Mokbul Hossain and his wife Golam the order for showing Paban arrested

Fatema in cases filed against them in connection with amassing wealth illegally. Khandaker Akhter Hamid Paban, ted a petition in this regard. son of detained BNP chief Khaleda

Zia's appointed Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, was shown arrested in a case filed in connection with amassing Tk 1.02 crore through illegal means. CASEAGAINSTZAHID

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order of attachment of properties after receiving a report of Ramna police regarding the implementation of arrest warrants issued earlier against them.

On February 7, ACC Assistant Director Helal Uddin Sharif, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet against Zahid, Rifat and their lawyer Mujahidul before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka, showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses.

against them and attachment of their properties as they have been in hiding since the case was filed.

Nasiruddin lodged the case with Ramna Police Station on October 3 wife and lawyer were accused of helping him in the offence. CASEAGAINSTSIRAJ

ACC Assistant Director SS Sahidur Rahman, IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the Siraj couple before the CMM's Court vesterday showing 41 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for arrest warrants against them and the attachment of their properties as they have been absconding since the case was filed.

On September 24 last year, ACC Assistant Director Khairul Huda filed the case with Ramna Police Station against the couple in connection with concealing Tk 3.60 crore in their wealth statements submitted earlier to the ACC. They had also amassed Tk 3.75 crore beyond their known sources of income.

Earlier, the Siraj couple were convicted of evading income tax and sentenced to different terms of punishment.

CASEAGAINSTMOKBUL Assistant Director of the ACC Sheikh Fayaz Alam, the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Mokbul and his wife before the CMM's Court, showing 25 people as

The IO appealed to the court for issuance of arrest warrants against them and the order to attach their properties as they have been absconding since the case was filed.

prosecution witnesses.

On August 16 last year, ACC Deputy Director Akhter Hossain filed the case against the Mokbul couple with Mohammadpur Police Station in connection with amassing Tk 1.92 crore through illegal means. CASEAGAINST PABAN

Additional Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed

On December 18 last year, ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Paban in connection with amassing Tk 1.02 crore through | a price was fixed, the traders- sure illegal means.

said Paban, in his wealth statement submitted to the ACC, concealed information about his properties worth Tk 10 lakh.

It was also mentioned in the FIR that Paban amassed wealth of Tk 7,491,829 beyond his known sources ofincome.

Fuel import

FROM PAGE 1 products despite increase of prices on the international market during the last few months.

Sources in the division said usually it requires \$2.1 billion in a The IO prayed for arrest warrants fiscal year to import petroleum products. But in the current fiscal year, the requirement would reach at least \$3.2 billion because of the ACC Assistant Director high fuel prices on the international market.

The BPC is expecting \$1.2 billion last year, accusing Zahid of hiding as loans from the Islamic information of over Tk 2.12 crore. His Development Bank, sources said, adding that the corporation would get another \$800-900 million after selling the imported products.

"In such a situation, we need further funding and that is why we asked the government high ups for actions," said a BPC high official.

Meanwhile, Standard Chartered Bank and BNP Paribas (Banque Nationale de Paris), a French bank, have urged the government to provide loans to the BPC.

The BNP Paribas gave a proposal to provide \$200-300 million and the Standard Chartered Bank \$250-300 million loans under the London Interbank Offered Rate in addition to 1.84 percent interest.

The finance ministry is now scrutinising the proposals and future implications of such loans from international banks," said a source, adding that the decision on the proposals would be taken soon.

Sources said the current loss of BPC is Tk 24 per litre diesel and Tk 23 per litre kerosene as it sells the products at a price fixed by the government which is lower than the international market rate.

"The total estimated loss in diesel and kerosene will be around Tk 8,600 crore in the current fiscal year," a BPC official said.

