# Jalil flies to S'pore

Khan, and Zahid Ahsan Russell was escorted by the jail authorities to the airport around 10:45pm amid tight security where another four tier secu-

nity detail was put in place. Deputy Inspector General of Prisons Maj Shamsul Haider Siddiqui

was in charge of the security details. Jalil's personal physician also the chief cardiologist of LabAid Cardiac Hospital, Dr Matiur Rahman, who also accompanied the AL leader to the airport, told reporters, after his patient's plane took off, that the former minister looked tired at the airport and was having problems with his breath-

But in a free environment after getting released he seemed confident enough and sought blessings from the people of the country," said the doctor.

Talking to the waiting journalists, Tofail said the government acted responsibly by allowing the AL general secretary to go abroad for treatment. "For this I am thanking the government on behalf of Awami League," he

Abdul Jalil, a close associate of detained AL President Sheikh Hasina. has been suffering from heart and kidney problems compounded by diabetes. He will be admitted to Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore and all expenses of his treatment will be borne by his family.

Anumber of AL leaders and some of Jalil's colleagues from Mercantile Bank are likely to follow him to Singapore within a couple of days to be by his side

there. On May 28 of last year, the joint forces arrested Jalil from his Mercantile Bank office in Motifheel of the capital. He was in detention under Special Powers Act for more than six months. A case was filed against him on December 18 for concealing information in his wealth statement, but there has been little progress in the investiga-

The decision to release the AL general secretary on parole was taken at a special meeting of the council of advisers to the military backed caretaker government, held at the chief adviser's office on Sunday, following a recommendation from a highpowered medical board formed for Jalil's treatment

JALIL BRIEFS JOURNOS Around 7:30pm Jalil was brought out of his cabin in the hospital in a wheel

Talking to the waiting reporters prior to leaving the hospital, Jalil, who seemed confident, said he and his family thank the government for allowing him to go abroad for better

Jalil also sought blessings from the people of the country.

Tonce again seek blessings from all including the news media, colleagues, countrymen, party leaders and workers who prayed for me all along, so I may return after getting better," Jalil

Earlier, senior AL leaders including Acting AL President Zillur Rahman, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta and Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed met Jalil in the hospital. A few leaders of different components in AL-led 14-party coalition also met Jalil in the hospital

A number of AL leaders and workers also rushed to the hospital to have a quick look at their ailing leader, prior to his departure.

DOCTOR'S OBSERVATION Talking to The Daily Star immediately after Jalil was taken to the ground floor of the hospital for transporting him to his residence, Dr Matiur Rahman said the condition of Jalil's heart slightly improved, but his kidney's condition did not while the level of haemoglobin in his blood was low with fluid trapped in his chest. Jalil will have to be on a sugar free

diet with low protein and low salt for the rest of his life, Dr Matiur added.

"If his kidney can be transplanted then there is a high possibility of being well for long term," said the doctor confidently adding, if the kidney is transplanted then the condition of his heart will also improve and the level of haemoglobin will be increased.

The doctor also said Jalil's diabetes was under control while he was leaving the cabin, but his blood pressure was

fluctuating. On Sunday, a special meeting of the cabinet constituted a five-member

medical board with a view to parole the AL general secretary for treatment abroad, if recommended by the board. After examining Jalil's health from

leader needs treatment in a hospital with advanced healthcare facilities.

The day before, a medical board of LabAid Cardiac Hospital said Jail needed to have a kidney transplant or be put on dialysis immediately. It also recommended taking him abroad for proper treatment.

Jalil has been ill since his arrest. Despite his critical condition over the past few days, the prisons authorities kept dismissing the call for sending him abroad for treatment. They reasoned that the jail code does not allow any prisoner to seek treatment over-

Jalil was first taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on June 4 of last year after complaining of chest pain following a court order extending his detention.

In a letter signed on July 2, he pleaded with the government to release him on humanitarian grounds, and said if necessary he would quit politics.

Since his arrest, five medical boards were constituted to monitor his health.

