Hasina and her party AL want her

PERSONAL DOCS BARRED FROM SEEING HASINA

When Dr Modasser Ali and Dr ABM Abdullah went to the hospital to check Hasina's health, security personnel posted to ensure AL chief's security, did not allow them to enter. They waited in the hospital for about an hour and a

The security personnel told Hasina's personal doctors that none other than the doctors in the Square Hospital panel would be allowed to see

"We don't know why we were not allowed to see our patient since we had been seeing her in the jail," Abdullah

Talking to The Daily Star Maj Siddiqui said normally access to any detainee is restricted. "If necessary, personal physicians will be brought in again soon," he said.

Asked whether the AL chief will be brought to the special court today in connection with a case against her, Maj Siddiqui said it will depend on the

But sources said the government's high ups became unhappy with Hasina's personal physicians' formation of a medical board and their recommendation for sending her to the US for her ear treatment, without conducting any test. For that reason the jail authorities restricted Hasina's personal physicians' access to her.

NEWMEDICALTEAM Prof Sanawar Hossain, director of medical services and consultant

Touhiduzzaman, Dr Sarwar Alam, Dr Shahil Mahmud, Dr Shah Alam, Dr Mirza Nazimuddin, and Dr MH Millat.

Prof Sanawar said the AL chief's medical tests done.

He said her pathological tests began vesterday with blood and urine tests already being done.

An ultra-sonogram will be performed on her today, he said adding that it will take at least 7 to 8 days to

re-adjust in Square Hospital the function of the ALchief's hearing aid.

The doctor said Hasina told them that she was feeling better and had a sound sleep the night before.

Asked if doctors from outside are barred from examining Hasina, he replied, "There is no restriction from the Hospital, if there is no restriction from the government."

Hasina was admitted to Square Hospital on Tuesday where a panel of seven medical specialists, Prof Mohammad Abu Tahir, Prof Tofail Ahmed, Prof Pran Gopal Dutta, Prof Modasser Ali, Prof MU Kabir Chowdhury, Dr ABM Abdullah, and Dr MH Millat, unanimously recommended to send her to the US for treatment of hearing loss.

Besides acute ear problems, Hasina has been suffering from allergy and high blood pressure.

AL'SLETTERTOCA Meanwhile, AL vesterday sent a letter to Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed calling upon him to take necessary steps immediately to release its chief unconditionally, so she can go to the US for treatment.

The letter signed by Acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam also said all party supporters, workers, leaders, and the people of the country are worried about the health of the daugh-Meanwhile, being obstructed by ter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur | market. Soya bean oil was sold at Tk

AL Presidium, the highest policy making body of the party, at a meeting on Tuesday decided to send the letter to the chief adviser.

Leaders of AL at a news briefing in Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi yesterday told journalists that they were harassed for hours in the office of the head of government when they went to hand over the letter there. Sved Ashraful Islam tried to talk to

any of the responsible persons in the office, but found none over the phone. At the briefing, ALleaders expressed their astonishment and protested the

incident. "We did not expect that no one would be in the chief adviser's office immediately after his departure for abroad, "said AL leader Abdul Mannan

Khan. "We tried to reach the principal secretary, personal secretary, assistant personal secretary, and the director of administration in the Office of the Chief Adviser, but none of them was in the office," said AL leader Asim Kumar

The AL leaders finally contacted Additional Secretary Mostafa Karnal Haider who asked one of the office staff to tell the AL leaders to leave the letter at

Later, Khairul Islam, a stenographer, received the letter from the lead ers of one of the most major political parties in the country.

## Tax-dodging

of the case proceedings in a special court. The High Court made its rule absolute upon a petition filed for Pankaj, convicted in another case, on grounds of procedural flaws in initiating the case and giving sanction by the NBR for filing the case.

On August 27 last year, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the case against Pankaj on charges of nonsubmission of his income-tax return and concealing information about his assets, which is punishable offence under the law.

Advocate M Enayetur Rahim appeared for Pankaj, already serving a 13-year jail term for amassing wealth worth about Tk 65 lakh by illegal

found that price of each maund of

Prices of Indian Swarna and Ratna and local Guti and IRRI varieties ranged from Tk 1100 to Tk

these varieties at Tk 33 a kilogram, an increase of Tk 0.5 to Tk 1 on the day before, while others sold them for Tk 32. Prices of these varieties shot up by Tk 2 to Tk 3 in the last five

on rice export, a few big wholesalers are also contributing to the price hike by hoarding the grain, wholesalers at Babubazar said.