He said the BPC made a little profit only by selling octane and petrol. "But the amounts of octane and petrol sold are much less those that of diesel and kerosene," he said. As of January 31, BPC's liabilities stood at \$512 million to the Islamic Development Bank, \$300 million to Bangladesh Bank and another Tk 3,061 crore to the state-owned commercial banks.

is taking this decision in the greater

he said, "I don't think so. Won't we

see our interest? Would we feed you

keeping ourselves unfed? It cannot

Indian government is not

involved in L/Cs and doesn't know

how many L/Cs have been opened

since those go through private bank-

make good on its pledge of about

86,000 tonnes of food assistance to

Bangladesh in 2004, he said his

country has started implementing its

Bangladesh in phases, depending on

adding that 5,000 tonnes of rice

situation here, he said New Delhi

wants Bangladesh to return to

democracy through a free and fair

election according to the announced

tesy call on Cultural Affairs Adviser

nominated M Saifur Rahman as

acting chairperson and Maj (retd)

Hafizuddin Ahmed acting secretary

nicated through her two attorneys-

barrister Nawshad Jamir and advo-

the makeshift jail on the Jatiya

Sangsad Bhaban premises last

"As chairperson I did not con-

vene any standing committee

meeting for October 29. Six mem-

bers of the standing committee

Nawshad said Khaleda asked

filed by her challenging the Election

Commission's decision to invite the

Saifur-Hafiz group for dialogue on

About unity of her factious party,

About the corruption cases filed

In reply to a question, Nawshad

said during the hour-long meeting,

they observed that Khaleda's men-

she said except the leaders expelled

by her for "anti-party activities"

against her, Khaleda said these

electoral reforms.

BNP remains united.

were present at that meeting and

cate Sanaullah Mia--who met her at

Khaleda's decision was commu-

Rasheda K Choudhury at her office.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

general.

Earlier, Chakravarty paid a cour-

On India's view on the current

arrived in Chittagong last week.

"Committed aids will reach

On whether the friendly relations

interest of the people."

ingchannels, he noted.

commitments.

Import of rice

FROM PAGE 1

demanding various documents including levy certificates and purchase vouchers from rice mills.

Anwar Hossain, deputy commissioner of Indian customs authority, said it was not possible for India to export any rice that is less than 18 Indian rupees per kg.

One kg of rice on retail markets in India now sells at 12 Indian rupee.

As hundreds of trucks remain stranded on the other side of the border due the latest ban, importers are opening new letters of credit (LC) at \$510 a tonne after amending their previous LCs that had been opened at\$425 for a tonne of rice from India.

Raj Babu, an Indian rice exporter, said trading of rice is being badly affected due to the frequent restrictions imposed by the Indian authori-

Meanwhile, our correspondent from Chapainawabganj reports: Around 5,180 tonnes of rice was imported from India during the last couple of days through Sonamasjid land port and Rahanpur LC Station at \$505 per tonne.

The customs authorities of both roadmap the countries decided to keep the port open today (weekly holiday in Bangladesh) for trading of rice.

In the meantime, Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty yesterday said the Indian government has imposed restriction on export of non-Basmati rice as its first priority is to ensure

food security for its own people. "The restriction is to make sure that all the rice is not exported out of India, because we have more than a billion people including a huge riceeating population," he told reporters after a meeting with Adviser for Home Affairs Maj Gen (retd) MA

In the wake of rising rice prices evening. due to global demand, India has been keeping a curb on export of lower end rice priced below \$500 per

tonne, said Chakravarty.

He, however, added that Bangladesh procuring 5 lakh tonnes

made some decisions which were ofriceat\$400 atonne is an exception. not appropriate. There was even no The Indian government through quorum in that meeting," she was a notification on February 7 raised quoted by Nawshad as having said. the export price for per tonne non-Basmatirice to \$500 from \$425. them to take care of the writ petition

The fact is, the price of rice is going up in our country too. If we allow all the rice to be exported what will our people eat?" asks the Indian

high commissioner in Dhaka. Queried why the Bangladeshi importers with letters of credits (L/Cs) opened earlier have to pay at the present high rate, Chakravarty replied: "Ask them, I don't know what

the private parties are doing." When pointed out that many cases neither have factual basis nor importers who opened L/Cs at legal footing. around \$250 a tonne are being charged \$500 a tonne following the Indian government's recent decision, he said, "Well, the government tal strength is intact.

met the four traders posing as potential buyers. The traders were operating from a house they had in the case after ACC Deputy rented from Jahangir Alam Mintu Assistant Director Mahbubur in the village two months ago. Rahman, the IO of the case, submit-

The traders demanded a price of Tk 35 crore for the amount of poison they could deliver. The Rab team bargained for Tk 30 crore. As of a real deal- displayed the prod-The first information report (FIR) | ucts at which point Rab arrested

> Rab recovered 12 pounds of snake poison packed in 6 jars. The jars were labelled as products of the "Red Dragon" company in France.

