Hasina's treatment | NGO disappears | Life whipped out

FROM PAGE 1

In another development, prison authorities yesterday denied news reports that Hasina's close relations were denied meetings with her at the makeshift jail in the parliament building complex.

Home Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin instructed the prison authorities vesterday morning to send medical specialists to Hasina according to her wish, and asked the doctors to submit reports.

"I've instructed the inspector general of prisons to send a lady doctor to examine the health of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina today. The doctor will ask her about her problems. If she wants specialists, that will be arranged too," Matin told reporters after a meeting at the shippingministryyesterday.

Asked about sending Hasina abroad for treatment, he said, "Let

On receiving instruction from the home adviser, the prison authorities contacted Hasina yesterday noon to know if she has any particular choice of physicians and to make appointments for medical checkups.

"She said she is not ready for the examination today, she would rather have it done tomorrow," Inspector General of Prisons (IG-prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hassan told The Daily Star vesterday.

The prison authorities are scheduled to arrange the check up after talking to Hasina this morning.

According to the former premier's wishes, who is also the president of AL, the prison authorities contacted five medical specialists Dr Abdullah of medicine, Dr Pran Gopal of ENT, Dr Mudassir of ophthalmology, Dr Shaila Khatun of gynaecology, and Dr Habibe Millat of cardiology.

The next course of action regarding her treatment depends on what the doctors say tomorrow," the prison boss said yesterday.

Hasina was taken to Square Hospital on February 21 for a medical check up for the first time since her arrest and was taken back to the special jail after about three hours of examination by a 10-member medical team in the hospital.

Meanwhile, asked about the treatment of another detained former premier also the chief of BNP. Khaleda Zia, the home adviser said in the morning that a medical board will also be constituted for her treatment, if

Ex-MP Bakul

piece of land over four kathas in-Gulshan, a Toyota Land Cruiser worth over Tk 45.23 lakh and furniture worth Tk 5.55 lakh.

However, the wealth statement mentioned that his wife owns two flats in Gulshan, shares of companies worth over Tk 5.29 crore, Tk 60.74 lakh in cash and 40 tolas of gold. She also has two fixed deposit receipts (FDR) worth over Tk 25.03 lakh and two deposit pension scheme (DPS) worth over Tk 1.07 lakh.

Bakul, who was in the last ACC list of 35 graft suspects published on October 4, claims he also owns three firearms. He has two FDRs worth Tk 9,000 and over Tk 6.24 lakh as investment for insurance. He also spent over Tk 40,000 to buy bonds.

He also owns two houses and part of a house in Narsingdi, the wealth statement showed.

The wealth statement also said his two sons own nine decimals of land in Narsingdi. His daughter has an FDR worth Tk 6 lakh, over Tk 1.18 lakh in cash, 20 tolas of gold and electronic appliances.

Bakul submitted the statement through his lawyer advocate Abul Khair Monday.

"When our leaders are ill, the government will take measures on

humanitarian grounds," he added. Hasina was arrested on July 16 of last year from her Dhanmondi residence in the capital while her traditional archrival Khaleda Zia was arrested on September 3 from her Cantonment residence.

On Sunday, the government had decided to release ailing AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil on a 30-day parole for his treatment abroad, following which he flew off to Singapore in the first hour of yester-

Communications Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Ghulam Quader told a television channel yesterday that the government will be sympathetic to detained political leaders seeking

medical treatment abroad. "Opinions of doctors and recommendations of medial boards will be required for allowing anyone to go abroad for treatment," said the adviser in a special interview with private television, Channeli.

"It is for sure that the government thinks they [Hasina and Khaleda] need treatment, it will not hesitate to send them abroad," the adviser said. OFFICIALS DENY MEDIA REPORTS Deputy Inspector General of Prisons (DIG-prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddiqui yesterday rejected reports in some electronic and print media that the jail authorities have not been allowing Hasina's close relations to meet her, and that she has not even been allowed to get her medicines for the last three days.