Meanwhile, prices of edible oil and sugar nosedived in the city's wholesale markets. Traders said the price falls are due to a decrease in edible oil prices in the international market and the govern-

The price of each maund of soya bean oil was Tk 4100 yesterday. It was sold at Tk 4300 at Moulovi Bazar just two days back. Best quality palm oil that was sold at Tk 4000 per maund was sold for Tk

This decrease in prices, however, had no impact on the retail 118 to Tk 125 per kg yesterday, while the price of palm oil stood at Tk 105 to Tk 108. Unscrupulous retailers are also selling quality palm oil in the name of soya bean oilatTk110toTk112perkg.

In the last two days sugar prices came down by Tk 120 per maund in the wholesale market, costing each maund of sugar Tk 1330. But this reduction saw no impact on the retail market either, Each kg sugar was sold at Tk 40 to Tk 42.

Retailers said the price of sugar would come down in the retail market in a day or two after they start selling the sugar they purchased at decreased rate.

reports: The importers o no fruit in the last three days. Traders said the meeting

between Federation of Indian Export Organisations and India's commerce ministry in Delhi also failed to produce any result as to the release of the stranded trucks. India's Deputy Commissioner

the border must not be exported a prices lower than \$650. Meanwhile, Bangladesh importers said some of them went to banks to amend the letters o credit (LCs) in a bid to increase th

price from \$510 to \$650 for each

metric ton of rice; but the banks did

not agree to this. Presently, each tonne of rice is selling at \$330 to \$370 in West Bengal's Burdwan district.

## Hasına

FROM PAGE 16

through the jail authorities on July 17 last year, asking her to submit statement of her movable and immovable property to the commission within seven working days.

Hasina, being aggrieved, filed the writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of the ACC notice and won the legal battle.

### Over 10 lakh

**FROM PAGE 1** 

Commodity Supply Corporation is delivering the rice purchased by the government at \$399 per metric ton.

Addressing a press briefing earlier at his ministry yesterday, adviser Shawkat Ali admitted that the rice market is not at a tolerable stage and stressed the need of increasing supply to the markets.

unloaded in Chittagong port vester

Talking on government role in monitoring rice prices in local markets, he said, "We're selling rice at Tk 25 a kg through 2319 outlets under the OMS (open market sale) programme and distributing free rice through 40 lakh VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programmes to help the poor. We're also selling rice at a low price at around 190 BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) shops."

Asked about government steps to help the middle class and lower middle class, he observed that the government has to set priority adding that the lower middle class are also visiting the BDR shops.

Asked whether they have any plan about the fixed income group, the adviser said that they are trying to find a solution.

Talking on the LCs opened on private sectors before the Indian authorities raised the price to \$560 per metric ton, he said, "Such LCs are protected. The Indian customs officials are contacting Delhi and it'll be settled within one or two days."

## Scandal-hit

FROM PAGE 16

In a brief resignation statement, he said: "Over the course of my public life I have insisted, I believe correctly, that people regardless of their position or power take responsibility for their conduct.

"I can and will ask no less of myself.

He added: "I go forward with the belief, as others have said, that as human beings our greatest glory consists not in never falling but in rising every time we fall."

Spitzer, 48, is married with three teenage girls.

# Last of the wild

FROM PAGE 1

Mongoose roam in Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Azimpur, Hazaribagh, Mirpur, Gulshan, Secretariat building and some pockets of Dhaka University, and Shahbagh and many other places.

Mongooses are day-active mammals surviving in the city by feasting mainly on rat and insect population, while chickens sometimes fall prey to it. The species is also seen near waste bins where they have learnt to extract leftovers for survival.

Jackals once roamed freely in the city, but the animal is now on the verge of extinction. But still sightings of jackals and their howling are frequent in areas like Mirpur ceramic factory. On the BDR headquarters premises and its adjoining areas there were reported sightings as well.

"In the Botanical Garden and surrounding villages there are still some jackals," said Reza Khan.

Presently small colonies of fruit bats and pipistrelle (chamchika) exist in different parts of the city. While bat colonies are seen hanging from branches of large trees in Ramna Park, National Botanical Garden and some others areas, pipistrelle choose to live in the loopholes of old buildings.

Talking with the locals it is learnt that some water monitors are now counting their days. They can be sighted in and around Mirpur Botanical Garden and National Zoo and by the Turag river.

Irawadi and five-stripe squirrels are now seen in very limited numbers at Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Udyan, and Botanical Garden and also at the zoo.

