of 12 lakh tonnes.

Brazil and Thailand are major suppliers of sugar but production in these countries has been affected heavily this year, which has pushed the prices up, the minister explained.

Sugar import by private sector importers is less than usual as the importers have become shaky for the unusually high price. The importers may face loss if the price goes down in the global market, commerce ministry offi-

## Mirza Abbas

was stayed for a long time. The HC vacated the stay order on the case, clearing the way for starting its trial.

A lawyer for Shahab Uddin Laltu on July 4, 2004 submitted that his client had instructed him not to proceed with the rule. Accordingly, the bench comprising Justice Sheikh Rezowan Ali and Justice AFM Ali Asgar discharged the rule for non-prosecution. Following the vacation of the rule, the Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka on December 18 last year directed the authorities concerned to send the case to the sessions judge's court for trial. According to the prosecution, over 150 activists led by former

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas brought out a procession during a dawn-dusk hartal called by the (then) opposition party BNP at about 11:30am on February 13, 2001.

They attacked a procession of the (then) ruling Awami League near Razarbagh Police Lines.

As the BNP processionists sprayed bullets at the police barracks, constable Abu Naser, 27, was bullet-hit when he was standing in the corridor adjacent to his third floor room at Rajabagh Police Lines. He died on the spot. Constable Partha Roy was also eriously injured during the inci-

Subedar Jamal Uddin filed a murder case with Motijheel Police Station the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against Mirza Abbas and five others on July 11, 2001.

### Graft check

FROM PAGE 16

encouraging the already significant contribution to the country's socio-economic development by private initiatives such as the Birdem hospital.

Meanwhile, increased donor interest led the Ecnec to widen both the size and the duration of the HNPSP. The allocation for the programme was raised from the current Tk 9,410 crore to Tk 32,450

The donors' contribution to the programme has been increased to Tk 10,793 crore, of which the World Bank alone accounts for Tk 1,950 crore and 11 other donor countries and organisations for the rest.

The programme that started in July 2003 now will continue up to June 2010 instead of June 2006 as scheduled earlier.

The Ecnec yesterday also revised the funding for 11 private higher secondary model schools at the six divisional headquarters at Tk 114 crore and approved expansion and modernisation work of Sylhet Osmani International Airport worth Tk 47 crore.

### 69 families

people's repression of women fearing vote loss during elections."

President Hena Das, vicepresidents Bela Nobi, Selina Khaleq were also present in the conference among other members of the organisation.

The leaders demanded changes in the constitution to establish a more secular society as they think the existing constitution incite fundamentalism and repression of women.

initiatives to investigate these incidents through the concerned district commissioner (DC) and superintendent of police (SP). They also laid emphasis on the role of media in changing the mindset of people in this regard.

# Bush to touch on Iraq, home issues

US President Bush will deliver his fifth State of the Union address Tuesday after arguably the worst year of his presidency, looking to reinvigo-rate confidence in his leadership and the U.S. role in the world.

The speech gives the president an opportunity to lay out his agenda in this midterm election year directly to Congress and the American people. He will try to ease anxiety about continuing U.S. troop deaths in Iraq and the high price of fuel and health care that are dampening Americans

view of the economy.

He will argue that his program to secretly eavesdrop on communications between people in the United States and suspected terrorists overseas is not only legal, but necessary, despite the questions raised by legal experts. He'll urge Congress to renew the controversial portions of the anti-terrorism USA Patriot Act, set to expire Friday and blocked by lawmakers insisting on new privacy

And he'll touch on ethics, declaring support for reform as a lobbying scandal threatens members of his own party on Capitol Hill.

The speech comes as Bush's job approval ratings have rebounded somewhat, but still hover in the high 30s to low 40s in most polls. About two-thirds of Americans say in recent polls that the country is headed down the wrong track.

The numbers give Republicans of the Thakurgaon Police Station.

cause for worry as they look to maintain control of Congress in this fall's

midterm elections. The Democratic response to the president's speech was being delivered by Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, considered a rising star in the party after winning office last year in a Southern state that went for Bush in 2004. Democrats hope to replicate his victory in congressional

# 'Meteor' falls on the ground

UNB, Thakurgaon

A 'meteor' from outer space fell with a big bang on a field in Singpara village of sadar upazila yesterday afternoon creating panic and curiosity among people. No one was reported hurt.

On information Superintendent of Police Khandker Golam Farooq rushed to the spot and asked his companions and villagers to dig the earth near the house of one Fazlur Rahman from where smoke was still emitting.

To their amazement they found a lead-like black material three feet below the earth. Hot and weighing 2.5kg, the triangular material looked like a mortar shell, witnesses said.