"Her relatives met her 15 times, and her lawyers met her 26 times since she had been detained in the makeshift jail. Not only in the jail, we heard Sheikh Hasina also met her relatives and counsels 15 times in the special court. So, how have we violated the jail code?" UNB quoted Haider as saying at a news conference yesterday.

"The allegation of not letting Hasina have her medicines is absolutely untrue and false because it is impossible to keep her without the medicines even for three hours," he

BRAC Bank heist

FROM PAGE 1 and Tk 3,00,000 in cash.

Mohammad Nasirullah, inspector of DB and investigation officer (IO) of the case, told The Daily Star, 'Mashuk [arrested on Monday] is

Mannan harboured the accused." Mannan had been sheltering other accused -- Taher, Hanif, Shukkur, Mashuk and Mozammel - and was trying to help them flee to

one of the three masterminds and

the Middle East, added the IO. Jewellery shop owner Halim had bought 172 tolas of gold from the burglars for Tk 15 lakh and he was a regular customer of stolen gold items, he said adding that the entire loot of gold and other jewellery were purchased by several jewellery shop owners with whom the burglars have longstanding

Shukkur Ali, one of the masterminds of the BRAC Bank heist, was arrested earlier from Mongla port area in Bagerhat and another mastermind Abdul Halim is still on the run, said the IO.

Inspector Nasirullah said the booty from the BRAC Bank burglary was divided into 19 shares and Shukkur Ali alone got five shares as he along with his wife, his father, mother and a brother-inlaw were also involved in the heist while Mashuk was given about two

"The recovered booty would be handed over to the Bangladesh Bank following completion of the investigation upon verdict of the court," he added.

"We are drawing near the end of the investigation. About half of the booty has been recovered and we would be able to submit the charge sheet of the case once three to four more suspects are arrested," said Inspector Nasirullah.

Some 100 victims vesterday noon went to the Natore DC office to submit a memorandum demanding justice. But police intercepted them on the way and army also intervened to quell the agitating mob.

Earlier on Monday, participants of a meeting at the DC office demanded arrest of four Probhati officials -- president Azhar Ali and employees Ishaq, Joynal and Lalu who were also present.

But Lipi took charge of them assuring the meeting that they would not disappear, while the four also promised to return the money from next morning.

However, Probhati members went to the office at Nasratpur to find

Infuriated, the members swooped on Lipi, wife of swindling Durjoy Bangla's adviser Shahin Alam, and clashed with police, who also baton-charged the mob to rescue her. She was committed to Natore General Hospital under police protection.

Police yesterday arrested four fleeing officials including Bazlur Rahman, Probhati adviser, and Lalu of two NGOs in Natore and Rajshahi.

People held Shariful, Fazlur Rahman, his son Asaduzzaman and Soab of Naba Jagoron in Satbaria in Puthia. Following a negotiation, the four agreed to return Tk 59 lakh of unpaid Tk 98 lakh to Natore members and were handed over to police after returning Tk 38 lakh in cash and

In another drive, locals caught Meher Ali of Target-20 and left him bound all day long in Chaukhali in Brammapur. Despite repeated calls, police did not rescue him.

Puthia, Rajshahi however started returning members' money amid police vigilance, said Shilmaria UF Chairman Sajjad Hossain.

Blackout

tagged as a 'failed state' as we have failed to try the war criminals. We can get rid of this dishonour by bringing the war criminals to justice," he said.

Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah vowed to resist any electoral alli-Islami

Chowdhury said they would compel the government to take initiatives for trying the war criminals.

He urged the government to form a mass probe committee to identify war criminals and try them under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act.

"If the government so wishes or delegates power to us, we can prepare the list of war criminals," Chowdhury.

Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta, Lt Gen (retd) Harun-ar-Rashid, Maj Gen (retd) M Mashudur Rahman, Maj Gen (retd) Jamil Din Ahsan, Dr M Sarwar Ali, Dr MA Hasan, journalist present.

counsel if the court has jurisdiction to give any political decision.

lenge the Election Commission's

Khaleda's counsel said it would not have been objected if the EC office addressing secretary general of the party.

mentioned that Khaleda Zia has absolute authority in the party. He said Khaleda is the only elected leader in the central body of the party, the rest are nominated.

advocate TH Khan was also present inside the court during the hearing while Dr Kamal Hossain was also present as counsel for the EC.

On November 5 last year, the EC invited Hafiz to the dialogue scheduled for November 22. On October 29, BNP's standing committee appointed M Saifur Rahman and Hafiz as acting chairman and

> Khaleda's counsel argued that there is no provision for appointing acting secretary general in the BNP constitution. On November 18, a High Court

> bench issued a rule on the commission, Maj (retd) Hafiz, six BNP standing committee members and the government, asking them as to why the EC's invitation letter should not be declared illegal.

The commission issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Khaleda challenging the legality of the EC's letter.

Khaleda, prior to her arrest on September 3, expelled Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan from the post of secretary general of the party and appointed Khandaker Delwar Hossain to the post.

FROM PAGE 1

amongst us," Rozina's mother continued, "But after the Eid-ul-Azha in December, he asked me to let my daughter stay at his house as a guest and I allowed that since she used to call him nana [grandfather]."

After Majid raped Rozina and left her burning in fire in his house, his neighbours rescued the young girl and sent her to the Gaibandha Sadar Hospital.

Hundreds of women, adolescents and children fall victim to rape, murder after rape, throwing of acid, burning, abduction and trafficking everyyear.

According to a report of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, some 458 women, adolescents were raped last year while 201 were gang raped. A total of 126 were killed after rape, 48 were burned and acid was thrown on

Advocate Alina Khan, executive director of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights, told The Daily Star that these types of violence on women is on the rise with increased feeling of insecurity and unrest in the society.

"More cases of adolescents violated by their uncles or distant relatives are being brought to us lately," she said. The offenders take advantage of the adolescents as they are more vulnerable, she observed saying that the families of the victims often try to conceal the incidents fearing social consequences.

Prof Mahmuda Islam of Department of Sociology at Dhaka

Edible oil

FROM PAGE 16

Though the businesspeople agreed to follow the rates fixed in the meet ing, the prices of soya bean and palm oils reportedly marked a rise on the market.

The government has also asked the chairman of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) to send daily report to the commerce ministry after spot visit to the oil-selling outlets or markets. In case of exception in the sell-

ing prices of edible oils, people have been asked to inform the commerce ministry "immedi-Earlier on Monday, the govern-

ment banned export of soybean and palm oils for six months to ensure its "sufficient supply on the domestic market".

adviser on Monday the EC handed

over the draft code of conduct to him

for the government's consideration.

The LGRD ministry usually formu-

lates all sorts of rules for polls to local

formulate electoral rules for polls to

local governments, it will be able to

finalise itself the code of conduct for

candidates in city corporation polls

is almost similar to the one for politi-

cal parties and individual candidates

According to the current electoral

code of conduct, political parties and

individual candidates do not need to

seek permission from the authorities

for brining out campaign proces-

sions or for holding rallies. They just

need to inform local police stations

ordinance to the LGRD ministry for

banning permanently pasting of

posters and scrawling of graffiti on

walls of public and private buildings

The EC also drafted a proposal to fix a

ceiling for campaign expenditure of

the candidates in city corporation

elections, based on the numbers of

The EC also submitted a draft

in parliamentary election.

about their programmes.

ELECTION EXPENDITURE

in urban areas.

The draft code of conduct for

candidates in city corporation polls.

But, if the EC gets the authority to

governments.

Artefacts FROM PAGE 1 doesn't make any publication on

Asked about security concerns, increased while kinship and social all the high officials from the bonding have deteriorated in the museum said the storeroom is very society -- paving the way for some safe as nobody is allowed to get in. perverts who take advantage of and Some items are remaining there exploit vulnerable girls. for years, insiders say, adding that the museum authorities have not **US** lawmakers

displayed those.

