# Privatisation drive flounders due to rising buyer apathy

Country's privatisation programme floundered during the last one year due to rising buyer's apathy. triggered pri-marily by trade liberalisation at home, according to an assessment by the Privatisation Board, reports UNB.

During the period, bidders of two big public enterprises have withdrawn halfway through negotiation while buyers of two other enterprises stopped payment even risking their bid money.

Shyampur Sugar Mills and Metalex which were processed for final approval had to be dropped as bidders subsequently lost their interest and took back their bid money with government permission.

In another manifestation of dwindling interest of private entrepreneurs to public enterprises, the authorities had to cancel Letter of Intent (LOI) for the sale of Bangladesh Textile Mills and Lira Industrial

Enterprises following failure by the buyers to pay dues.

Dilly-dally by the buyers in completing formalities also forced the government to hold up transfer of Ujala Match Fac-Series of tenders and re-

tenders for selling public sector jute mills also received poor response. The lone achievement of the privatisation programme in

last one year was that the buyer of the Barisal Textile Mill got possession of the unit. The Privatisation Board, in its assessment, attributed the buyers' indifference to trade liberalisation which left most of the domestic market-ori-

The Board observed that most of the State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), listed for privatisation, were domesticmarket oriented, money losers

goods from Bangladesh to

mend the present trade imbal-

tries since the balance of trade

The Ambassador said his

is highly in favour of Indonesia.

government was willing to

purchase more goods from

Bangladesh and disclosed

Jakarta's plan for buying

70,000 tons of Bangladeshi

market rate of raw jute is dirs

to further enhance cooperation

in all possible fields between

the two countries," the envoy

retary to the Chief Adviser, was

present during the meeting.

Syed Ahmed, Principal Sec-

412 dollar per metric ton.

told the CA.

The current international

"Indonesia would do its best

ance between the two coun

ented industries vulnerable to

highly competitive interna-

tional production.

and having old dilapidated ma-chinery, and thus keeping potential buyers suspicious. Scarce domestic capital has

also been pointed out as a reason of poor buyer's response. The beleaguered Privatisation Board, which itself drew severe criticism for failing to go ahead with the programme. has undertaken a review of the privatisation policy on the basis of experiences it gained so

According to insiders, the Board is considering to terminate the contract with the existing consultants and replace them with 'suitable' ones.

To infuse vigour into the privatisation efforts, the Board is also trying for closer collaboration between itself and different ministries having SOEs as privatisation candidates.

It requested the ministries to set up individual privatisation cell to facilitate cooperation. Eight ministries have so far set up such cells.

Jatiya Party parliamentary board began interviewing party nomination seekers at the Banani office of the party yesterday. - Star photo

Electioneering wave in

favour of BNP: Khaleda

BNP chairperson and

former prime minister Begum

politics of hartals, aborodhs

sentatives from Sylhet Division

at the BNP office at Kakrail,

Begum Zia said that this deci-

sion of the people of

Bangladesh would set the most

notable trend in the upcoming

nior citizens as well as the

brave youths would be with

BNP together in the party's

forward journey to win the

electioneering wave in favour

of BNP across the country has

created new hopes

Begum Zia said that the

The BNP chairperson said

that none of those who in re-

cent times took non-coopera-

tion and aborodh programmes

to cripple the Bangladesh

economy would be able to ab-

sorve themselves from the re-

sponsibility of harming the

Begum Zia said that the se-

elections.

new century.

Bangladesh

Addressing the party repre-

and destruction, reports BSS.

# Indonesia will buy 70000 tons jute

Indonesia will purchase 70 thousand tons of jute from Bangladesh in a bid to strike a balance in the bilateral trade. reports UNB.

The offer came from indonesian Ambassador Hadi Ahmad Wayarabi Alhadar when he made a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman at his office yesterday morning.

During discussion, the Chief Adviser requested the Indonesian government to buy more

## Third phase of India's polls

NEW DELHI, May 6: The third phase of India's Lok for 183 constituencies in 12 the face of threats of poll boyof Tripura, Nagaland, and the troubled state of Jammu and

their lives in the pre-poll violence during the last three days, reports said. Of those killed, ten were in West Bengal

"Six lakh strong security forces took their position in 183 Lok Sabha constituencies, spread over 12 states involved in tomorrow's elections and a total of three lakh potential trouble mongers have been taken into preventive custody.

