## Khaleda's challenge to opponents

## None can prove theft of relief during BNP rule

SYLHET, June 3: Former Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today threw a challenge to her political opponents saying that nobody could prove that her government had misappropriated a single drop of relief materials, reports UNB.

She said that the BNP, during its five-year rule, shattered had tried to consolidate the country's economy by utilising domestic resources, combatting a series of natural disas-

Addressing a mammoth election projection meeting at the Registry Maidan here she said, her government successfully faced the situation without any foreign assistance "We needed foreign assistance only in 1991 when BNP just came to power after nine years of autocratic rule.

Our Staff Correspondent reports: Begum Zia said, if voted to power the BNP will establish local bodies like Thana Development Council and Zila Parishad to involve the local people in development activities and other decision making matters. Khaleda Zia also announced that, if voted to power this time, BNP would introduce a special pension scheme for the elderly people.

The BNP chairperson introduced former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, Ilyas Ali, Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury, Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Dr Syed Mokbul Hossain, all party nominees for the six constituencies in the district. Saifur Rahman is contesting

in Sylhet-1 (Sadar and Companyganj thanas). Sylhet-4 Daintapur and Gowainghat thanas) and Moulvibazar-3 (Moulvibazar sadar and Rajnagarl seats.

Khaleda Zia said, the ageold demand of the people of greater Sylhet was met by the BNP government through for-

mation of Sylhet division. The meeting was also addressed, by among others. Ehsanul Kabir, Lokman Hossain Bhuivan, Kamruzzaman Ratan, Habibur Rahman Habib. Shamsunnahar Khwaja Ahsanullah, Salehuzzaman Masum, llius Ali, Quaiyum Chowdhury, Mominur Rashid Mamun and Badruzzaman Salim.

During her whirlwind electioneering, Begum Zia also addressed a series of public meetings and wayside gather ings in different parts of Sylhet. Moulvibazar and Habigani districts

Our correspondent reports from Moulvibazar adds: Addressing a huge public meeting at noon at the Moulvibazar Government High School ground, Begum Zia said that the June 12 election was crucial for the country. 'If you make any mistake the nation will have to pay heavily in the future", she said

She claimed that if voted to power again, the BNP government will be able to run the country without any foreign

Begum Zia said BNP nominee in Moulvibazar-3 seat M Saifur Rahman was finance minister for the longest period. He had introduced a welfare oriented economic plan for the country. The World Bank, IMF and other international bodies also honoured Saifur Rahman for his capability, she said.

The BNP chairperson also introduced her party candidates Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury (M. Bazar-1) and Md Maksud Shaheen (M Bazar-2).

was also killed in the incident

of December 6 last year had

reported quoting two victims

of the incident that they felt

liquid substance in their bod-

was put on fire by the gang to

secure the release of one of

IO said that the gang was very

notorious and known in the

area for their criminal activi-

Police officials, however

said that the report of the

forensic department was not

helpful in finding any clue to

the incident. The report, sub-

mitted to police in February

could not identify the cause of

partment had told the Daily

Star earlier that it was not possible to find evidence in

such incidents where "high

speed water" was used to put

blown off due to the internal

pressure when the bus was set

ablaze," pointed out an expert,

adding "the cause of fire could

be due to existence of

petroleum either in liquid

possibility of that the fire was

caused due to burst of its

to death

By DMCH Correspondent

allegedly by his mother at

Monipuripara in the city yes-

aged about 30, also reportedly

tried to commit suicide by hit

ting her head against a wall

after she new that her husband

had married another woman,

of the two-year-old child from

a lane at Monipuripara and

found the mother tied with an

electric pole yesterday after-

noon. It was learnt that local

people assaulted the woman

Tejgaon police rescued the

woman and sent her to the

Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

tal (DMCH) in a critical condi-

tion. She was under treatment

at the hospital till last night.

The body of the child was sent

to the DMCH morgue for au-

the incident and trying to get

Hasina's next

campaign tour

Sheikh Hasina as part of her

hectic electioneering tour will

visit greater Comilla and Sylhet

districts on June 7 and 8, re-

Awami League President

the identity of the woman.

Police were investigating

for killing the child.

Police recovered the body

police said quoting locals.

A baby was beaten to death

The unidentified mother

He, however, ruled out the

form or in gaseous form.

Baby beaten

"The roof of the bus was

out the fire.

Sources in the forensic de-

Without giving details, the

their accomplices from jail."

Hospital.