Except the two 'Vishnu' statues,

the last theft at national museum

occurred in 1991, sources said.

From the display of the gallery,

unidentified thieves cut off and

stole a lion-faced arm from the

throne of Dighapatia king o

been kept in the store room. A case

was filed in this connection but

Asked how they ensure safety to

the treasures, the high officials said

once an item is registered with the

museum and gets an accession

number, two wings constantly look

store and remove something from

there," said the register.

"So nobody can just enter the

The register went on to say that

they keep written details of every

single treasure. "If it's a terracotta

statue, we write down its size,

weight, colour and every detail of

change the items," the register

keep the keys alone and nobody

enters the store without valid

reason," said Samar Chandra Poul

the store where no outsider is

allowed to enter, even the museum

of the four wings, History and

Classical Art now has 67,164 items

Ethnography and Classical

Decorative Art 11,740 items,

Contemporary Art and World

Civilisation 4,958 items and

museum collected only 14 items in

1965, while only 34 items were

lowest collection in the last 42

years. The year 1986 saw the high-

est collection ever, as 8,192 items

Following the recent theft, the

were added to the treasures.

system is not good enough.

According to the register, the

The year 2007 witnessed the

Natural History has 2,319 items.

added last year.

According to museum sources,

staffs but officials concerned."

"All these artefacts are kept at

director general of the museum.

"No single person is eligible to

the figure. So nobody can simply

that yielded no developments,

said a museum high official.

after it.

"Since then, the throne has

missile shield

scrutinise

University said isolation has

AP, Washington

Congressional Democrats are taking a closer look at the U.S. missile defense program, partly in an effort to pare down its high price

The Democrats are raising questions about the effectiveness of the anti-missile program and investigating whether its testing regimen is realistic enough to demonstrate its capabilities against real attacks. Critics have long contended that the program's tests are too predictable.

Jalil

FROM PAGE 1 hemo-kidney dialysis.

"He phoned me to tell him what

to do. He wanted to know whether he should continue taking medicine rather than going for kidney dialysis," said Dr Baren.

He said Jalil's condition remained unchanged yesterday but he seemed to be broken down hearing the doctors' decision on operation.

The AL leader also talked to his other personal physician Dr Matiur Rahman, chief cardiologist of LabAid Cardiac Hospital.

Jalil, accompanied by his wife Rehana Jalil, flew to Singapore for treatment in the first hour of yesterday after being released on a 30day parole on Monday night.

Abdul Jalil has been suffering from heart and kidney problems compounded by diabetes.

Joint forces arrested Jalil from his Mercantile Bank office in Motijheel of the capital on May 28 last year. He had been detained under Special Powers Act for over six months.

the investigation.

A case was filed against him on government, as requested by the December 18 for concealing informuseum, has taken measures to mation in his wealth statement, increase number of police gourds, but there has been little progress in since the museum's own security

Tk 12 lakh missing No processions, rallies FROM PAGE 16

Talking to The Daily Star, Firoz Ahmed, assistant general manager of the bank, said, "Although the incident took place inside the bank, we have nothing to do as the money went missing after payment."

Iqramul Huq, deputy director of the DSHE, filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station without accusing anyone.

Shahidul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shahbagh Police Station said, "It is a mysterious incident."

"Two or three bank employees might have been involved with the incident," the OC said adding that both the DSHE and bank staff are under their suspicion.

Tarique

FROM PAGE 1 proceedings of the cases.

A division bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Shaidul Islam passed the orders following two separate petitions and also stayed the proceedings of Despite the HC orders for set-

ting him free on bail, Tarique Rahman cannot come out of jail as he is implicated in a series of corruption cases, said Mahbubuddin Khokon, a counsel for Tarique. Owner of a real-estate company

and an aggrieved person filed the cases with Dhanmondi Police Station in March and May last year.