#### 2 killed in road accidents

From Our Correspondent Two persons including a minor boy were killed in road accidents in Sylhet and

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet reports: An 8-year old boy was crushed to death by a speeding Motorcycle on Sylhet-Tamabil Road Sunday afternoon.

Arifur Rahman, son of Abul Hashim, met the tragic end of his life while crossing the road at Islampur.

The motorcylist managed to escape.

UNB adds: A middle aged woman was killed when a pick-up van hit her on the Sunamganj-Sylhet highway at Ahsanmara in Sadar thana yes-

The victim was identified as Asia Begum.

Police seized the vehicle but the driver fled the scene. A case was filed with Sunamganj

In another incident, an old man, Abdus Shahid, was critically injured when a bus hit him on the highway near Jaykalash yesterday afternoon. He was admitted to Sadar hos-

### 2 more join AL

Two more retired army officers joined the Awami League expressing their allegiance to the leadership of AL chief Sheikh Hasina, reports UNB. Maj (retd) Mohammad

Sabet Ali Mia and Maj (retd) SM Mohidul Islam joined the Awami League at the residence of Hasina yesterday in presence of AL senior presidfum member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin.

### BSF kidnaps 2

From Page 1

Sukkur Ali, 30, a farmer who was grazing his cow at a place near the 'No Man's land' adjacent to the border pilar Number 1281.

Immediately, the matter was brought to the notice of the BDR at Sripur. The BDR lodged a protest with the BSF and asked them to hand over the kidnapped Bangladeshis.

But there has been no response from the Indian side, an official source said.

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#### List of CPB candidates

constituencies 1. Dhaka-4 Shahidullah Ch

recovery of illegal arms ngpur-2 Shah Md. Abdul Latif Master 20. Kurigram-2 Nurun The Bangladesh Nationalist nabi Babu 21. Gaibandha-1 Party (BNP) has demanded full Nur-e-Alam Manik 22. Gai recovery of all illegal arms, but bandha-2 Advocate Shahdat resented what it called the ha-Hossain Laku 23. Bagerhatrassment of its leaders and Mrinmay Mandol 24. Khulna-6 Principal Md. Rashiduzzaman workers in the name of arms Patuakhali-4 Mohammad recovery', reports UNB. Motaleb 26. Kishorgani-2 Mos-A party spokesman, retafa Kamal Nandu 27. Ki sponding to the request by shorganj-3 Md. Sirajul Islam Chief Election Commissioner Siraj 28. Kishorganj-5 Nirmal for comments on arms-hold-Chandra Saha Rov 29. Maers, told newsmen yesterday

activist of BNP possess any illegal arms. "And we do not have any connection with any such arms-holders," BNP office secretary Nazrul Islam Khan said. "BNP announces clearly that the party does not believe in

that no leader or worker or

the politics of arms. He said BNP is doing politics with unshakeable faith in almighty Allah and also with confidence on the support and strength of the people.

#### AL may have instigated my arrest: Maj Akhteruzzaman

By Staff Correspondent

Major (retd) Akhteruzza man, a former BNP member of parliament, who was released on bail Sunday from Kishoreganj jail, insinuated here yesterday that the Awami League was behind his arrest.

Akhteruzzaman was arrested at Kotiyadi, Kishoreganj, on May 1 following a clash between police and local BNP activists over detention of a Jubo Dal leader there.

At a press conference at the Jatiyo Press Club, expressed his suspicion that the AL had instigated his arrest for refusal to join the party.

"I was approached by the AL to join the party, as they want to ensure all the seats from Kishoreganj for themselves. But I refused to switch parties. I clearly told the person who approached me that I would stay with BNP, even if I don't get nominated this time. Needless to say, they weren't too happy with my reply," he

When asked if the AL leadership was directly involved in his arrest. Akhteruzzaman said, "I don't believe they had any direct hand in the matter. adding that certain over-zeal-

ous officials were responsible. He also made an urgent appeal to the Chief Adviser of the caretaker government and the Chief Election Commissioner to bar all the police and administrative officials of the area involved in his case from

performing election duty. "I will be contesting the polls as a BNP candidate. For ensuring free and fair election. those officials, whose neutrality are in doubt, should be prevented from doing election work, as they are likely to influence election commission officials and members of security forces conducting the elections," Akhteruzzaman claimed.

By Staff Correspondent

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday released names of 36 candidates who would contest in the June 12 election.