#### EC invitation

FROM PAGE 1 questioned Bhuiyan's legal capacity

to be party to the case, while Sobhan said, "We just want to save our skin, and we have no allegation against

After submissions from both sides, the bench comprising justices Mirza Hossein Haider and Mamnun Rahman granted the prayer and started hearing arguments on the

Earlier on November 18, an HC bench issued the rule on the commission, Maj (retd) Hafiz, six standing committee members and the government, asking them to reply why the EC's invitation letter should not be declared illegal.

On November 5 last year, the commission invited Hafiz to the dialogue slated for November 22. Earlier on October 29, the standing committee appointed M Saifur Rahman and Hafiz as acting chairman and acting secretary general of

But the EC cancelled its invitation after the HC had stayed operation of the letter. The stay came in response to a writ petition filed by Khaleda Zia challenging the legality of invitation to the Saifur-led faction.

TH Khan yesterday told the court that from reading the standing committee meeting's [October 29] resolution one can be sure that Bhuiyan was indeed expelled by the chairperson.

Besides, he argued, the committee's replacing Khandaker Delwar as the secretary general on health grounds means they acknowledged his appointment by Khaleda.

Furthermore, he said, the BNP constitution does not provide for appointing an acting secretary gen

The lawyer continued that the resolution should be the source of argument here and it says every action at that meeting was against the (BNP) constitution.

Regarding out the resolution, he claimed some of the participants in the committee meeting maintain they were given a pre-arranged paper and asked to sign, which they did.

The now detained former prime minister's counsel said he has statements made by affidavit about the whole affair from four of the partici-

More over, he said, the resolution does not say who convened the meet-

According to the party constitution, only Khaleda Zia has the authority to convene a standing committee meeting, he added.

However, what the BNP constitution has in it is not to be judged by the court, even if it confers absolute he contended. The court should look at the mat-

ter in accordance with the printed materials available.

He reasoned that as the secretary general, Khandaker Delwar has all the right to represent BNP in any dialogue

But the EC deprived him of that right and it was unlawful. Above all else, it is a conspiracy to divide the party, he alleged. "The chief election commissioner sitting at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar office wants to destroy

## Crackdown

Bangladesh Inland Waterways Passenger Carrier Association (BIWPCA) participated at yesterday's meeting held at the BIWTA office with the chairman of BIWIA in the chair. The BIWTA chairman said he has

reminded the launch owners about their responsibilities and asked them not to engage any untrained master to operate the vessels.

Siddigur Rahman Patwari claimed that around 800 members of BIWPCA have proper documents for

Means to avoid launch disaster during the upcoming nor'wester season was also discussed at the meeting, he added.

Officials at Directorate of Shipping said around 4,500 ships and launches have been detected to have proper documents. Over a thousand vessels do not have any registration and fitness documents, they added.

Watervessels having engines of 16 horsepower or above and having a length of 40 metres or above need to be surveyed by the shipping director-

Meanwhile on Sunday, the BIWTA suspended two of its traffic inspectors -- Bashir Ali and Raihan -posted at Sadarghat Launch Terminal as their negligence was primarily proved, BIWTA officials

PROBEFINDINGS Meanwhile, the five-member probe committee, led by Joint Secretary of shipping ministry Abdul Matin formed to investigate the Thursday's launch capsize so far found that a sand-laden cargo vessel slammed into the launch, MV Shouray, two times and then ran over it, causing the launch to sink within a couple of minutes, said sources close to the probe committee.

The probe committee also found that after hitting MV Shourav, the

being run with a temporary fitness certificate while the cargo vessel, MV Al Amin, did not have any fitness certificate or registration. The owners and masters of cargo

vessels did not appear before the probe body, the sources said.

uled to submit its report on Thursday.

Govt wants

# Info on public

Under the proposed act, every organisation will have an officer designated to provide information

sought by the people. "Not only the government offices, those including NGOs, trusts and corporate houses like Asia Energy who are registered under any law of the country will have to provide people the information they need," a member of the committee told The

Daily Star in return for anonymity. Asked if the political parties too would be brought within the ambit of the law, he said, "We cannot do that at this moment since they are not registered under any law."

But once the political organisations are registered they will have to do the same, he added.