Major Amjad Hossain and Flight Lieutenant Ahmed Faisal led the Rab operation team.

The four arrested are Md Sakhawat Hossain son, 38, son of Khalilur Rahman of Suja village in Ullapara thana under Sirajganj -Md Abdul Aziz, 45, son of late Kangali Pramanik of Pachuriabari village, Md Safiqul Islam, 35, son of Md Akher Uddin of Khagorbaria village and Sirajul Islam, son of Md Ayub Alí of Ramnagar village - all under Faridpur upazila in Pabna.

Rab officials said the arrested four have been dealing in snake poison for a long time. Rab suspects they have links with international smuggling syndicates, as they cannot have procured the poison locally. Major Amjad Hossain of Rab-12,

Kushtia camp, said that the snake poison, which fetches a high price in the market because of its medicinal use, is probably smuggled through to India and other countries from Bangladesh.

Flight Lieutenant Ahmed Faisal said that they expect the traders can give them valuable information regarding the smuggling rings.

He also said that the team is yet to establish the exact commercial value of the amount of poison they confiscated, though it would not be less than a few crore taka.

FROM PAGE 1

wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission

ACC Assistant Director Nurul Alam filed the case with Sutrapur Police Station against Maya and six others on June 13, 2007.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case ACC Assistant Director Towfigul Islam submitted the charge sheet against the former minister and four others to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on October 25, 2007 showing 40 people as prosecution wit-

The IO dropped the names of Maya's son Rifat Sayeed Chowdhury and Rashed's wife Farhana Chowdhury from the charge sheet as their involvement was not proved in the probe.

According to the case statement, the accused accumulated wealth worth Tk 6.29 crore illegally and concealed information about Tk 5.90 crore of assets in the wealth statement.

On November 4, 2007, a Dhaka between the two countries would suffer because of the developments, court ordered to attach the properties of Maya and four of his family members, who are currently on the run, in a graft case.

Offshore

FROM PAGE 1

least one offshore acreage and Asked about India's failure to offshore production of 25000 barrels of oil equivalent (BOE), biddable work programme commitment over and above the mandatory programme, and bank guarantee for performance of minimum exploration our budget allocations," he said, programme. The details of the bidding round

2008 are available on the Petrobangla website www.petrobangla.org.bd. Petrobangla is also selling the

bidders a basic information package which includes a model production sharing contract for US\$

In addition, the bidders can purchase technical data at a promotional price.

Emergency

FROM PAGE 1

government is responsible for holding the elections.

"It is the responsibility of the Election Commission (EC) and the government's duty is to provide the commission with necessary assistance," the law adviser observed.

would do if the EC cannot finish its job on time for holding the parliamentary elections by 2008, Hassan Ariff said, "I won't reply to any 'ifs'.

Responding to a query on deployment of armed forces following the promulgation of state of emergency, the law adviser said there is no nexus between the two. "The troops were called out in aid to the civil administration."

Ariff informed the briefing that the formation of independent Election Commission Secretariat is at the final stage.

Asked about setting up of Human Rights Commission as pledged by the government, he said it is also in the concluding stage and would be formed within the tenure of the caretaker govern-

A committee is working to finalise the draft of the Right to Information Act, the law adviser added.

EC restarts talks

FROM PAGE 1

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) and JP led by Anwar Hossain Manju are scheduled for February 27 while Gonotantri Party, Krishak Sramik Janata League and Islami Oikya Jote are scheduled for February 28.

invitations to the secretaryto send a five-member delegation each to the talks at the EC Secretariat conference room.

incorporate proposals of the parties in the draft of the electoral reforms. We will hear the opinion of the parties. But we will take the final decision," CEC Huda said. During the first round of the

talks, the EC had announced that it

with all the parties together. But it cancelled its plan when most parties refused to sit with Jamaat, terming it an anti-liberation force. Once the second round talks are completed, the caretaker government will initiate steps to hold dialogues with the parties. Chief

would soon initiate steps to hold

talks with the parties. But a number of advisers later said the talks between the government and the political parties will begin after the EC talks are over.