In November last year, the High Court issued a rule upon the government to explain why placing of the extortion cases against Tarique Rahman under the Emergency Power Rules should not be declared illegal.

Mugger killed FROM PAGE 16

Haq, in front of Southeast Bank CDA Avenue Branch near Sholoshohar Gate No -2 at around 2:30pm as he was going to the bank

bank staff came to the rescue of Nurul Haq. They caught two of the muggers and beat them up, injuring Babul and Kamal gravely. The other two muggers man-

aged to flee on motorbikes. The injured were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where on-duty

doctors declared Babul dead. Kamal is undergoing treatment.

Sub Inspector Mahbub Milki of the Panchlaish Police Station said last evening that two separate cases were in the process of being filed in this regard.

Obama surges

FROM PAGE 16 the longest and costliest primary

race in history. "What we're going to find out tomorrow is what two really big states have to say, because after all it's still a very close contest in terms of the popular vote and the number of delegates," she told a television talk showlate Monday.

"Most primary campaigns until relatively recently lasted a lot longer. My husband didn't wrap up the Democratic nomination until June,"

Since the original Super Tuesday of February 5, Obama has been on a roll with 11 nominating victories in a row, and now enjoys a small but clear lead in the Democratic delegate "If we do well in Texas and Ohio, I

going to be hard for her to win the nomination, and they'll have to make a decision about how much longer they want to pursue it," he told Pressing home his financial advantage after a banner month of

fundraising in February, the Illinois senator aired a two-minute ad in Texas that detailed his extraordinary life story and highlighted his opposition to the Iraq war. Obama leads in Texas by 46-45

percent in his quest to be the first black president, according to polling by McClatchy Newspapers, MSNBC television and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram

A Quinnipiac University survey Monday had Hillary Clinton up 49 to 45 percent in Ohio, but her lead had shrunk dramatically from a 21 point gap on February 14. New Mexico Governor Bill

Richardson, a top Democrat who has stayed neutral in the race, argued Sunday that whoever emerges on top after Tuesday should be anointed the party's standard-bearer.

His call is likely to turn into a tidal wave if Clinton loses Ohio and Texas. According RealClearPolitics.com, Obama leads

by 1,392 delegates to Clinton's 1,279. McCain is favoured to vanquish Huckabee's challenge on Tuesday because the Republicans award all their delegates to a state's winner.

But the Democratic voting is proportional, meaning that Hillary Clinton would need landslide victories on Tuesday and beyond just to pull even with Obama.

Senator John Kerry, the party's defeated 2004 candidate backing Obama, said Clinton must decide after Tuesday whether she has any path to the nomination.

Tata Group

FROM PAGE 16

But at one stage of negotiations the previous BNP government had decided that the next elected government should take the final decision, prompting Tata to suspend its project in Bangladesh in 2006.

Despite the suspension, the Tata Group's top executives expressed their intention on several occasions to move forward with the project.

NIKO graft case

FROM PAGE 16

Detained former law minister Moudud Ahmed and AKM Mosharraf have already been quizzed at their jail gates in connection with the case.

The investigation team also questioned businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun and former Dhaka Club president Selim Bhuiyan. The ACC has also questioned a

number of bureaucrats from different ministries regarding the high profile case. Besides, relevant files and documents have been seized.

The investigation team also made

some spot visits, including Chhatak

past experiments "that could have a

It cites ElBaradei in calling such pathway to nuclear arms despite four Security Council resolutions

Bhuiyan accuses

FROM PAGE 1 involved in political matters

through seeking court recognition of Khandaker Delwar Hossain as

October 29 standing-committee meeting, he claimed that there was a standing committee of BNP that passed a resolution stating that the committee did not give approval to his expulsion from the party. On September 2 last year, hours

before her arrest in connection in his place.