If an information officer refuses to provide information, or if they dillydally or supply incorrect information, the aggrieved person can lodge a complaint with head of the organisation concerned.

sion's proposal for setting up district tribunals to deal with the complaints by those who would be deprived of remedies at the organisation level, the committee has proposed instituting an information commission headquartered in Dhaka to settle such cases.

"We think having tribunals in all the districts won't be feasible since it will need a good number of judges to be appointed there. Besides, there will already be an official at each organisation to look up the matters,' said another member of the ordinance drafting committee.

Anyone found guilty of refusing to provide information or of giving misinformation can be awarded imprisonment up to three months and fined Tk 25,000.

The information commission, which will be one of its kind, will have three members including its chief to be an expert in law, administration and information.

A committee of four to five members will make recommendations for appointment to the commission. It will name three persons against each

post and the president will pick one from them. The chief justice will appoint an Appellate Division judge to head the committee that will include the cabinet secretary and chairmen of the Public Service Commission and

the National Museum will remain

gallery yesterday afternoon to see the

masterpieces of the country after

Rasheda K Choudhury, cultural affairs

secretary, Momtazul Islam, education

secretary, Samar Chandra Paul, direc-

tor general of the National Museum,

Dr Shafiqul Islam, director of

Department of Archaeology,

Mohammad Zakaria, director of

Barendra Research Museum, Qamrul

Islam NDC, director of Bangladesh

Shilpakala Academy, and other high

officials concerned were also present

Vishnu statuettes heist last year, the 42

being displayed inside their packing

artefacts will be sent to their corre-

sponding museums in Rajshahi and

Bogra following the conclusion of the

The adviser told reporters at the

exhibition, "We arranged this exhibi-

tion to clear public confusion over the

brought back from France, she said, "I

Asked if the original artefacts were

exhibition in the capital.

Following the century-old two

on the occasion.

December 21.

Sharful Alam, cultural affairs

A large crowd gathered at the

open for public till March 9.

adviser, inaugurated the show.

University Grants Commission, said

Once the right to information act is passed, the other laws and rules that obstruct disclosure of information to people will not be a bar any-

Section 1 of Official Secrets Act 1923, section 123 of Evidence Act 1892, Rules 28 (1) of Rules of Business 1996, and section 19 of Government Servants (Conduct) Rules 1979. However, there will be waiver to

disclosure of some types of information including those which if revealed may pose threat to independence and sovereignty of the country, and seek to deteriorate law and order, increase crime, harm public safety and hamper trial of cases already underway. Besides, disclosure of personal information that may harm a per-

son's secrecy will also be withheld unless it is needed for investigation into any corruption charges against the person, said a member of the drafting committee. Talking to The Daily Star, many demanded that the draft be put on

website or the government publish it so that people can give their feedproposed information commission must be given free rein if it is to play

#### an effective role in ensuring people's right to information. Hasnat Abdullah

FROM PAGE 1 nine years' imprisonment on

charges of tax evasion. The sentences will be effective from the day of his arrest or surren-

der, the verdict said. The court also ordered confiscation of his properties worth over Tk 1 crore. On February 28, the court fixed

yesterday for delivering judgment ACC Assistant Director Rahela

Khatun filed the case with Dhanmondi Police Station on September 6 last year accusing Hasnat of acquiring assets worth Tk 1.6 crore beyond his known sources of income and concealing information about his wealth worth Tk 52 lakh On January 16, ACC Assistant

Director Shafiul Alam, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Hasnat before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court. Earlier, a Dhaka court ordered

the attachment of Hasnat's properties and issued an arrest warrant against him as he has been on the run since the case was filed.

### 3 more NGOs

FROM PAGE 1 and houses of the NGO men injuring 30 people including UP Chairman

Earlier on Sunday, local people confined Latifunnessa, wife of the NGO's executive director Jabed Ali, and their son Abdul Latif but released them on condition that 70 percent of the money would be returned by

When Jabed Ali was returning the money that night, an unruly mob ransacked his house and looted a jute-sack full of money, witnesses

About 500 people have been surrounding Naba Jagoroni Unnayan Sangstha office in Satbaria in Puthia since Sunday night hearing the news that director Fazlur Rahman has fled. The NGO collected over Tk 4 crore from 12,000 members through 200 offices in Natore and Rajshahi

Shyamol Bangla managing director Sadekul Islam and adviser Dulal Sarkar went into hiding with around Tk 1.56 crore collected from 4,500 members.