Following are the candi dates and their respective

owdhury 2. Jamalpur 2 Manjurul Ahsan Khan 3. Khulna-1 Prof Achintya Biswas 4. Net rokona-1 Dr. Dibalok Singha 5 Thakurgaon-1 Principal Syed Merazul Hossain 6. Dinajpur-1 Altaf Hossain 7. Jaipurhat-Md. Badiuzzaman 8. Kushtia-4 Advocate Nurul Islam Dulal 9 Jhalakathi-2 Abdul Mannan 10. Barguna-1 Abdul Halim 11. Sunamganj-2 Probhangshu Chowdhury 12. Bakerganj-3 Advocate Nazmul Ahsan Mizan 13. Panchagar-2 Prof Selimuddin Thakurgaon-2 Muhsin Sar kar 15. Thakurgaon-3 Mansurul Alam 16. Sirajganj-2 Islam Hossain 17. Nilfamari-3 Prof. Zahid Ali 18. Lalmonirhat-3 Advocate Sirajul Islam. 19. Ra

nikganj-1 Abdul Hakim Master

30. Manikganj-2 Abdul Mannan

Manikgani-3 Abu Bakar

Siddik Tulu 32. Manikgani-4

Kismat Ali 33. Gazipur-4 Md

Altaf Hossain 34 Faridpur-1

Abdul Malek Sikder 35. Sha-

riyatpur-3 Advocate Moslem

Khan 36. Moulavibazar-2 Kha-

CPB manifesto

From Page 1

would represent people at the

Parliament on the basis of total

percentage of vote bagged by

each party instead of the pre-

sent system where MPs are

check political corruption.

floor crossing and flow of black

money in elections," Mujahidul

true industrialists and en-

trepreneurs while it plans to

strengthen the economy by

cutting down import of luxury

items, maintaining a frugal

economic policy and creating

tion, the party plans for pub-

lishing regularly the income

and expenditure of all high of-

ficials and political leaders, he

VCs assure help

to recover arms

from campus

ladesh Biswabidyalaya Parishad

(Association of Universities of

Bangladesh) comprising the

Vice Chancellors called on

Chief Adviser Muhammad Ha-

bibur Rahman at his office

lating to law and order situa-

tion, academic and adminis-

trative problems of the univer-

The Vice-Chancellors as-

sured their allout cooperation

to the government in the re-

covery of illegal arms from the

campus. They said the law en-

forcing agencies could act at

BUET Vice-Chancellor Prof M

Shahjahan, Jahargirnagar Uni-

versity VC Prof Amirul Islam

Chowdhury, Rajshahi Univer-

sity VC Prof Muhammad Yusuf

Ali. Bangladesh Agricultural

University VC Prof Shah Mo-

hammad Faruq, Chittagong

University VC Prof Rafigul

Islam Chowdhury, Islami Uni-

versity VC Prof Mohammad

Inam-Ul-Huq. Shahjalal Uni-

versity of Science & Techno-

logy VC Prof Syed Mohibuddin

Ahmad, Khulna University VC

Prof Golam Ali Fakir, Bang-

ladesh Open University VC

Prof M Shamsher Ali and Prof

SM Saifuddin, Member-Secre-

th and Sports, and Cultural

Affairs Prof M Shamsul Huq.

Principal Secretary to the

Chief Adviser Syed Ahmed and

Home Secretary Syed Rezaul

Hayat were present in the

Adviser for Education, You-

tary of the Association.

meeting.

The delegation comprised

any time for the purpose.

They discussed matters re-

yesterday, reports UNB.

A delegation of the Bang-

In order to check corrup-

"This would, in the future,

The party would encourage

elected individually.

Islam Selim said.

new jobs, he added.

ndker Lutfar Rahman.

Begum Zia said that those who in recent years called 170 hartals and took programmes of aborodh were not at all alert that because of such destruc-

country and the nation.

tive programmes thousands of people would be deprived of Khaleda Zia yesterday said that their sources of earnings and the people of Banlgadesh have be thrown into penury. decided to keep away from the

She said that the people of Bangladesh have opted for keeping a safe distance from such politics of destruction.

Begum Zia said that those who after being elected by the people opt to resign from Parliament for engaging in de structive politics instead of working for their electorates were bound to face the real crisis in their respective constituencies

She said that ever since the Liberation War, the founders and the workers of BNP faced all odds and challenges along with the people of Bangladesh

to clinch victory She said that each of the victories was the victories of the people of Bangladesh. She said that BNP never realised its interests by putting the people into difficulties and dangers.