The Daily Star, in its issue

### BNP tells press Over 100 workers killed during caretaker rule

Over 100 BNP workers were killed by terrorists at different parts of the country till Sunday after the establishment of the caretaker government BNP spokesman Anwar Zahid said yesterday, reports BSS.

Briefing the newsmen, Za hid, member of BNP election coordination committee said a BNP worker was also killed in Sandwip on Sunday Anwar Zahid alleged that

the administration was working against the BNP and police was behaving as a "tips group" He said that police had beaten severely and teargassed the workers of BNP in Mirpur thana in the capital yesterday and arrested 12 BNP activists

including JCD leader Saidur Rahman Newton. He also al leged that 35 persons were injured during the police action. He demanded immediate release of the arrested BNP activists and removal of officerin-charge of Mirpur thana

Malek and assistant police

commissioner Kohinoor. Referring to killings of BNP workers he said the party had always protested such terrorist actabut did not go for any action ke meetings and processions which could create tension in the minds of the people. He, however, said that a protest meeting organised by Mirpur and Pallabi thana BNP would be held today at 5:00pm

in front of Mirpur stadium. Pointing to the anti-terrorism day to be observed by the Awami League on June 5 the BNP spokesman said this indicates "an ominous sign" and urged the caretaker government to act according "if it is neutral at all."

## C'wealth team to observe polls

A team of 12 Common wealth observers, together with a supporting team from the Commonwealth Secre tariat, will be present in Bangladesh during the parlia mentary elections which is to be held on June 12, reports

According to a press release in Dhaka vesterday the Commonwealth was respond ing to an invitation from the government of Bangladesh for a Commonwealth group to observe the parliamentary elec-

ies before the bus caught fire. A planning mission from The two victims, Nurul the Commonwealth Secretariat Alam and Nuruzzaman, were which visited Bangladesh in fatally injured and had died at May established that there was the Dhaka Medical College widespread support among the major political parties for The investigation officer of Commonwealth presence dur the ease talking to The Daily Star yesterday said "the bus

ing the election. The Commonwealth team for Bangladesh will be led by Tan Sri Dr Mohd Ghazali Shafie, former minister of for eign affairs of Malaysia. The other observers are: Errol W Bethel, parliamentary commissioner, the Bahamas, Justin McClair Daniel chief election officer. St Lucia, Reuben T Kaiulo Mbe, electoral commissioner, Papua New Guinea Hulda Stanley Kibacha MP Tanzania, Ms Alice Killam Electoral officer, Canada, Ms Lindiwe Maseko MP South Africa, Dilan Perera MP Sri Lanka. Johannah-Joy Phumaphi MP. Botswana, Dr Kanwaljin Soin MP Singapore. Lord Waverley, member, House

## CA reviews law & order

of Lords, Britain, and Trevor

Willson, assistant electoral

commissioner, Australia.

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman reviewed the law and order in the country at a meeting with the senior officials of the ministry of Home Affairs at his office in the city vesterday, reports BSS.

The progress of the nationwide illegal arms recovery drive and some recent untoward incidents resulting in killing of some persons figured in the discussion.

From Page

his two day stay he had held

frank discussions with the

President, the Chief Advisor,

the Chief Election Commis-

sioner and the Foreign Secre-

tary. He also stated that he had

met top leaders of four major

that the major parties recog-

nised the need for restraining

their supporters for the na-

From Page 1

Appeal

In a statement last night,

Gen Nasim's mother said her

son was a patriotic freedom

fighter who was conferred

upon he honourific title of Bir

Bikram. Besides, he was

decorated with various awards

for his gallantry in the

twice during the war for which

he was decorated with Red

and Golden Stripe medal. On

the eve of the Liberation he

was seriously hurt and suffered

anguish that her patriotic son

was charged with high treason

and thereby attempt had not

only been made to degrade

him but also to shatter the

pride of his family members

about him. "I refuse to believe

that my son was involved in

any conspiracy against the

interest of the country," she

She noted with deep

grave injury on his leg.

He was gravely injured

He said it was his feeling

parties

injustice.

Liberation War.

said.