Some members of Pally Daridra Unnayan Sangstha from Hatiandaha in Singra upazila kidnapped director Abdul Malek from his house at Basila in Naldanga and were on way to Singra. But other members intercepted them and turned Malek in to Besides, they observed that the | police. Malek collected about Tk 20 lakh in Hatiandaha and Naldanga.

Members of Samaj Unnayan Sangstha ransacked the house of Abul Hossain at Panditgram in Naldanga as his son was involved with the NGO.

Natore Social Welfare Deputy Director Mir Bux said the swindler NGOs were given registration following orders from the high-ups. "All unregistered NGOs were earlier asked to stop their activities but they ignored the order." "The illegal NGO business could

not flourish without administration's support. They [NGO men] carried money in jute-sacks, yet no one stopped them," said Natore businessman Nurul Islam. MEETING

The meeting attended by over 150 people including 12 UP chairmen from the areas concerned, officials and NGO workers blamed district administration and social welfare office for the boom in NGO business. The meeting decided to alert

police across the country to arrest Freedom director Ishaq Mia who disappeared with Tk 250 crore. The district administration will publish his photograph on newspapers and seek help of Interpol, if need be. The meeting also decided to stop

all activities of the NGOs and cancel their registrations. They will recommend to the social welfare department to cancel registration of all such registered NGOs and take legal action against the unregistered ones.

#### Dhaka supports FROM PAGE 1

adviser of Taiwan's renewed attempt to seek UN membership through a "referendum" held by its authorities.

Iftekhar said, "There is no China but One China, and the People's Republic of China is its name. Bangladesh will categorically reject any attempts by any part of China such as Taiwan to seek UN member ship."

He said, "Relations with China are at the heart of Bangladeshi's foreign policy. There shall be no change in this now, and I do not believe there can be any change in this in the future." The Chinese envoy appreciated the support from the Bangladesh govern-

menton the Taiwan issue. He said, "We hope and believe Bangladesh will continue the One China policy for which I want to thank the Bangladesh government."

## DU prof Arefin

FROM PAGE 16 destroy the lives of innocent students of the university. So, you and

your colleagues have no right to live." Duta President Dr Sadrul Amin, General Secretary Dr Md Anwar Hossain and the teachers of MCJ department expressed concern over the death threat and demanded that security of the teachers and their family members has to be ensured.

condemned the death threat. The committee members met DU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr SMA Faiz and discussed the matter with him. They demanded that the VC must

take necessary steps immediately to

The MCJ academic committee

ensure security of Prof Arefin Siddique. The Duta criticised the law enforcement and intelligence agen-

cies for their failure in arresting the culprits who had been issuing death threats repeatedly. Unidentified criminals hurled crude bombs into Prof Siddique's Central Road residence compound

on February 2. Prof Arefin, who served as Duta president for three consecutive terms, received death threats repeatedly after the BNP-Jamaat alliance assumed power.

#### Fortune seekers FROM PAGE 16

A Bangladesh foreign ministry spokesman told The Daily Star last night that they will look into the matter and a high commission representative will be sent out to meet with the survivors soon.

Initial investigations revealed that the boat, which initially had set sail from Myanmar on February 9 and had been on its way to Thailand and Malaysia with 91 illegal immigrants, was drifting since February 21 after its engine had failed. It was reportedly drifting for 9

days in the Bay of Bengal which is India and Sri Lanka in collaboration. The Sri Lankan navy sent two of its deep-sea surveillance units to rescue the survivors aboard the drifting boat after being alerted about it by fisher-

The 50 Myanmar nationals and 21 Bangladeshis rescued were being transported to Trincomalee harbour at the time of filing this report last night.