Rather, she said, BNP got into difficulties to save the people of Bangladesh from

Begum Zia said that the people of Bangladesh know to forge ahead and achieve unthinkable progress having faith in the future of



Wahidul Huq presenting a solo performance of Tagore songs and recitation of poetry at a Rabindra Jayanti function organised by Kanthashilon at the British Council auditorium in the city yesterday. - Star photo

# All that glitters

From Page 1

We do not need to be told how to do politics or run our party. We know what we are doing." However there is one area where our warning will have to be heeded otherwise parties will find themselves in a most disadvantageous political corner. We are referring to the Election Commission's decision not to permit any bank loan defaulter from participating in the coming election. Though this provision existed before, but it was not applied. This time the EC is learnt to be determined to put its foot down on this issue.

We have learnt that the full list of bank loan defaulters are now ready and available with the appropriate governmental offices, and can be consulted by the political parties. In fact the EC is taking our advertisements in the daily papers warning political parties not to nominate people who are listed as bank loan defaulters.

We fear that in their obsession to find 'winners' political parties may be overlooking the possibility that person or

persons they could be nominating may end up being disqualified by the EC on the ground of being a bank defaulter. We can imagine an eventuality when a party may find one, two or even dozens of its candidates being declared disqualified giving an unexpected edge to its opponents. At that stage it would too late for the party to replace its candidates. So the time to check on

this matter is now. Parties are in the process of finalising their nominees. The process is in its final stage, but is yet to be completed. Therefore we urge all political parties to take note of the EC's warning and act accordingly. The political parties should not put themselves in a situation where they will have to clamour for a relaxation of this rule. This will greatly erode the image of those political parties as being incapable of giving a clean and honest government. A careful choice of candidates at this stage will prevent all that embarrassment and political tur-

From Page 1 for nominations.

JP interview

During the interview. Yousuf Hossain Humayun represented Naziur Rahman Manju, while GM Kader represented jailed JP chairman HM Ershad as members of the Parliamentary Board.

UNB adds: Five forms were submitted on behalf of HM Ershad and three for his wife Begum Rausan Ershad, a presidium member

JP acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju submitted one form each, party sources said.

### 5 inter-dist dacoits held in city

By Staff Correspondent

The Detective Branch dur ing raids in Gulshan and Cantonment thana areas arrested five members of a gang of inter-district dacoits yesterday.

During the eight-hour raid from 4 am, the police also seized a stolen microbus and recovered some gold ornaments from them. The gang was involved in lifting motor bikes and vehicles in the Dhaka Metropolitan and adjoining areas for a long time. police sources said.

The arrested persons were identified as Tofael Ahmad alias Kozol, Shamsul Huq, Sharif Hossain, Shahid and Sukkur

Meanwhile. Motijheel poher on Sunday night recovered electronic goods and other items worth about Tk three lakh. One person was also ar-

The recovered goods include VCRs, wrist watches. cookers, telephone sets, toasters and perfumes, police said.

### WP finalises first list of candidates

The Central Election Committee of Workers Party at a meeting yesterday finalised the first list of its 47 candidates. reports UNB. The meeting, presided over

by the party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon, decided to finalise the second list of it's candidates on Wednesday. The first list is as follows:

Barisal-2 Rashed Khan Menon, Sirajganj-6 Abdul Matin. Narail-2 Birnal Biswas, Dhaka-6 Abul Bashar, Rajshahi-2 Fazle Hossain Badsha, Chuadanga-2 Anisur Rahman Mallik, Dhaka-2 Khondaker Ali Abbas, Khulna-5 Hafizur Rahman, Jhenidah-4 Abdus Salam, Gaibandha-5 Aminul Islam Golap, Nilphamari-2 Prof Nur Mohammad and Natore-1 Ansar Ali Dulal. Jessore-6 Advocate Abu Ba-

kar Siddique, Bagerhat-3 Advocate Mohiuddin Ahmed, Kishoreganj-6 Prof Yakub Ali, Tangail-5 Wahiduzzaman Mati. Mymensingh-5 Abdul Hye Master, Dhaka-1 Karam Ali, Narshingdi-4 Shamsuzzaman Milon, Rajbari-1 Prof Manzurul Alam Dulal, Chuadanga-1 Mokhlesur Rahman, Dhaka-11 Kamrul Ahsan, Gopalganj-2 Sheikh Mohammad Ilias and Dinajpur 6- Suvash Mondal

Bogra-5 Master Mozahar Ali, Natore-2 Advocate Ashraful Alam Dulal, Tangail-4 Hazera Sultana, Brahmanbaria-4 Aksir M Chowdhury, Sylhet-3 Shafiq Ahmed, Rajbari-2 Abdul Kyum Khan, Thakurgaon-3 Sorhab Hossain, Dinajpur-5 Abdul Majid. Rangpur-1 Chand Miah, Rangpur-4 Nazrul Islam Hakkani, Gaibandha-1 Sadequl Islam Dulal and Pabna-3 Ataur Rahman Rana.