Some species of snakes including Chequered Keel Backs (dhora shap), two species of cobras, vine snakes (shutanoli), wolf snake (ghor ginni), golden tree snake (kal nagini) and many other species were quite common in the city wetlands and its periphery. Still in the marshy areas of Khilgaon, Adabar, Rayerbazar and Mirpur Chequered Keel Backs are often sighted.

Experts said city-loving birds are dominated by House Crow, House Sparrow, smaller population of Jungle Crow, Jungle and Common Mynas, Rock Pigeon, Magpie Robin, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Pygmy and Black-rumped Flameback Woodpeckers, Redvented Bulbul, Common Tailor Bird, Little Green Bee-eater, Koel, Coppersmith Barbet, Pariah Kite, Brahminy Kite, Black-headed Oriole, Tree Pie, Black Drongo, Common Iora, Purple-rumped Sunbird, Common and Whitebreasted Kingfisher and Paddy Bird or Pond Heron. These species are still available by the wetlands or in the parks or on the electric polls.

The next dominant group is no doubt the insects such as butterflies, moths, mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches, crickets, grasshoppers, bed bugs, body lice and other arthropods like the spiders. Just after rainfall croaks of frogs

can still be heard all over the city, which is house to at least four species of frogs. Skipper frog and tree frogs are however almost extinct but bullfrogs and toads are spotted occasionally. Many houses and business

establishments or offices support at least one and sometimes two species of House Geckos, while garden lizards are also available in the city. Pangolin, a scaly anteater, feed-

ing on termites and grubs has become almost extinct. But on occasions they are caught near water bodies in Mirpur and Joarsahara a couple of years ago.

Dr Reza Khan said through email that in spite of the fact that people are destroying natural habitat for constructing their own residential quarters, office blocks and business establishments,

approved monthly income and

Mujahid, a Transparency

International Bangladesh (TIB)

official, mentioned 10 discrepan-

cies. Intriguingly, the report had

even alerted that the NGOs might

get away ruining the ignorant

bers taking Tk 6,400 per person

against an offer of weekly dividend

29,640 in 52 weeks, 4.6 times higher

of Tk 570 until the total stands at Tk

Each member was given condi-

The victims said besides the

attractive offer, police escort for the

NGO men and law enforcers' fre-

quent visits to their offices gave

Contacted, Natore Deputy

"It's them who had kept mum

Commissioner SM Ehsan Kabir

pinned the blame on the police and

(about the NGOs). We had sent

them copies of the probe reports...

We later informed higher authori-

NGOs on March 3) was taken unan-

promised they would not escape

while local UP chairmen took their

responsibility and police assured of

Mir Bux and Azimussan, registra-

watching them," the DC said.

tions of bringing two more mem-

bers for getting the dividend.

them confidence to invest.

ties and the home ministry.

social welfare office.

The NGOs were enrolling mem-

Another report by Abdullah Al

FROM PAGE 16

expenditure.

investors

than investment.

Lax admin control

some animals will always be close

was nothing but an effort for damto them. age limitation. And it was done "We shall have to accept these as with some maturity by two young our companions," he wrote. batsmen despite the fact that the

Proteas take

With the score at 4-18 in 6.8 overs,

the rest of the Bangladesh innings

119 runs, which is a Bangladesh

record for the fifth wicket. But apart

from that stand there was nothing

to cheer for the half-packed audi-

Captain Mohammad Ashraful

won a good toss but his decision to

bat first for the second successive

time did not change the perennial

top-order collapse syndrome and

this time around South Africa

paceman Andrew Nel did all the

resistance from the middle-order

when Shakib and Rokib batted

astutely to revive hopes from the

initial hiccups but their effort was

There was however an unusual

FROM PAGE 16

FROM PAGE 1 appointed Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain is not aware of Hannan's initiative to unite the party.

and discussed the issue of bringing unity in the party," he said.

Replying to a question on the much-talked-about letter Hannan Shah had sent to Saifur, Hannan said he could not discuss the content of the letter with the party secretary general as he went to Singapore for treatment.

Rizvi said Khandaker Delwar represents the party and only he can make the final decision regarding anything.

"The secretary general does not

know if Hannan Shah gave Saifur Rahman any proposal to unite the party," Rizvi said. Hannan, however, said all BNP

Former lawmaker Sohrab Uddin, former Chhatra Dal president Habib Un Nabi Sohel and Chhatra Dal General Secretary Shafiul Bari Babu, among others

### Iftekhar

pleased to be able to contribute thus

The adviser mentioned some agreed that these could be addressed amicably through continued discus-

The Saudi state minister thanked Iftekhar for the support he gave Saudi Arabia in the past at the United Nations.