# Pvt banks

FROM PAGE 1

prepared by the owners and top officials of private commercial

banks, reads. But BB data show that none of the banks is currently taking the mentioned opening commission of 0.70 percent on letter of credits.

Only two banks charge at a rate of 0.60 percent in the first quarter on letter of credits while rest between 0.40 and 0.50 percent in the first quarter. As per the current system, such charges come down between 0.30 and 0.40 percent from the second quarter.

The banks told the BB officials that the proposed lending rates and service charges would be implemented from the current month. A team comprising members of

Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB) and Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB) submitted the proposal to the central bank Governor Salehuddin Ahmed.

"We got proposals from the bankers and let them implement the new structures," he said adding, "I can't enforce anything on the banks."

"The bankers told me that the proposals are practical and these could be implemented," he said.

Asked about the central bank's reaction on the bankers' proposal, the BB governor said, "Bankers gave some specific proposals and we did not react to those. BAB Chairman Nazrul Islam

banks proposed to keep the spread (difference between lending and deposit rates) within 5 percent, which is now 6 percent. "We will not keep any cap in case of interest rates of deposits, but banks will reduce the interest

Majumder told reporters that the

rates on lending," he said. "We have proposed to keep interest rate on industrial lending highest at 15 percent," he added The proposal said non-banking financial institutions and foreign

The banks proposed to reduce interest rates for lending to productive sectors, which shall exclude consumer and card lending. "Due to high distribution, collection and monitoring costs and inadequate/no collateral support we would recommend keeping the ceiling of the SME sector above other productive

They also proposed to reduce L/C opening charges to 0.60 percent from 0.80 percent per quarter and set a maximum cap L/C opening charges, where the banks have 100 percent cash margin, at 0.25 percent per quarter which is cur-

The banks proposed to set a maximum cap for L/C transmission charges of Tk 3000 against current Tk 5000, a cap of Tk 1000 for L/C advising charges against existing Tk 1500, and a cap for amendment advice of Tk 1000 against

setting a cap for arrangement adding confirmation locally of 0.25 already talked to Saifur Rahman percent which is currently 0.5 percent, a cap for Proceeds Realization Certification of Tk. 500. which is now Tk 1000, maximum cap of Tk 200 against current Tk 500 for issuance of back-to-back L/C certificate and maximum cap of Tk 200 against current Tk 500 for

waive several charges fully. Those include foreign correspondence charges (local component) of Tk 1500, charges for endorsement of

Government

FROM PAGE 16 Bangladesh community in Saudi Arabia to abide by local laws," said a ministry spokesman when his attention was drawn to a news item carried by the Saudi Gazette that Saudi police have caught "redhanded" three Bangladeshis with

"Such allegations, if true, can threaten our good reputation. We're confident that all members of the Bangladeshi community will pay heed to our appeals, and the huge majority will not suffer for the faults of a few," he said.

The spokesman added that the Bangladesh mission in Saudi Arabia and the ministry in

unchanged and the number of Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia is more than any other expatriate

### Private rescue

FROM PAGE 16

The government authorities wrapped up its rescue drive on Friday, only a day after the launch MV Sourav-1 capsized. They had recovered a total of 39 bodies.

was recovered on Thursday night. Both the father and son were on way to Fatullah in Narayanganj.

Meanwhile, the relatives of Sajib

MV Sourav-1 sank near

copy documents, which is currently Tk 500, LC cancellation or expired utilisation LC charges of Tk 1200 and handling charges on export bills, which is currently Tk

## KCC mayor

FROM PAGE 1 trader Idris Ali Howlader, Syed Alamgir Howlader, Haider Ali, Shahidul Islam Bhuiyan, Al Amin Sheikh, Selim Sheikh, Mohammod Liton, Shahid Howlader and Sarder Ruhul Amin.

Of them, Al Amin and Ruhul Amin were arrested on different dates while Idris Ali, Alamgir, Haider Ali and Shahidul were sent to jail after they surrendered before the court in January this year. The other accused are on the run.

The KCC mayor was arrested at his Dhaka residence on November 2. A total of nine extortion cases had been filed against him.