The appointment was made "without consulting any of the members of the standing committee or the other senior party leaders, as there was no such scope to do so", Bhuiyan claimed in contesting the party chief's unilateral action.

that Delwar would be relieved of his post of secretary general due to his ill health and in his place party vice-chairman Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed would be the acting secretary general. The meeting further decided

that in the absence of party chairperson, senior-most member of the standing committee M Saifur Rahman would be acting chairper son of BNP, Bhuiyan contended in his written deposition. Bhuiyan denied the allegation

Saifur's Gulshan house got the prepared minutes of the meeting signed through "threat, intimida-

tion and coercion". Bhuiyan further argued in his submissions that Delwar never made any claim to the Election Commission that he is the secretary general of BNP during the

The rule hearings in the highly politically significant case remained inconclusive for the second day. It resumes today.

Suicide bombers

Two buses and several cars caught the naval college," Lahore police

"The first drove into the security post and they opened fire. His head was blown over the wall into the naval compound by the force of the

second bomber to drive into the parking lot where he also exploded himself. Interior Ministry spokesman

Brigadier Javed Cheema said five

people were killed and another 19

were wounded, according to initial Navy spokesman Captain Akbar Naqi confirmed there were two suicide bombers and said that one

The Naval War College trains senior naval officials from Pakistan and from other countries including China, Sri Lanka and at least a dozen Muslim nations.

shook the windowpanes of my office opposite the college. I thought the building was collapsing," Lahore lawyer Arif Saeed told AFP.

Hannan Shah

Khaleda Zia-appointed Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain is trying to avoid the unification process issue saying they do not know anything about the claims of Hannan Shah

Delwar is not aware of Hannan

Shah's statement or the stage of the unification process, said Rizvi Ahmed, BNP pro-Khaleda office Hannan Shah did not divulge his strategy but his initiative created conflict within his own faction which

may turn into a formal division, leaders feared. However, both groups of leaders of the pro-Khaleda faction said the Saifur-led faction must cancel the unite the party," a former lawmaker decisions taken by BNP standing who was present at Hannan Shah's committee meeting held October 29 at Saifur's house before uniting the

Hannan Shah while talking to reporters at his Mohakhali home yesterday said, "We have contacted them [pro-Saifur leaders] and we hope the process to unite the party will succeed." He also said they have started the

wrongdoings and due to the expectation of party leaders and workers. "I firmly believe they [pro-Saifur] will return to the mainstream and would be given honourable posts but they have to cancel the decisions of October 29 meeting," he said.

unification process following dissi-

dent leaders' admission of their

He said after the party chairperson is freed, the party would take necessary steps regarding expelled leaders following the BNP constitution. Replying to a question on local government elections, he said the

main task of the caretaker govern-

ment is to hold parliament elections. He urged the authorities concerned to release the sick BNP leaders who are in jail

A number of BNP pro-Khaleda

faction leaders questioned Hannan Shah's authority to make such remarks in absence of the party's Secretary General Delwar, now in Singapore for treatment. Hannan Shah yesterday held a meeting with BNP joint secretaries general Nazrul Islam Khan, Selima

Rahman and Gayeshwar Chandra

Roy and Organising Secretary Mohammad Shahjahan. "I think he made exaggerated claims about unity... so far as we know, discussions are going on to home while he was talking to reporters told The Daily Starlast evening.

A party leader requesting anonymity said, "Khaleda Zia-appointed Secretary General Delwar Hossain left for Singapore Sunday night without informing the party leaders about his trip since he feared that a group of leaders of his faction are planning to hold a meeting and change the party leadership in the name of unity.

Rizvi Ahmed, BNP pro-Khaleda office secretary, said Delwar went to Singapore for treatment and would return after a week's stay. He said Delwar and his aides

believe that united BNP is possible

if pro-Saifur leaders cancel their October 29 meeting decisions and accept Khaleda's decision regarding Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Ashraf Hossain expulsion and appointment of Delwar as party's secretary general.

that the four had fled.