Since its reconstitution on February 4 last year, the EC has The EC Secretariat will send initiated massive tasks for electoral law reforms. On April 5, it generals of the parties, urging them announced a set of proposals for electoral reforms. Earlier at a meeting with the then law adviser on April 4, the CEC asked the govern-"Discussions will take place to ment to lift the restriction on indoor politics so that the EC could hold talks with the parties to discuss the draft proposals.

On September 10, the government lifted the restrictions on indoor politics only in the capital and the EC started its talks with the would hold the second round talks parties from September 12.

As per the electoral roadmap announced on July 15, the talks were supposed to be completed in November, but the BNP issue stalled the process.

Once the proposals are finalised after holding talks with the parties, the EC will send those to the care-Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in an taker government to make laws for address to the nation on January 12 conducting the stalled ninth parannounced that his government liamentary election.

Undersea cable

FROM PAGE 1

"I am happy to inform you that during the last one year we have taken several measures to overcome these weaknesses," he said. And he mentioned the framing of National Broadband Policy, reduction of bandwidth price and arrangements for alternative fibre optic connection between Dhaka and Cox's Bazar.

"Efforts are on to have a second submarine cable," the CA said.

Preparations are going on for issuance of licences for Call Centre, IPTelephony, WiMAX and 3G. The existing submarine cable

million to provide faster IT communication is facing disruptions in Internet connectivity at present. The second submarine cable, experts say, will act as an additional physical backup for its connectivity with the Information

launched in 2006 at a cost of \$35.1

Superhighway. It will also feed its growing demand for Internet and overseas telecom requirements. Fakhruddin said, "The more connected and active a country is in the global knowledge and infor- The five-day SOFTEXPO, an mation economy, the better the chances of the country to achieve

accelerated social-economic development. "Our government is committed to building an effective Information Society in the country. The task of building Information Society is not about technology alone. It is about the end results of technology. It is about people."

The CA said ICT could be catalytic in helping countries achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to cut poverty, framed at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000.

unconnected," he said, identifying 'partnership' among all information societies as crucial to extending benefits of the communication revolution to all.

"Let us put all our efforts together to make the vision of Information Society a reality."

Pointing out Bangladesh IT companies' steady progress in global outsourcing arena, Fakhruddin said different IT companies are also coming to Bangladesh because of the quality of local manpower, which is abundantly available at a competitive

The CA stressed providing training to equip people with skills appropriate for the global services market.

"If the government, the private sector and the academic institutions can work together for grooming and training skilled manpower, then it will be possible to generate large-scale employment opportunities in the country within a short period," he said.

annual event of the country's software makers, was organised by BASIS with cooperation from Danish IT Industry Association (IT-Brachen), Danish Federation of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (DPSME), Paris Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCIP), UK Trade and Investment and Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).

The Daily Star and Radio Today act as the media partner in the exposition attended by over 150 exhibitors.

Special Assistant to the CA for Science and ICT Ministry Manik Lal Somaddar, Danish Ambassador "It (building Information in Dhaka Einar Hebogard Jensen Society) is about bridging the and BASIS President Rafiqul Islam digital divide and connecting the Rowly also spoke on the occasion.

Hannan Shah

About 200 lawyers sought bail on his behalf when police produced him before the district court around 12:15pm. Taking permission from the court, Hannan claimed that he is absolutely innocent and the case filed against him is fabricated and baseless. He also sought justice from

His lawyers told the court that a vested quarter is harassing Hannan Shah by filing cases against him one after another. They argued that he was arrested a day after his release just to trouble him.

Judge Md Saiful Islam granted bail against a Tk 5,000 bond.

Hannan Shah did not make any comment before reporters in Gazipur. Later, many reporters gathered at his Mohakhali home in the capital but he did not return home even though he was in the

His personal employee Babul Ahmed told reporters in the afternoon, "Sir [Hannan Shah] returned to the capital and was admitted to a hospital as he is sick." He, however, Asked what the government | did not disclose the name of the hospital.

After the promulgation of the state of emergency, Hannan Shah was arrested on May 14, 2007 along with his son Shah Rezaul Hannan, in connection with a land-grabbing case. The same day, a Gazipur court placed them on a five-day remand. They were released on bail on July 22.