## Khaleda

FROM PAGE 16

Earlier, Awami League acting President Zillur Rahman said his party will not support the plan to hold local government elections before national elections.

Meanwhile, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Khaledaappointed secretary general of the party, left Dhaka Sunday night for Singapore all of a sudden without even informing the faction leaders.

Rizvi Ahmed, however, said Delwar along with his wife went to Singapore for medical treatment as both of them are suffering from various ailments including that of heart. He said they would return after a week's

Most of the faction leaders were upset that Delwar's went to Singapore without informing "We know he is suffering

from some complications but as a responsible political leader he [Delwar] should have informed us before leaving the capital," a pro-Khaleda faction leader told The Daily Star last night. Party leaders said division in pro-Khaleda faction is now

clear over the unification process of the party. A group of leaders want unity in the party through dialogue while others including Delwar do not want to have talks before the cancellation of the decision of October 29 meeting that made Saifur Rahman and Maj (retd) Hafiz acting chairperson and acting secretary general of BNP.

A number of leaders claimed that Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah of pro-Khaleda faction has and Maj (retd) Hafiz about uniting the party.

Asked about the initiative taken by Hannan Shah, Rizvi Ahmed said he [Hannan Shah] will not go beyond the party policy of not sitting for talks before the cancellation of the October 29 meeting decisions.

### UNSC

FROM PAGE 16 Mr Soltanieh has dismissed the

intelligence as "forged and fabri-He said in Vienna after a meeting of the IAEA's 35-nation board that "all the outstanding issues

have been concluded". Earlier on Monday, IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei called on Iran "to be as active and co-operative as possible in working with the agency" to resolve the issue.

## Israeli troops

FROM PAGE 16

talks with Israel on hold, clouding an upcoming peace mission by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The Israeli offensive also drew a chorus of international condemnation, with the EU, Turkey and UN chief Ban Ki-Moon accusing Israel of using excessive force in Gaza.

Despite the lopsided death toll, Hamas sent a message to reporters calling the pullout a retreat by the "cowardly" Israeli military. But Israel said the withdrawal didn't signal it was scaling back its Gaza operations.

Replying to a question over release of Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil on parole, Hanif said it is under the jurisdiction of the government and the ACC has nothing to say on the

him would continue until Jalil's presence at the court is required, he added. Meanwhile, Principal Staff

Division Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury, also chief coordinator of National Coordination Committee to combat corruption and serious crimes, yesterday called on ACC Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury at the latter's office.

# Hearing deferred

after adjournment of the court proceedings criticised Gono Forum

President Dr Kamal Hossain for acting

as a lawyer for the Election Commission while himself being the chief of a political party. Hasina wondered how being the chief of a political party that is set to take part in the next elections, Kamal Hossain could oppose chief of another party. Hasina also described the role being played by Dr Kamal defending EC's controversial letter inviting BNP to dialogue on political

reform as immoral and devoid of political ethics. Hasina who has been suffering from ailments including eye and hearing problems expressed fear over her deteriorating health. She complained that she was not allowed to meet her personal doctors and junior doctors are offering her treatment.

Hasina also complained of not maintaining jail code in allowing her On February 26, the court permitted the defence counsels to examine seized case evidence in presence of the law enforcers following a petition from the defence side. On the same day, the court deferred

the hearing on charge framing for three

working days after rejecting a bail

prayer of Hasina. The court adjourned

the hearing on the ground that senior

defence lawyers failed to appear before

the court and were involved in another graft case against Hasina in the Supreme Court Earlier, the special court deferred was indicted in the charge sheet subthe hearing of charge framing five mitted to the court on January 10.

times for time petitions from the defence and the prosecution, Hasina's illness and not producing Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi, one of the accused in the case, before the court.

told the press that she expressed satisfaction at the decision of sending Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil abroad for treatment. Sabbir Hasan, deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Commission

(ACC) filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on September 2. The complainant alleged that Hasina and the six others used their influence to help Wartsila Power Development Ltd Consortium and its local partners -- Summit Group and United Group -- win a deal for setting up 100MW barge-mounted power plants in Haripur, Khulna and Shikalbaha depriving the lowest

According to the case statement, Hasina, then prime minister, received kickbacks to the tune of Tk 3 crore from the three firms from October 24, 1996 to November 24, 1997 and the money was used for buying a house for Bangabandhu Memorial Trust in the city's Dhanmondi area.