A number of such NGOs in

FROM PAGE 16 "This state (Bangladesh) has been

ance with anti-liberation war elements including Jamaat-e-Lt Col (retd) Abu Osman

said war hero Abu Osman

Harun Habib, M Hamid, and Anwar Kabir, among others, were Khaleda's counsel

FROM PAGE 1 Rahman told Khaleda's counsel that if the court decides that issuing the letter to Hafiz was not legal then it will mean Khandaker Delwar is secretary general of BNP and if the court decided it was legal, then it will mean Hafiz is secretary general of BNP. The court asked Khaleda's

Replying to the question Khaleda's counsel said, "We are here (in the court) not for any political decision, we are here to chal-

issued the letter to BNP central Citing BNP's constitution, he

· Senior counsel for Khaleda Hearing is to continue today.

acting secretary general of BNP.

not earned legally.

for election campaign, while Tk 50,000 expenditure is allowed for ward commissioner candidates, regardless of the number of voters in a constituency. Saying the current ceiling on campaign expenditure is irrational, the EC moved to introduce a new

The existing provision allows a

mayoral candidate to spend Tk 5 lakh

nations as the numbers of voters in the six city corporations vary. According to the new area wise voter lists with photographs, Rajshahi City Corporation has 2.60 lakh voters, Khulna City Corporation has 3.98 lakh, Barisal has 1.77 lakh, Sylhet has 2.54 lakh, and Chittagong City Corporation has 15.52 lakh

system in a bid to remove discrimi-

In Dhaka City Corporation 35 lakh voters have already been registered so far, and the number is likely to increase as registrations go on. To reduce campaign expenditure in city corporation polls, the EC also planned to arrange electoral debates of the candidates, which are likely to

be broadcast by television channels and radio stations. The EC is scheduled to sit today with representatives from satellite television channels and radio stations seeking their cooperation in broadcasting the debates among the

voters in constituencies, sources in the EC said. electoral candidates. Babar shown held

Assistant Director Rupak Kumar Saha, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted a petition to show him arrested in the case.

ACC Assistant Director Mirza

Zahidul Alam filed the case against

Babar with Ramna police on January 13 for hiding information about his wealth worth about Tk 7.6 crore in the wealth statement submitted to the ACC. Babar submitted the statement on July 7 last year through the senior jail super of Dhaka Central Jail following an ACC order. He said he, his

wife, son and daughter have move-

able and immovable property worth

aboutTk6.77 crore.

The former state minister mentioned that construction cost of his house at Madan upazila in Netrakona was Tk 8 lakh. But, during verification the Public Works Department found that the construction cost was about Tk 34.43 lakh. The case statement also said Babar made no mention of Tk 6.79

lakh he deposited in his savings

account with Gulshan branch of

Prime Bank. The banking data shows

that \$1 million was sent to Babar's

account through demand draft from

HSBC bank in Singapore on June 20, The former state minister did not give any appropriate reply or explanation when he was asked about the source of the money. It suggests that he kept the money abroad as it was

The ACC official also mentioned that if further information or anyone's involvement is found during investigation it would also be included in the case. The army-led joint forces arrested

Babar at his Gulshan residence on

May 28 last year and recovered four

illegal firearms, two magazines, and

297 rounds of ammunition.

Babar was handed down 17 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessingillegal arms and ammunition. Joint forces also recovered Tk 20 crore, which Babar received from Bashundhara Group in exchange for not implicating Shafiat Sobhan, son

of the proprietor of the group, in ;

murder case.

CASEAGAINSTBABUL

sincefiling of the case.