The meteor was kept in custody

# Israeli army

destruction and has carried out suicide bombings, urged Hamas and other armed factions to step up attacks on the Jewish state in

to suspend monthly tax payments to the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority, a severe financial blow. Israel collects customs revenue on behalf of the Palestinians and hands it over to the governing

The next payment is due today, and was expected to total about \$55 million (31 million pounds). The salaries of about 140,000 Palestínian employees depend to a large extent on the customs revenue, though Hamas may be able to find alternative sources of funding in the Arab world.

In a bid to keep aid flowing, Hamas leaders have suggested they might not have representatives in the government but rather put unaffiliated technocrats in the cabinet.

CALLTOARMS The two Islamic Jihad militants were killed in a raid in the West Bank village of Arrabe, near Jenin, the army said. There was at least one Israeli casu-

other factions "to resume resistance against the occupation", a reference to attacks scaled back under a truce The Ouartet of major powers

Russia, the European Union, the United States and the United Nations - said earlier this week that Hamas must reject violence and recognise Israelorrisklosing international aid. But Russian President Vladimir

Jordan's ambassador to the Palestinian Authority also said on Tuesday that Amman "will continue to support the Palestinian people regardless of who is in government."

financial crunch if Israel withholds the tax money. Unemployment in the Palestinian territories runs high, at 22 percent, and half the Palestinian

Israel's foreign ministry spokesman, Mark Regev, said the auto-matic tax payments to the authority would probably stop until the completion of a policy review ordered by interim Prime Minister Ehud Palestinian Economy Minister

Mazen Sonnoqrot decried what he called "an irresponsible and grave decision" and said it would have "negative economic and social consequences for the Palestinians". Masri accused Israel of "trying to

steal Palestinian money"

Fatah leaders have so far rejected joining any coalition with Hamas, whose anti-corruption platform, charity network and strong resis-tance to Israel since the Palestinian uprising began in 2000 propelled it

Saeed Seyam, a senior Hamas leader, said the group still hoped Fatah would agree to join a governnent with Hamas But if they do not, then that is

Patt if they do not, then that is their own business," he said. "The Palestinian area is crowded with experts and qualified people."

Abbas plans to meet Hamas leaders in Gaza within the next two weeks, his chief of staff said, denying an Israeli telepician moves the area. an Israeli television report the presi-dent would hold talks with Hamas

# EC now to draft

politburo chief Khaled Meshaal in Cairo in the next two days.

FROM PAGE 1

response to two writ petitions on January 4 asked the EC to revise the existing list. But the EC Secretariat contin-

ued the work, ignoring the court

orders. The court also asked the commission to call immediately a meeting. But the CEC convened the meeting on January 19 after appointment of two new election commissioners. At the meeting the

EC decided to file the appeal against the HC's directives. Counsel for the EC Khondakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star on Monday that the appeal would be filed on

Wednesday. Due to controversy and uncertainty stemming from legal battles, the field level work continues at a very slow pace. A good number of eminent persons along with others have yet to be on the list of prospective voters. Even the CEC himself did not get listed as a voter within

# Iran threatens

A joint statement issued after a late-night meeting in London of the foreign ministers of the big five plus Germany and the European Union urged Iran to restore a moratorium on all uranium enrichment-related

program is purely peaceful, announced this month it was resuming nuclear research which had been suspended for 2-1/2 years. It removed U.N. seals on equipment at its Natanz plant on January 9, but diplomats said there was no sign it had begun uranium enrichment

Russia and China had resisted pressure from the United States and its European allies for swift recourse to the Security Council, which has the power to impose sanctions.

The government should take to solve the crisis, Larijani told state television. Russia had argued for the IAFA

a formal referral.

However, the White House said it Council.

expected the IAEA to refer the Iranian nuclear dossier to the coun-

cil this week. "The IAEA board will be meeting on Thursday and we expect the board to refer the matter to the Security Council at that point," White House spokesman Scott

Council, said his country would respond if it was subjected to severe international pressure. "If these countries use all their

means ... to put pressure on Iran, Iran will use its capacity in the agency quoted him as saying.

diplomats say Iran, with its links to Islamist parties and militants, has the means to create trouble for the West in Iraq, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and else-

Lavrov said that although diplomatic pressure on Iran was increasing, the latest decision did not sideline the IAEA in favor of the Security

# restart train link

Pakistan and India yesterday signed

between the nuclear-armed rivals. The leaders of Pakistan and India agreed to reopen the rail link -- which was severed during a 1965 war between the countries -- in New Delhi in April 2005. Since then, officials from the two sides have met several times to fron out the details.

The "Thar Express," named after

# FROM PAGE 1 district Saiful Islam Nilu and its

could never take place with the voter list that is currently being prepared by the Election

power immediately." She said the Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz is suffering

not identify. The alliance government has been playing games with the people regarding the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC), she said. "The BNP-Jamaat men will be found guilty of corruption if the commis-

alliance government, she said. Hasina urged the people who live in villages to be united to launch movements in every village for electricity and to protest the killing of ten at Kansat in Chapainawabganj. She

quate electricity supply.