Jenaidah-1 Rabiul Islam Khokon, Jessore-3 Harunur Rashid, Satkhira-2 Keshob Chandra Samaddar, Sunamgonj-1 Tarek-Al-Moyeen, Sylhet-6 Nesar Ahmed Kaiser. Brahmanbaria-2 Shahriar Mohammad Feroz. Noakhali-6 Anwar Hossain, Chittagong-2 ATM Nizamuddin, Cox's Bazar-1 Haji Bashirul Alam, Jessore-4 Zakir Hossain Hobi and Tangail-7 Golam Nazab Chowdhury Paoer.

A briefing session of the WP candidates will be held on Wednesday at its central office at 10 am where the party's election manifesto and strategy will be discussed.

All candidates are requested to attend the session in due time with two copies of their photographs and bio-

# The Midnight Eile

Security Council maintains sanctions against Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, May 6: The UN Security Council decided to maintain international sanctions against Iraq today for failing to comply with UN resolutions in place for almost six years. diplomats said, reports AFP.

# Ensure fair voting

From Page 1 eral of police metropolitan police commissioners. DIGs. DCs, deputy election commissioners and officials of the Election Commission, participated in the day-long work-

Election commissioners Abidur Rahman and Moshtague Ahmed Chowdhury, election commission secretary Faizur Razzak, home secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, Director General of the BDR, Major General Ejaz Ahmed Chowdhury, Director General of Ansars and VDP. Major General Muhammad Anwarul Kabir Talukdar, Inspector General of Police M Azizul Huq. Khulna divisional commissioner Yahya Chowdhury. DMP commissioner Abdus Salam, and DIG, Khulna. Ashraful Huda spoke on the occasion, besides, six deputy commissioners and superintendents of police addressed the inaugural session.

The nation is waiting to see their elected representatives through a fair voting, and for this everybody has a role to play. Abu Hena further said giving some specific directives to ensure a free and fair voting on June 12.

For this, he emphasised coordination of all electoral procedures.

The CEC asked the top district officials to contact and discuss with social and opinion leaders, including UP chairmen and members, means of ensuring a peaceful atmosphere for fair polls. He also advised the DCs and SPs to maintain regular contact with the local leaders

He also asked the DCs, who are also Returning Officers in their respective districts, to set up vote centres where people can easily cast their Abu Hena gave a stun direc-

tive to the law-enforcers to play a bold role in arresting terrorists irrespective of party affiliation and to recover illegal In this regard, the CEC re iterated his call for the politi-

cal parties to disown the ter rorists. "Terrorists do not have any political role," he said. Abu Hena also asked the DCs and SPs to motivate the local political leaders and

taneously follow the election code of conduct. He directed them to help all foreign and local election observers as per the rule.

candidates so that they spon-

"My anxiety is now gone. now I feel very much inspired," the CEC told the district officials while concluding the first session of the daylong workshop after hearing some select officials.

"I will do my best and I also hope that everybody will do so," he further said, adding good work will be recognised and nobody will be victimised for their legal duties.

In the second session, the Returning Officers and the Election Commission officials discussed the election process. EC Secretary Faizur Razzaque presided over the session which was also addressed by Joint Secretary of the EC MA Mannan.

Briefing newsmen in the EC conference room, Election

#### Bangladeshi dies in road mishap in Saudi Arabia

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, May 6: A Bang-ladeshi national, Abdullah alias Babul of Jaintapur thana was killed in a road accident in Saudi Arabia on April 27 last, according to a message received yesterday over tele-

Abdullah, 25, son of the late Shamsul Haque of village Satar Khan went to Saudi Arabia on January 16 this year on a Free

He met the tragic end of his life while going to Yanboo from Jeddah in a car with two companions, one Indian and the other Saudi.

#### Imports rise

From Page 1 at end-February

phone.

In February alone, L/Cs worth Tk 526.01 crore were opened for textile fabrics and accessories for garments followed by petroleum products (Tk 145.07 crores) and rice (Tk 140.65 crore).