The other accused in the case are former energy secretary Dr Toufig-e-Elahi Chowdhury, former Power Development Board (PDB) chairman Noor Uddin Mahmud Kamal, Aziz Khan, managing director of Summit Industries and Mercantile Corporation Private Ltd, its director Farid Khan, United Group Chairman Hasan Mahmud Raja and Director Abul Kalam Azad. The curator of Bangabandhu | constituencies, but there is no such

museum, Sayed Siddiqur Rahman,

## FROM PAGE 16

Leaders and members of Bangladesh Launch Owners Association and

BIWPCA general secretary

their vessels.

ate only, said an official.

master of the cargo vessel tried to flee the scene by speeding up and driving through the launch. The sources said MV Shourav was

probe committee to give their statements despite an order issued by the The inquiry committee is sched-

in principle to hold the long overdue upazila parishad polls and the government wants it before the parliamentary elections. "The upazila elections can be held before the parliamentary

decide when the polls will take place," CEC Huda said. Asked about the objections raised by major political parties about holding polls to local government bodies before parliamentary elections, the LGRD adviser said the EC would decide in this regard.

elections. However, we have yet to

the CEC said the EC in its electoral roadmap announced on July 15 declared that it would hold polls to local government bodies. "And we have been repeatedly saying that we will follow the electoral roadmap. We have decided not to hold polls to union parishads

since holding polls to around 5,000

In response to a similar query

union parishads is a mammoth priceless relics were brought back to task," the CEC said. Dhaka from Paris on February 23 while In the electoral roadmap, the EC the rest, awaiting to be shipped to Paris announced that upazila parishad at Zia International Airport, were elections, which have not been returned to the National Museum on held in 17 years, would be held at any time between November and December this year. small items, most of the artefacts are During the second round of

political parties opposed the EC's plan to hold polls to local government bodies before parliamentary POLLS TO CITY CORPORATIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES CEC Huda yesterday said the EC

would announce the election

schedule for city corporations of

electoral reform talks with the EC

between February 24 and 28, most

Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal, and seven municipalities at the end of March. "The two draft ordinances to make laws on city corporations and municipalities are at an advanced stage. The task of preparing another fresh law for districts

upazilas and union parishads is yet

About the EC's plan of

to be completed," the CEC said.

announcing election schedules for city corporations and municipali ties, the LGRD adviser said the laws on the two local government bodies will be ready by that time. The caretaker government has agreed to a recommendation, submitted by the committee on

restructuring the local government

bodies, to reserve 40 percent wards

of the local government bodies for

women.

ing the local government bodies recommended reserving 40 percent of all seats at all tiers of local government exclusively for women for the next 15 years. Asked about demarcating the reserved seats, the CEC said the LGRD ministry will specify the

The committee on strengthen

The CEC said the EC declined to a LGRD-ministry proposal to take the responsibilities for demarcating the areas of wards of city corporations and municipalities since the tasks will create difficulties for the commission. the commission regarding the demarcation of parliamentary

immunity for demarcating the areas

of wards in city corporations and

municipalities," CEC Huda said.

wards for the women in city corpo-

rations and municipalities.

Veering from the law commis-

One of the members will be drawn from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court while one will be

Nat'l Museum

am sure all these are original master-

pieces. No replica."