Bangladesh by a high-level Saudi delegation in April in connection with the Joint Commission Meeting, headed by the deputy minister of labour. Dr. Nizer Obeid Madani also spoke about welcoming Iftekhar to Saudi Arabia shortly for further talks at a convenient time. They spoke of possible invest-

ments by Saudi Arabia in infrastructural development projects in Bangladesh and of assisting young Bangladeshis to develop their knowledge-based skills.

the talks by Prince Turki Bin Mohammed bin Saud el Kabir, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Ambassador Jamil Mirdad, head of Islamic Affairs Division in the Saudi foreign ministry.

## Ex-whip

fined Suja Tk 10 lakh, in default of which he will have to serve one more year in jail. Suja's wife was fined Tk 1 lakh, in default of which she will have to suffer two more months in jail.

The court also ordered the government to confiscate Suja's illegal wealth worth Tk 3,72,59,000.

Lawyers said Suja, who along with

In its order, the court said Suja has ous imprisonment for providing false and baseless statement about his wealth and to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for amassing wealth

Corruption Commission Mohammad Moniruzzaman filed the case on July 9 last year.

### not good enough to set up a challenging total on the board as the home team lost six wickets in the span of six overs in the end.

damage.

In only his second game, Rokib showed some character by taking smart singles and sensible running between the wickets to build up a partnership but his side lost momentum once he was caught at mid-on while Shakib completed 1,000 runs in the shorter-version by making his sixth fifty but Bangladesh still could only manage

The visitors also suffered a slight wobble in reply to the modest total when pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza served the first blow by trapping Herschelle Gibbs in front to get his first wicket of the series before left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak came up with a double strike to see South Africa

173 runs before being all out in 48.2

three down for 60. Hashim Amla began to look good but Razzak took a sharp return catch to stop the righthander and the Tigers got an edge when the left-arm spinner sent inform Graeme Smith back for 28.

But AB de Villiers (69) and Jean-Paul Duminy (49) sealed the series with a clinical battling display during their unbeaten 119-run partnership for the fourth wicket. The two batsmen didn't take any risk against the three-pronged spin attack which got advantage from the low, slow pitch to ensure South Africa came another step closer to topple Australia from their number one ranking

The Proteas reached 179-3 in 48.1 overs when right-hander de Villiers smashed Tamim Igbal over long on for the lone six of the

Earlier, man-of-the-match Nel gave a fitting reply at not being included in the team for the Indian tour with a fiery opening burst as Tamim, who top-scored with 82 in the first match, dragged the ball on to his stumps in the third ball of the first over and Shahriar Natees went fishing outside his off-stump.

Ashraful was his third victim when the Bangladesh skipper pulled one from outside off-stump to reach Albie Morkel at deep square leg for a four-ball duck.

The senseless run out of wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh however seemed costly in the end. The decision came not before a drama as it took a few minutes before third umpire AFM Akhtaruddin took the initiative and there also were repeated protests from South African coach Mickey Arthur from outside the rope.

The third and last match will be held at the same venue tomorrow.

## Ex-Jamaat MP

FROM PAGE 1

Maulana Muzaffar Ahmed, and Chairman of Madarsa Union Parishad and union Jamaat chief Faridul Alam are also among the

Of the accused, Shajahan Chowdhury, also the chief of Jamaat Chittagong South district unit, and Dr Nurul Haq are now in jail while the rest have been absconding since the filing of the case.

Nur Ahmed and Jamaluddin filed the two cases with Satkania Police Station on May 14, 2007. In his case statement, Nur Ahmed

stated that the accused demanded Tk 5 lakh from him last year while Jamaluddin alleged that the accused demanded Tk 5 lakh from him and also "tried to abduct" him twice.

### Fresh hike

FROM PAGE 1 Dr Tamim put emphasis on quick

policy formulation for proper distribution of energy resources. The government is already considering and CNG and coal for electricity production for domestic use, he

He went on to say that this year the government would be able to produce 4,000-megawatt electricity, whereas the demand is around 5,000MW. To meet the demand additional demand, the government still has no specific solutions, meaning huge load-shedding across the country.

He also said the government would be able to produce 2,000MW more in association with some foreign companies by the end of 2011.