#### BNP list From Page 1

Hossain Khoka, Nazmul Huda, Brig (retd) Hannan Shah.

Keramat Ali, Nurul Islam Moni, Nasim Biswas, Altaf Hossain, Ilias Ali and Haris Choudhury. Requests are still being made to BNP chairperson and former prime minister Begum

Khaleda Zia to contest the coming polls from different seats, Nazrul Islam Khan told the newsmen. He said no final decision was taken as yet regarding the seats the party chief would contest from.

Khaleda Zia is expected to contest the polls from five seats.

Interviews of the applicants from Rajshahi and Khulna divi sions is scheduled to start at 9.30 am today at the party's Kakrail election office.

Commissioner Abidur Rahmar later said participants of the workshop emphasised giving the election a festive look. "If possible, complete peace would be ensured on the polls

According to him, the participants of the workshop also made some identical proposals to ensure a free, fair, impartial and neutral election.

Responding to a call from Home Secretary Rezaul Hayat the DCs. SPs and other officials related to election activities also expressed their firm resolve to hold the June 12 election neutrally.

We will do our best to offer the people a government of the people," they echoed Deputy Commissioner who addressed the inaugural session.

One of the participants proposed prohibition of movement of all motorised vehicles: including motorbikes. microbuses and jeeps, on the election day to control the gambol of hoodlums. 'The EC is considering the matter. said Abidur Rahman

Another participant made a proposal for issuing an order for submitting the licensed arms to respective thanas on the eve of election. Decision about the proposal, according to Abidur Rahman, will be taken later The workshop emphasised

proper training of election of ficials. The EC will organise training programme from thana to central level. Abidur Rahman informed the reporters. Replying to a question. Abidur Rahman said no DC or

SP complained that their activities were being hampered by any quarters. Asked how he depends on the district officials who also made similar commitment before the controversial February 15 election, the EC said they

had played a neutral role and

that is why the election was not acceptable. He told the newsmen that law and order situation had improved considerably, and we can hope for a free and fair

#### Election fever From Page 1

voting on June 12."

contemplating fielding three new candidates who are exgovernment officials, including Commodore S Z Nizam for Chittagong-2 (Sitakundu) constituency, ex-DMP commissioner and Additional IG Nasrullah Khan for Chittagong-11 (Patiya) and ex-general manager of Meghna Petroleum Ltd and ex DUCSU VP Badrul Alam, the younger brother of former secretary Mahbubul Alam Chashi, for Chittagong-6

(Raozan), party sources said Commodore Nizam, a former commander of the Chittagong naval base, lost his job after the Bandortila tragedy in which navy personnel clashed with members of the public.

BNP has already brought in

some new faces here from the business community who were also elected in the February 15 parliamentary polls. They are expected to be nominated again, party sources said. The new faces are : Monzur Morshed Khan for Chittagong-10 (Chandgao-Boalkali), Sarwar

Jamal Nizam, president of Chi-

ttagong Chamber of Commerce

and Industry, for Chittagong-

12 (Anwara) and Jafrul Islam

Chowdhury, senior vice-president of CCC&I, for Chittagong-15 (Banskali). BNP is reportedly taking back those leaders here who were expelled during the February 15 elections for their opposition to party nominees,

## Ershad's appeal

sources said.

From Page 1 party heard one can be disposed of within this month and as such the question of granting bail to the appellant till disposal of the appeal does not arise at all.

Earlier Ershad had filed an application for quashing the charges of accumulating wealth beyond known source of income brought in connection with the funding of the construction of Janata Tower in the capital before a High Court division bench but the application was rejected on September 23, 1992.

Against the High Court division verdict he filed leave to appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court but it was rejected by the Appellate Division upholding the high court division verdict on November 26, 1992. Ershad and his wife Begum

Rowshan Ershad and 17 other co-accused including former minister MA Satter and exchairman of Rajuk Mohammad Rahmatullah were found guilty under the Prevention of Corruption Act and sentenced to seven years simple imprisonment each for abuse of power and corruption Special Judge Ansaruddin

on June 7, 1993 and also ordered confiscation of the property of Janata Publishers including the 15-storied Janata Tower building at Kawranbazar Advocate Khondker Mahbub

Sikder passed the judgement

Hossain, Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Advocate Golam Kibria appeared for the appel-

#### Sabha (Parliament) elections BNP demands full states of the 545-member house will be held tomorrow in cott by militant organisations Kashmir, reports BSS. At least thirty people lost