He was arrested again on November 7 last year in connection with the violence near the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman at Shere-Bangla Nagar where BNP followers had gathered to observe the National Revolution and Solidarity Day. On January 30 this year, the HC declared Hannan's detention illegal and granted him bail. Fatullah police

arrested him again on February 7 at

the gate of Narayanganj jail in con-

nection with violating the Emergency Power Rules. A police sub-inspector had filed a areas, sources said. general diary (GD) against him with Fatullah Police Station accusing him of violating Emergency Power Rules as he allegedly attempted to hold a

rally on Link Road. On Sunday, the High Court granted a three-month interim bail to former minister Hannan who had been detained in connection with violating the Emergency Power

He was released Tuesday and arrested again on Wednesday.

Mohammadpur FROM PAGE 20

intentionally set fire to the slum on a wetland in Alinagar Housing area. The shanties were made of bamboo, wood and tin.

The victims said they could not save any of their belongings as their shanties were on wetland. Fire Service and Civil Defence

sources said the fire broke out at about 2:00am. Fifteen units of fire fighters from six stations in the city fought for over two hours to tame the blaze.

the fire originated as they were asleep at the time. She alleged that the fire fighters reached the spot about an hour

after the fire broke out. The fire fighters however denied the allegation, saying they had rushed to the spot immediately.

Poppy farming FROM PAGE 20

blossom soon, said a journalist of Thanchi upazila wishing anonym-He said poppy usually blooms in

March-April. Opium and heroin are produced from it and smuggled to different destinations through the golden triangle, he added. A combing operation will be conducted soon in the bordering

observed. Security force conducted a BILS officials ABM Sazzad combing operation in the area in Hossain, Abu Eusuf Mollah and July last year and destroyed poppy Kohinoor Mahmood were also on 200 acres of land. present at the discussion.

French FM

FROM PAGE 20

attraction at the dinner organised by the International Women's Health Coalition, where he received a 'Global Leaders' award.

"Bangladesh's political forces must work together to strengthen the democratic process and leave behind confrontational politics,' Kouchner told News World. He said that the lack of mutual respect and tolerance is a major problem in Bangladeshi politics and has led to the state of emergency today.

He however expressed optimism that all political parties will learn from this experience.

In his acceptance speech, Prof Yunus said that although women's problems are the same all around the world, in some places the problems are visible while in some others they remain invisible.

Yunus will return to Bangladesh on February 22 at the end of a month-long book tour around the US and stopovers in Britain, France and Benin.

Dhaka, Delhi

FROM PAGE 20

done on the basis of basic air

Existing flights were enough to carry the passengers of the two countries, said a high official of Biman requesting anonymity.

Shibir rampage FROM PAGE 20

The letter instructed the principal to get himself transferred from Carmichael College by end of February or face death.

Dipkendra said he received the letter by post from Arshadul from Babupara in the Rangpur. He filed a GD with Kotwali thana in this regard.

The officer-in-charge of Kotwali thana said that the police had seen the letter and are convinced that the writer had used a false name and address. He added that the letter might have something to do with the violence on the college campus on February 6. Police took 13 activists and

two days' remand yesterday in connection with vandalism at the college and at the houses of a teacher and the principal on February 6. Leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir allegedly carried

leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir on

College campus on the day demanding that the college be upgraded to a university. Meanwhile Rangpur Nagorik Committee, a civic organisation, formed a human chain in front of the local press club yesterday afternoon to condemn the death

threat to the principal of the col-

out violence on the Carmichael

lege. They also held a rally. Rangpur Unnayan Parishad another civic organisation, in a statement also condemned the death threat to the principal.

Leaders of Different sociocultural organisations spoke at the rally presided over by Rangpur Nagorik Committee convener Mohammad Afzal. The speakers also welcomed the caretaker government's decision to set up a university in Rangpur.

Death traps

FROM PAGE 20 workers died due to violence, the

survey report said. At least 27 female workers were subjected to rape and eight of them were killed after rape. The number of child casualties due to accidents

and violence was 76. In 2007, 50 fishermen were injured at sea and 2,000 went missing. The number of fisherman fatalities during Cyclone Sidr has yet to be known, but the number is

assumed to be over 2,000. The same year in the RMG sector, at least 618 workers were

injured and 19 were raped. The number of domestic helpers tortured was 63. Of them, 34 were killed.

Others killed in occupational accidents include 18 shop workers, 22 transport workers, 17 rice mill workers, 18 ship breaking and other metal industries workers, 15 cleaners and 120 others in various

other industries. The number of deaths in occupational accidents and violence were 168 in 2002, 251 in 2003, 188 in 2004, 480 in 2005 and 974 in 2006.