## Elect AL to rid country of all ills: Hasina

CHITTAGONG, June 3: President of the Bangladesh Awami League Sheikh Hasina today urged the people to vote for the Awami League in the June 12 polls to help the party rid the country of all ills and meeting venue. irregularities accumulated over

the last 20 years, reports BSS. Sheikh Hasina was addressing a series of large public meetings at several constituencies of Feni, Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts as part of her party's election campaign. She addressed over two dozens of massive public meetings and several wayside meetings from 10 am to 10

"Give us at least one more chance this time by casting your vote for the Awami League candidates who are always your tested friends," she said adding that the boat, the symbol of the Awami League, had earned for the country independence following the 1970 general elections. Addressing a massive public

meeting at "Alankar Cinema Hall square" in the city. Sheikh Hasina said there was a conspiracy now being hatched to foil the coming polls. She said BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia being sure

of her party's total collapse in the coming polls had started giving imbalanced speeches. "She has also taken a killer as her ally," she said when talking about Col (Retd) Abdur Rashid. a self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation Alhai ABM Mahi uddin Chowdhury and other district leaders received the party chief as she arrived the

Addressing a meeting at Boalkhali under Chittagong district. Sheikh Hasina referred to a candidate of BNP and said, this man had always changed his party to save himself. "He used to be a stooge of Ershad and now he is working as the same for Begum Zia. she said.

The Awami League chief in this respect referred to Begum Zia's threats to the officials and employees of the republic and said such threats would not be tolerated

The Awami League chief introduced her party candidates to the jubilant crowds at all the meetings. They were Zainal Abedin Hazari, Engr Mosharraf Hussain, Abul Kashem, Dr Afsarul Amin, Nurul Islam BSC Moslemuddin Ahmad, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Bir Bahadur and Dipankar Talukder.

When Sheikh Hasina was addressing a meeting at Mirsarai, the jubilant crowd cried out in chorus that they would not allow their thana to become a part of Feni. While talk ing to BSS, some people said that BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also a candidate in this constituency un der Chittagong district, de clared that Mirsarai would be integrated into Feni.

## A survey of profiles

## Most candidates belong to higher social strata

By Staff Correspondent

Most of the candidates in the June 12 parliamentary election are from the higher strata of the society, according to a survey of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC)

The PPRC survey of the profiles of candidates in the parliamentary elections found that 70 per cent of the Awami League candidates come from socially better-off groups while the percentage for BNP candi dates is 79 and for Jatiya Party 68 per cent.

The use of mastaans in the elections have also increased significantly. Thirty-four per cent of all candidates in the coming polls are perceived as protectors of mastaans. In 1991 the percentage was 21.

candidates were perceived as protector of mastaans in 1991 which has increased to 34 per cent in 1996. For BNP the percentages are 11 and 49 and lor JP 56 and 36 respectively. the survey said.

The survey also revealed that most of the candidates are businessmen and live in the urban areas. Thirty-five per cent of the nominees have reside in the capital city. The percentage of farmers and small traders among the nominees are very poor, 3 and 4 per cent respectively, it said, Regarding the educationa

qualifications of the nominees. 40 per cent of the candidates in the 1996 election are graduates. Only four per cent of the candidates have school-level education, the survey added. The age compositions of the

majority of the candidates are from the middle age groups (41 to 50). Only 12 per cent of the candidates are aged below

### Hearing of Salman's petition tomorrow

By SC Correspondent The hearing of Salman F Rahman's petition for stay of the High Court judgement has been advanced to June 5 from June 6 as the certified copy of the judgement was available earlier.

Justice Latifur Rahman of the Appellate Division upon an application of Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday in his chamber advanced the date of hear-

Earlier on May 30 Justice Latifur Rahman at his residence upon a petition of Salman Rahman passed a provisional order staying the HC judgement till June 2 and fixed the matter for hearing on that day in the full bench of the Appellate Division.

As the copy of the HC judgement was not available the Appellate Division fixed June 6 for hearing of the petition and also extended the stav of the HC judgement till that day. But if the copy of the judgement could be collected earlier, the hearing would be advanced, ordered the court.

## Dutch-Bangla Bank launched

A new joint-venture commercial bank has been launched in the city.

The "Dutch-Bangla Bank" Limited, the first European joint-venture bank in the country with a paid up capital of Tk 20 crore, started its operation trough a simple function in the city vesterday.

Choudhury, Managing Director of the bank.

bank.

## Family members allowed to

other cases.

meet Nasim Star Report The family members of

former army chief Lt Gen ASM Nasim and Mymensingh area commander Maj Gen Airruddin were allowed to meet them according to the BBC news bulletin last night.

The two senior officers along with other five army officers are under arrest and an investigation is going on in this regard.