Responding to another query, the adviser said, "I personally don't think that we need any technical or chemical test to ascertain the authenticity of these artefacts." Among the displayed items, 43 belong to the National Museum, 24 to Barendra Research Museum, 47 (in-

cluding a set of 50 silver coins treated as

one item) to Mahasthangarh Museum,

7 (including 8 gold coins treated as one

item) to Mainamati Museum and 8 items belong to Paharpur Museum. A few of the art connoisseurs who protested the government decision of sending the artefacts to Paris also visited the exhibition yesterday. When asked for his comments over the exhibition, AKM Zakaria, former

secretary and a veteran archaeologist,

said, "I don't want to make any com

mentonitrightthismoment." Nesar Ahmed, a teacher of Department of Fine Arts at Dhaka University, said, "We protested the way they were treating our archaeological Except for coins, books and other treasures. They were sending them in a way people ship vegetables and as a result, we lost two valuable artefacts, boxes with their fronts open as the

hesaid "The government did not allow us to see what they had sent and what have come back, "he further added. The exhibition will be open for all from 9:30am to 4:30pm everyday,

except Thursday -- the weekly holiday

of the museum. On Friday, the exhibi-

tion will be open from 3:30pm to

# Proteas take series

was dismissed off the fourth ball of

the day to jeopardise his place for the one-day series but another overnight batsman Abdur Razzak made an unbeaten 32 and Shahadat Hossain chipped in with 24 only to ensure that their side would not be bowled out below hundred runs. Bangladesh were far away from their impressive first Test show, where they were at least competi-

tive for the first two days, in the

second match mainly because of

their pathetic batting against the

fiery South African pace battery,

better to say against man-of-the-

series Steyn who demolished the Tigers by taking seven wickets, on a The Tigers virtually gave up the job without any fight.

It was the third consecutive

occasion that young fast bowler Steyn got the man-of-the-series award after two home series triumphs against New Zealand ar.d. West Indies but everybody will remember this Test for the recordbreaking opening stand (415) of man-of-the-match Graeme Smith and McKenzie, who rewrote the record books after 53 years by breaking the previous 413-run Mankad and Pankaj Roy. On other hand it was a special

the ace left-arm spinner bade bye

to international cricket after claim-

ing 100 Test wickets as the first for better treatment.

Bangladeshi bowler. The veteran spinner will look

7:30pm.

happened in terms of the result as it was Bangladesh's fifth innings defeat against South Africa in six Tests and overall 31st in 53 matches. The two teams will now be involved in a three-match one-day series which kicks off at this venue on March 9. But before that the visitors will play a limited-overs

warm-up game on March 7. The

last two one-day internationals will

be held at the Sher-e-Bangla

National Stadium in Dhaka on

March 12 and 14.

back at his last game but definitely

he would not love to recall what

Govt to let FROM PAGE 1 He said the government will consider if the detained former prime ministers cannot get adequate

treatment in the country.

abroad," the adviser said. When the issue of sending Abdul Jalil abroad for better treatment was brought to the government's attention, it immediately "Nobody can file a case against stand between Indian pair Vinoo took all necessary steps to send him off, he said. He also underscored the need match for Mohammad Rafique as for modernising the health care

"It is for sure that the govern-

ment thinks they need treatment, it

will not hesitate to send them

system in the country to reduce dependency on foreign countries

banks should also conduct a similar review.

lending rates," it said.

rently 0.60 percent.

current Tk 1500. The suggestions also included

issuance of C&F certificate. The banks also proposed to

hundreds of forged passes to palaces of Saudi princes,

Bangladesh are taking all possible measures to motivate the Bangladesh community in this He said the flow of Bangladeshi workers to Saudi Arabia remains

## community.

The victim whose body was recovered yesterday was identified as betel-leaf vender Habibur Rahman Mandal, 32, of Chuadanga district. His son Nurunnabi's body

-- still missing -- waited on the riverbank as others continued rescue efforts. Sajib's brother Rajib's body was recovered on closely monitored by the navies of | Sunday and their grandmother Anwara's body was recovered on Thursday.

> Buriganga Bridge at around 3:35pm on Thursday after a cargo vessel rammed into it from behind. The double-decker was on its way to Taltola in Munshigani from Sadarghat launch terminal with around 140 passengers on board.

#### FROM PAGE 16 causing a loss of over Tk 158 crore to the public exchequer.

The case proceedings against

Officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces

#### 3:30pm to 5:00pm the same day, the board concluded that the detained AL BNP," he added. ground that they could not fully examine the necessary documents of Meanwhile, Sheikh Hasina while meeting relatives and her lawyers After meeting Hasina, her lawyers