Speaking at the discussion, Nazrul Islam Khan, secretary general of BILS, said there is a government directorate that is supposed to inspect the factories for compliance of rules and accidents and rules violations are supposed to be Nargis Begum, one of the fire | reported to them, but unfortuvictims, said they did not know how nately, this is not being done prop-

> Many of the accidents, especially the electrocution incidents, occur due to the lack of safety measures and lack of training for the workers, he added.

The employers do not hire trained workers or do not train them after appointment because they can better manage with the untrained and low paid workers, Khan said adding that the employers responsible for the accidents are not punished either. BILS Assistant Executive

Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed

said reports of workplace accidents

increased in the media, but aware-

in this regard is yet to be created. There is, however, no report on the overall health status of the workers who become ill because of occupational hazards, he

rule on the authorities concerned asking for reason why a mosque will

DCC commissioners

FROM PAGE 20 honorarium allocated for the 120 commissioners of the DCC--90 commissioners in 90 wards and 30 women commissioners (reserved seats) with three wards under their

jurisdiction. Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) commissioners are also not given any honorarium.

The commissioners of Barisal City Corporation (BCC), Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) each get Tk 3,000 as monthly allowance while commissioners of the newly formed Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) get Tk 5,000 each.

Reserved ward-6 commissioner Shireen Ruksana said, "Allegations of corruption against commissioners may have become more frequent now but the fact remains that people become dishonest under force of circumstances."

She said since lawmakers get honorarium as elected representatives, the commissioners should also be given honorarium.

Commissioner Mahmuda Islam of reserved ward-13 said she has to spend about Tk 59,000 a month for her offices as she rents three offices in three wards with Tk 18,000. She said she spends Tk 21,000 to employ three people at those offices and spends Tk 20,000 on other office related things. She said she is given only Tk 6,000 a Bazar, Sripur (Gazipur), Fulbaria

month. The commissioners of reserved seats receive only Tk 6,000 as office rent since they do not have office space like other ward commission-

Ctg arms haul FROM PAGE 20

under of the Arms Act. The Court of Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge ANM Bashir Ullah yesterday ordered further probe to find out the 'country of origin' of the firearms and ammu-

experts to confirm that those were manufactured outside Bangladesh and smuggled into the country, the court observed. The court ordered that further investigation should be completed in the next two months and the

The hauled arms and ammuni-

tion needed to be examined by

scheduled for next hearing of both the smuggling case and arms case. The order followed an appeal by Assistant Public Prosecutor Humayun Kabir Rasel made on

November 19 last year.

report submitted by April 15, the date

CID had started probing the ammo haul on April 26, 2004 after the previous investigation officer Ahadur Rahman, also the then officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station, was dropped for hiscontroversial investigation.

Kabir Uddin Ahmed, assistant

Chittagong region, submitted the charge sheet on June 11, 2004, accusing 44 people.

One of the accused, transport

superintendent of CID police for

leader MdYakub, died in custody. Dr Toutiq

court," she said.

FROM PAGE 20 about her father's fresh arrest. "As a result, my father could not come out of the jail despite having secured bail from the higher

On February 12, the Supreme Court upheld the February 3 High Court order that had granted interim bail to Dr Toufiq in the

barge-mounted power plant case. On January 16, Dr Toufiq surrendered to the court that sent him sent to jail, rejecting the bail prayer.

Detained former prime minister

Sheikh Hasina is also an accused in both the cases.

24-acre land them to rent a house in the middle of the month.

Several hundred of the affected families took shelter in a nearby open field with the household goods. They were seen getting prepared to pass the night with women and children in the open.

they had bought the land -- divided in 474 plots measuring 1.5 katha, 2 katha and 2.5 katha -- from Faizunnesa Wakf Estate on instalments since 1988. They claim around 1,000 people,

The affected house owners said

most of them jointly, got ownership documents of the land in 1997. Officials at the NHA said the government acquired the land in 1971-72 and allocated it in 1993 among 474 public and government officials and employees as per rules. Payments in instalments by many plot owners have already been com-

A case was pending in the court following a dispute over the plots' ownership between the NHA and the Wakf Estate. The Appellate Division on January 21 this year gave the verdict in favour of the NHA. The NHA officials claim they

pleted.

issued notices to the residents on February 6 asking them to remove their property. However, the affected people rejected the NHA claim and said loudspeaker announcement was

made on Wednesday giving them

less than 24 hours to shift elsewhere. Several plot owners yesterday claimed to have obtained a sevenday stay on the demolition work from the High Court following a writ by 493 house owners.