Mother of Gen (retd) Nasim and daughter of Gen (retd) Ainuddin demanded a fair investigation against those offi-The family members of Gen

(retd) Nasim met him on last Tuesday while the wife of Gen (retd) Ainuddin met him yesterday. Arifa Zebin, daughter of

Gen (retd) Ainuddin, told the BBC that investigation was being conducted against her father in secret and interrogation was going on almost every

She demanded an open trial and allowing her father opportunity of self defence. Mother of Gen (retd) Nasim

in a statement demanded formation of a high-level enquiry committee comprising justices of the Supreme Court

A five member military enquiry committee has been set up to probe the incidents in the army.



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AL tells press

Certain quarters

trying to create

uneasy situation

central election steering com-

mittee vesterday expressed

concern at the increased

terrorism ahead of the June 12

general election in the

person of the committee.

SAMS Kibria, alleged that cer-

tain quarters had been trying

to create an uneasy situation

affecting the election atmo-

sphere through a planned way.

League leaders were killed

during the last few days by.

what he added, the armed ac-

tivists of the BNP at different

the killing of an Awami League

leader and Ward Commissioner

Shahabuddin, the armed ac-

tivists of the BNP killed a 70-

year old freedom fighter and

Awami League worker at Sin-

gair in Manikganj on Saturday

armed BNP workers had killed

a freedom fighter and Awami

League worker Abdul Hai in vil-

lage Chair Sakindia in Pabna

district and the same day they

injured seriously another

Awami League worker Obaidul-

lah of village Char Chatian in

terrors killed a businessman

and local Awami League leader

rors of the BNP had attacked

the residence of Awami League

leader Abul Kalam Azad in

Sandwip where, he added, one

terror was arrested with arms

be a proper election if terror-

government to arrest the ter

rors immediately to ensure a

congenial atmosphere for

Attack on Jamaat

procession in

Khulna: 10 hurt

From Our Correspondent

ten persons were injured

when a procession of the

Jamaat-e-Islami was attacked

at Chuknagar bazar under

Dumuria thana of Khulna dis-

the shop of Baharul Islam, a

leader of Jamaat's Chuknagar

said, the attackers belong to

BNP in a statement said the at

tackers were all non-political

persons opposing-any was

Mehfil at Chuknagar bazar vio-

lating the election code of

JCD leader held

in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

rested the president of the

city college unit of JCD Sunday

Mehedi Hasan Mintu is one of

the accused named in the FIR

of the 'Kashem Pathan Murder

Pathan was gunned down on

dagger from the JCD leader

who is also wanted in several

BBC bulletin

the college campus last year.

Shibir leader Abul Kashem

Police also recovered a big

KHULNA. June 3: Police ar

According to police,

The attackers ransacked

Police and eye witnesses

The Dumuria unit of the

triet on Sunday night.

KHULNA, June B: At least

ism was continued.

election.

the BNP

conduct.

Kibria said there could not

He urged the caretaker

Haji-Nurul Islam in Gazipur.

Kibria said that the BNP

Kibria said that armed ter

He further alleged that the

Kibria said that apart from

places in the country.

He said several Awami

Briefing newsmen co-chair-

country, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Awami League's

Let's make things better

**PHILIPS** 

Backed by Guarantee

# The Midnight File

defence budget NEW DELHI, June 3: India's new Defence Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav took office today pledging to hike the desence budget. "Our government will spend every single penny of available resources to upgrade the capability of the armed forces." Yadav, a leader of the Samajwadi (socialist) Party, told reporters here, says AFP.

India's new govt to hike

## NCST meet to be held in Jan every year

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday hoped that the next elected government would take steps for implementing the decisions of National Council for Science and Technology to keep the country abreast with modern knowhow, reports

He was presiding over the Prisoners

From Page 1

. The prisoners who had already served half of their ja terms on that date shall be eligible for release. Besides prisoners with half of their terms over in future, after the an nouncement, will also be eligible for remission of their sen

Cases of prisoners aged over 60 and below 16 will also be considered. Those above 60 may be released if they are considered physically infirm or mentally incapacitated. sources concerned pointed

"The final decision on their release will be given by boards consisting of the deputy commissioners. Civil Surgeons. DIG's of Prisons and Jail Superintendents," an official said.

Remission of sentence will also be applicable to those who are currently in jail convicted by a lower court but have preferred appeal in a higher court

The release of prisoners is expected to begin any day now and there is no need to seek permission from the higher authorities. "The jail authorities will begin the exercise strictly following the government guidelines," a source explained

Jail sources noted that such remission of sentences was done in case of several thousand prisoners during the rule of jailed former President Ershad in 1988 and that of interim president Justice Shahabuddin in 1991.