Ahmed, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Babul and two of his family members to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court showing 25 people as prosecution witnesses. The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against Babul's wife Salma Islam and their son Shamim

Earlier, the High Court granted Babul bail in the case and he was released from jail. The case was filed against Babul and others on August 19 last year for concealing information about wealth worth Tk 43,980,412 in their

wealth statements and amassing

assets worth Tk 76,427,500 illegally.

and the order to attach their proper-

ties, as they have been absconding

to deposit Tk 1 lakh. Pedestrians and members of the ACC Deputy Director Monzur

> Police recovered a modern pipe-gun and three rounds of bullet from the muggers' possession. Later, the motorbikes used in the incident were recovered from in front of the Medical Centre at the GEC Intersection.

uncertain economic future. "If he can't compete with us on who can be commander-in-chief, who can be a steward of this economy, he can't compete with John think the math is such where it's McCain on these issues," Clinton spokesman Howard Wolfson said. As the national security debate

"If she doesn't win Texas, the

Kerry also lashed out as Clinton

former president (Bill Clinton) him-

self has said that he thinks it would be

aired ominous television spots in

Texas attacking Obama's capacity to

safeguard the United States from

attack -- evidence, he said, that her

campaign was now "grasping at

was high time for Obama to face

tough questioning over who is best

prepared to take on the

Republicans in November and

then lead the United States into an

But Hillary Clinton aides said it

very difficult to continue," he said.

played out in Texas, the two campaigns waged running battles over the North American Free Trade Agreement in economically ravaged Ohio, where Nafta is especially unpopular. Hillary Clinton accused Obama of publicly savaging the trade deal

linking the United States, Canada

and Mexico, while secretly reassuring Canada that his warnings were mere political rhetoric. Amid angry denials from the Obama camp, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper was forced to say he regretted aspersions cast against the Illinois senator by an internal government

Swechchhasebak

FROM PAGE 16

dead. Kawsar received five bullets-two in the head and one each in the chest, abdomen and back. "Hearing gunshots near Amtola mosque, I went to the spot and found

Kawsar lying in a pool of blood," Gazi

Yasin, who took the victim to the

Kawsar's wife Shahina Begum

DMCH, told reporters at the hospital.

and sister Dolly Begum said anonymous callers had been threatening to kill Kawsar for the last one week over cellphone. However, Kawsar's friend Mohidul Islam Lablu said Kawsar was always against local drug ped-

dlers and muggers. He suspects the muggers or drugs peddlers might have hand in the killing. Second officer of Motifheel Police Station told The Daily Star last night that they were yet to find a clue

to the killing. No arrest was made as

Meanwhile, a tea vendor, who was stabbed on Monday afternoon at Shekher Tek in the city, succumbed to his injuries at the DMCH early yesterday. An unknown criminal stabbed

Siddigur Rahman, 38, in the chest at Shekhertek in Mohammadpur at 3:00 pm on Monday. No one was arrested in connection with the murder until 8:00pm

yesterday. Russia, China

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of 8:00pm.

"restricted" and made available to The Associated Press, reflected Western attempts to ramp up pressure on Iran using the IAEA as a venue. It said the board "firmly supports" attempts by IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei to shed light on

military dimension" shorthand for alleged attempts by Iran to develop nuclear arms. alleged programs "a matter of serious concern." And it "deeply regrets" Tehran's refusal to suspend uranium enrichment a possible

demanding it do so.

secretary general of BNP," Bhuiyan told the High Court while contesting the case as an additional respondent. Countering an oblique remark of the counsel for Khaleda having dubbed "midnight coup" the

with a corruption case, the immediate-past premier had sacked her reformist secretary general Mannan Bhuiyan on charge of anti-party activities and handpicked Khandaker Delwar Hossain

He mentioned that the meeting of the standing committee decided

made by the other respondents in the case that two "strangers" who were present at the meeting of the standing committee held at

dilemma over EC dialogue with the party on electoral reforms.

"Two suicide bombers attacked chief Malik Mohammad Iqbal told

blast," Iqbal added. "He cleared the way for the

navy personnel was among those

"The blasts were so huge they

there be a medical report first. If necessary, another high powered medical board will be formed and steps will be taken in line with the recommendations." "If the board recommends sendingher abroad, we'll do so," he said.