"We showed the High Court stay ness among the higher authorities order to a magistrate at 4:15pm, but the magistrate did not even bother to see it," said Forkan Ullah, a plot owner. The officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station said the HC issued a

> be demolished. He said they would continue the demolition today.

A number of commissioners, however, said they maintain all the

expenditure from their own pockets since they became commissioners promising people's welfare. During the meeting, the commissioners alleged that ward-16 commissioner Kaiyum Khan died inside

jail due to lack of treatment. They demanded a judicial investigation. Regarding the Election Commission's decision, DCC Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka said, "We are not accountable to any adviser or bureaucrat, we are accountable to

the people." About the proposed honorarium, the mayor said the LGRD ministry will decide about the honorarium.

not the DCC. He said, "We cannot tolerate the arrest of our fellow commissioners without any reason or their death

Draft voter list

due to improper treatment."

yesterday, the draft roll with photographs will be on public display for 15 days since its publication.

The areas covered in it are Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet city corporations and Manikganj, Shariatpur, Cox's (Mymensingh), Golapganj (Sylhet) and Sitakunda (Chittagong) municipalities.

The list will be available for view at the offices of district and upazila election officers or assistant registration officers, and union parishads, municipalities, wards, cantonment board and polling stations used as voter registration

According to the EC schedule published yesterday, people can file objections and claims till March 5 to correct the mistakes, if they find any. The objections and claims will be disposed of by March 16, and the

officials to be involved in the task

will also incorporate the corrections in the voter list, says a press release from the EC Secretariat. The commission has already tasked the upazila executive officers with the revision job in the upazilas while deputy election commissioners, additional deputy commissioners, additional district magistrates

ment areas. The revising authorities will dispose of the complaints and petitions according to the Electoral Rolls Rules 2008 promulgated by the

and cantonment executive officers

in the metropolitan and canton-

EC yesterday. On completion of the process, a final roll will be unveiled on March_ The army handed the EC the draft electoral roll for the areas on February 5. It has been working at

the field level for voter-listing since Augustlastyear Earlier on February 4, the commission at a meeting with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed asked his government to create an atmosphere conducive to holding elections to the city corporations and municipalities in April, either by

lifting or relaxing the state of emergency in those areas. The draft list covering the other areas will be published in phases while the complete electoral register by October with a view to hold

the general election by the year-end.

Ex-MP Ilyas Ali

Advocate Ahsan Habib on behalf of Ilyas filed the statement, sources say. Yesterday was the last day for

submitting his wealth statement.

He mentioned in the statement

properties including two vehicles

worth Tk 1.5 crore, a house at Banani in the capital, cash and land at his village and Dhaka in his and his wife's name. The ACC had given him seven days' notice on January 27 for

submitting the statement. His wife Taslima Rushdie received the notice in Dhaka on January 29. Ilyas was given seven additional days for filing the statement after

he applied for more time.

Ilyas's name is on the latest ACC list of 50 corruption suspects. There are several extortion cases filed against Ali. He has been on the run since this caretaker government took charge. He even failed to show up at the namaz-e-janaza of his father who died on February 7. Sources

say he went to see his father's body.

the following day at his village

home in Ramdhana of Biswanath upazila in Sylhet. Musharrat warns

FROM PAGE 20 allowed," added Musharraf, who seized power in a coup in 1999. Pakistan was convulsed by violence after Bhutto's assassi-

nation at an election campaign

rally in December, an event that

also forced the postponement of elections by six weeks. Musharraf also dismissed a series of opinion polls showing his popularity in freefall. The latest, commissioned by the BBC, showed nearly two thirds of people regard him as an obstacle

to stability and three quarters

Shortly after the president

want him to quit.

spoke, Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari addressed at least 20,000 Pakistan People's Party supporters at a rally in the industrial city of Faisalabad.

Zardari urged thousands of supporters to "besiege" polling stations next week to ensure results are announced fairly.