### Jante Chai From Page 1

grammes of Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat were recorded so far. It may be recalled that

BNP's programme was due to be recorded on May 30 but it did not participate. The postponement may provide an opportunity for BNP to participate in the TV programme, sources said.

In the programme top leaders of the major parties are being interviewed by some prominent persons.

Council for Science and Technology (NCST) at his office in the morning

The Chief Adviser, also president of the Council, said the government would put in allout efforts for the develop ment of science and technol-

third meeting of the National

The Chief Adviser said the meeting of NCST would be held in January every year from now on. The last meeting of the council was held in Autust 1993.

Rahman directed the Min-

istry of Science and Technology to send a get-well card to renowned scientist Prof Abdus The meeting selected Prof Nazrul Islam of Chittagong

University for the NCST award for 1994 It also decided to reconstiute the executive council of the NCST and fixed the date of

observing science week and holding meeting of NCST every year in January Adviser for Science and Technology Prof Mohammad Yunus called upon the scien-

tists to identify the areas on priority basis for scientific research. "We can't afford to earry on research in every filed or in

subject of an individual choice. We must ascertain it first for what purpose, for whom and why the research is being carried out," said the Adviser

The meeting, attended by other advisers of the caretaker government, top scientists and teachers, reviewed the progress in implementation of the decisions taken in the second meeting of NCST.

### Khaleda summoned From Page 1

Advocate Golam Abbas Chowdhury Dulal, former secretary of Barisal Bar-Association and Mahabub Uddin Ahmed. Awami League candidate from Barisal-5(Sadar)constituency, filed three complaints of violation of electoral ccde of conduct (ECC) by the former PM and Dr Nasim Biswas, BNP candidate from the seat.

She had allegedly assured the people at a public meeting here on May 25 that if BNP was voted to power, it would construct a bridge at Doarika-Shikarpur, set up a university and an education board and will develop roads in Barisal and allocate khas lands to slum dwellers in the town. Dr Nasim Biswas has al-

ready appeared before the

## Biswas: Close harmony

the highest importance to the holding of a free and fair

election in Bangladesh. President Biswas said the Election Commission, the non-

From Page 1

party caretaker government and all other relevant authorities were working in close harmony for making the coming general election free, fair, transparent and meaningful. "We all are determined to

have a peaceful and impartial election for strengthening the democratic process in this country," he told the Americans when they called on the President yesterday afternoon. The Election Commission has also taken positive steps

for making the job of the international election observers easier, he said. There is, saidethe Presi-

dent, great enthusiasm among the people and members of the political parties about the smooth and peaceful election. By the grace of Almighty Allah, the election will be held fairly and impartially."

He also mentioned that the EC had made massive prepa rations for the purpose. The US Congressman ex-

pressed satisfaction at the arrangements that have been made and congenial atmosphere prevailing for a smooth and fair election in the country at the moment.

Bill Richardson praised the role of President Biswas, the caretaker government and the Election Commission in creating such a congenial atmosphere for a smooth and peaceful election.

The other member of NDI team, Peter Manikas, also spoke on the occasion. Among others. Secretary to

the President Nooruddin Almasood, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Ruhul Alam Chowdhury and US Ambassador David N

Merrill were present. Richardson also paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser

Muhammad Habibur Rahman at his office yesterday afternoon.

> Preparations for the forthcoming parliamentary elections came up in their discussion. Richardson praised the role of the caretaker government for creating a positive atmosphere for the coming parliamentary elections. He also said that he saw a lot of enthusiasm in the electioneering here.

> The Chief Adviser said that all necessary steps had been taken to ensure a free, fair and impartial election. US Ambassador David N Merrill accompanied the delegation.

### Mir Shawkat From Page 1

fied the killers. Several teams have already been sent out of Dhaka to nab the culprits, said a police official in Mohammadpur thana. Police yesterday interro-

gated another 15 persons of the locality including some family members of Shahabuddin besides the five persons already in police remand. The arrested persons are

likely to be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court this morning after the end of three days remand Police might pray for further remand for interrogation, sources added Taken aback by the grue-

some killing, the eldest brother of the slain commissioner quoted Shahabuddin as saying I have never harmed anyone. so why should I be killed. Shahabuddin's brother told

this correspondent that he (Shahabuddin) had received an anonymous phone call on Wednesday night. The caller had threatened to kill him. Shahabuddin's brother said.

ports UNB.