She also said the coalition govtion to fabricate people's mandate

FROM PAGE 16 eastern Punjab province, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, who said: "Let there be no misunderstanding on this issue. The assemblies will elect him president for a second term as he has taken the correct decisions in the interests of the

president after the general elec-Whether the general elections were held in 2007 or 2008 depended on the political situation, he said in an address to a public gathering after laying the

ing justice and uninterrupted power supply at cheaper rates. withdrawal of the cases filed cians to ask the President to retain against power subscribers association leaders and decided to file a through referendum as President case against the district and police administration for the police

tration to form a medical board to investigate if the arrested leaders were tortured inside the jail. ing of the District Bar Association held with its President Ahmadullah Chowdhury in the chair.

"They are not joining parliament,

aspirations of the people.

On the opposition's reform pro-posals about caretaker government

tioning impartially.
"If people do not want, the care-

while in power.

Referring to the last elections,
Khaleda said they (AL) had appointed
their own people as the chief election
commissioner and other election

completed in two years.

Mahmoodur Rahman admitted the flight disarray, attributing it to shortage of aircraft and ageing of Biman officials however could not explain why Biman is operating so many domestic and interna tional flights at the expense of taxpayers' money. With only 13 aircraft in its fleet, Biman is still showing the luxury of operating Dhaka-New York flight twice a

week, incurring a loss of Tk 70 lakh

national airlines had put forward a

Mahmoodur Rahman said the

proposal to the government months ago for procuring 10 aircraft with no response as yet. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on several occasions stressed bringing management discipline in the overstaffed Biman first. DC-10s are now used 12 hours a day on an average and Airbus A310-300s about 11 hours. Such high

# utilisation is impeding proper maintenance, resulting in frequent technical faults and flight disrup-tions and schedule irregularities, sources pointed out.

B Chy, Dr Kamal FROM PAGE 16 and elections from terrorism and the accountability of political leaders and government officials and to give full independence to

Anti-corruption Commission

Oikya Mancha President Kamal

Hossain called upon BDB leaders and workers to approach general people with the manifesto and unite them to bring a meaningful change in the country's politics. Highlighting the people's demand for EC reforms, Kamal Hossain said the EC can not

is very clear the EC is running as per directions of the government.
"People will not be able to play the role as the owners of the country by voting unless the EC is reformed," he added. Kamal also stressed the need for

arrange free and fare elections as it

try's politicians for which general people strongly demanded in the manifesto. "The general people want to know how the political leaders have become owners of private TV

channels overnight," he said.

revealing the incomes of the coun-

"The government talks about democracy but its autocratic character is revealed," he observed. For the first time in the country, Oikya Mancha and BDB have made a manifesto based completely on general people's opinion, BDB President Badruddoza Chowdhury

said.
"For preparing our election."

the mass-manifesto where the

general people's expectation to the political leaders has clearly reflected," he added. BDB Secretary General Abdul Mannan read out the manifesto in the meeting. Presided over by former whip Abdur Rouf the meet ing was also addressed by BDB leaders Mahi B Chowdhury MP and

Firoz M Hassan.

Galib cases

FROM PAGE 16 Laxmikhola School ground in Shahjahanpur upazila of the dis-trict on January 14 last year that left one rickshaw-puller killed and more than 50 others injured.

The other was filed in connec-

tion with the seizure of huge explo-

sives from the house of Zoynal

Sarkar at Chaksodu village under

Gabtoli upazila of the same district on January 16 last year. The four other accused in the cases are Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh's spiritual leader Shaikh Abdur Rahman, Zoynal Sarkar, his wife Monwara, and Shafiqullah.

FROM PAGE 16 Hamas is committed to Israel's

Israel has called for a boycott of any Palestinian government that includes Hamas, and said it expected

Palestinian Authority each month.

alty, Palestinian witnesses said. After the incident, Nafez Azzam, an Islamic Jihad leader, called for

trying to broker Middle East peace --

Putin said on Tuesday the world should not cut off funding to the Palestinians after Hamas's victory. Hamas spokesman Mushir al-Masri called on other Quartet mem-bers to follow Russia's lead and "not to punish the Palestinian people for practising their democratic choice"

The Palestinian Authority faces a

Iran, which says its nuclear

"END OF DIPLOMACY"

Involving the Security Council would mean "the end of diplomacy"

Council about Iran's case, avoiding

### population lives in poverty. In Gaza, many Palestinians live on an average the first deadline

ingspotchecks.

activity, under IAEA supervision.

simply to inform the Security

McClellan said. Larijani, who is secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security

> region," the semi-official ISNA news It was not clear what regional capacities he meant. Analysts and

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei

a beginning of an orchestrated

tinue the war on terror.