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## Jatrabari bus fire Another accused held

Star Report One of their accomplices Police vesterday arrested

one more accused in the horrific Jatrabari bus fire incident in the city in which 12 people were but it to death on December 4 last year. Police identified the arrested person as Abed but said

torious gang of criminals who change their names frequently at their convenience. With the arrest of Abed, the number of arrest in the case rose to eight vesterday. Police arrested another accused

Sentu, last week and six others

the man was member of a no-

Police said Sentu has confessed his involvement in the incident. Sentu's confession will help the investigations. police said adding he (Sentu) also has marks of injury from

that incident. According to confessions made by some of the arrested persons, the bus was stopped by a gang of at least two dozen people and petrol was sprayed inside before hurling bombs in

## AL, JP teams meet CEC

Two delegations of the Awami League and the Jatiya Party yesterday separately met with Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena discussed with him matters related to coming election, reports UNB.

The delegations of the two parties called on the CEC at his office and held the discussion. EC officials said without giving the details.

The members of the Awami league delegation were SAMS Kibria, Gaziul Haq, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu and HT Imam. On the JP team were Sayeed Tareq, Sadek Siddiqui, Mostafa Jamal Baby, Aktar

### Hossain and MA Malek. Gen Mahbub

From Page 1

terday morning.

Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces President Abdur Rahman Biswas and the Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Muhammad Nurul Islam adorned him with badges of the new rank at a simple cer emony at the Bangabhaban yes-

Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamaluddin Ahmed. Defence Secretary M A Hakim, Secretary to the President Nooruddin Almasood Director General Forces Intelligence, Major General Mohammad Abdul Matin Bir Protik, PSO of the Armed Forces Division Major General MSA Bhuiyan and Military Secretary to the President Major General Ruhul Alam Chowdhury were, among others, present on the occa-

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman then paid a courtesy call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas. He stayed with the President for

some time. Congratulating General Mahbub on his promotion, President Biswas hoped that the army would march forward under his able leadership and united efforts of all members of the army.

## **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

Eighteen per cent of the AL

By Staff Correspondent

Of the total equity of the bank, 60 per cent is owned by the Bangladesh entrepreneurs and 30 per cent by the 'Netherlands Development Finance Corporation (FMO)' and the rest 10 per cent of the shares would be offered to the public. said AHM Shawkat Ali

Talking to The Daily Star, the MD of the bank hoped that the bank could introduce to its customer some new services. He also expected that the bank might open branches in Chittagong and Narayangani in the near future. ABM-Amro Bank, one of the largest bank in the world, would extend technical assistance to the new

# Richardson: Fair election

tional good and conveyed their commitment to ensure a peaceful and secure environment for voters on election day. He pointed out that the presence of impartial international and domestic monitors can "be a very important

means of enhancing the pub-

lic's confidence in the electoral system." Responding to questions Richardson said he was pleased at the stable political situation now prevailing and was hopeful that the stable situation would continue till June

discussed trial of the retired army chief with the President or officials, Richardson replied: "This is not my agenda. This is a Bangladeshi agenda." Pressed further regarding the court of enquiry and the nature of trial or whether its report should be held up till

Asked repeatedly if he had

the holding of the coming polls. Richardson replied. "That's a matter that has to be dealt with by the courts here. It's absolutely an internal Bangladeshi matter.' Responding to another question whether there should be strong armies in a democracy, the US Congressman, who is also a member of the

House Committee on Intelli-

gence replied, "Look at the US. Look at other democracies. Strong democracies have strong armies too." When asked if letters sent

gressmen expressing concern about the trial of the former army chief reflected any official sentiment, Richardson replied, "I have not sent any letter. Besides, it is a routine practice for elected officials to express concerns. Those are individual correspondence." Richardson, who wrote a thesis on Bangladesh during

by some US senators and Con-

his graduation, impressed repeatedly the importance of democratic continuity and stability. He said he always felt a closeness towards Bangladesh and was the only Congressman to visit Bangladesh twice. He was hopeful that he would be able to maintain this close contact. The US Congressman made

### cratic and economic and progress of Bangladesh. City AL meet today

An emergency meeting of

the office-bearers of the Dhaka

a special mention of the inter-

est taken by US ambassador

David Merrill in the demo-

City Awami League and presidents and general secretaries of thana Awami League will be held at 10 am today at the Awami League office at Bangabandhu Avenue, a party press release said. Member secretary of city election steering committee, Akhtarul Alam has requested the concerned people to remain present in the meeting, reports BSS.