Dr Tamim said the government has already involved national oil and gas exploration company Bapex to drill new gas fields to overcome the gas shortage.

Semutang, Begumganj and

Shahbazpur gas fields and drilling

exploratory wells in Kapatia, Srikail and Sundalpurgas structures. The government also considers supplying coal for gas-based power plants and formulating a coal policy

in near future, he added.

# Petrobangla gets

FROM PAGE 1

earlier detected coal deposits. Petrobangla is currently running Barapukuria coal mine developed by China while a private company Asia Energy submitted a proposal to develop Phulbari coal mine. Besides, the license for another zone, Khalashpir area, was awarded to controversial and incompetent

Barapukuria coal mine failed to become profitable due to past corruption and flawed mining designs, Phulbari mine's future also looks uncertain due to controversies surrounding Asia Energy, and Hosaf's venture is too sketchy to be taken seriously.

"Under the circumstances, Petrobangla's Dighipara venture has all the promises to become successful," said a high official adding, "We believe, if there is no undue interference from powerful lobbies, Dighipara will be the country's first

environment department, ministry and Minerals Rules, 1968.

On June 27 of last year, the energy ministry approved a decision that Petrobangla may obtain a strategic partner through an open tender upon government approval of the coal policy, and may form a joint venture company with the partner. PARTNERSHIP CRITERIA

mining at least two million tons of coal will be allowed to obtain tender schedule from Petrobangla when tenders will be invited. The successful bidder must

Petrobangla's basic investment in the deal will be its mining license. Petrobangla will give bidders scores on the basis of their understanding of the project, and their

as its partner, it will get an additional 5 points. If a bidder gets the qualifying mark, Petrobangla will consider its

financial proposal. The successful bidder may not hold Petrobangla liable for arranging finances or for any other matter it will have to arrange everything by

pany will start developing the area into a mine.

Petrobangla will have clearly specified responsibilities in the partnership, like taking care of the license, paying local fees and license fees, providing manpower, etc. But it will not pay royalty the strategic

Petrobangla is expecting 10 to 15 percent free share in the coal produc-

The joint venture company will pay the corporate tax. "Then over 10 to 15 years, the

FROM PAGE 16 the policy knowing it fully well. She was talking to reporters at

her office in the Secretariat. Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed on Saturday formally unveiled National Women Development Policy 2008 that

Mentioning the law adviser's Tuesday's statement that the caretaker government has not passed any law regarding inheritance, she regretted that the women development policy has been misinter-

and immovable properties.

Unlike the previous two women development policies of 1997 and 2004, the new policy is aligned with the PRSP and the Millennium Development Goals, the adviser said pointing out some progressive features including five-month maternal leave and steps to help the disabled women and stop exploitation of women in labour market.

sive matters. It contains some short-term and long-term policies for women's rights.

implement the short-term policies while the long-term ones will This includes developing | depend on the elected government, Rasheda Choudhury said.

Petrobangla," said an official. LUXONMYSTERY As licensing for Dighipara was

becoming evident, a Korean consortium comprising Luxon, Kores, Kepco and Posco was lobbying the government hard since last year. Korean company Luxon Global's

inquiries by the government revealed that Luxon's official address in Seoul does not even exist. In September 2006, another Korean company, Kores, seconded Luxon's proposal specifically proposing that it was interested in Dighipara coal zone. In response, Petrobangla sent letters in December of that year, and in January and February of last year, but the com-

mail to Kores in March of last year but it could not elicit any answer. Following the change in the political scenario in January 2007, the activities of Luxon resumed from June. On July 23 of last year, Luxon companies. The consortium desig-

nated Luxon as the liaison. ment also expressed interest in a government to government understanding on energy sector cooperation. A draft MoU sent by the Korean government specifically referred to Dighipara and coal mining exploration license. Bangladesh however suggested that the MoU would not specify any license or coal zone as it would cover a broad spectrum of

government hard to get its hands on Dighipara, ever since.

But till now Petrobangla has been officially declining the offer saying there is no scope for joint venture with the Korean company regarding the coal field.

that the gazette notification of the laws would have to be in our hand before announcing the election schedule. Let's see how soon they

complete the matter," he said. Responding to a query about the Election Commission Secretariat Ordinance 2008, the CEC said the EC Secretariat will be accountable only for the administrative tasks that will be directed by

## CEC's role

Bhuiyan is one of the respondents in the writ petition of Khaleda who challenged the EC decision to sit with a faction of her party led by Saifur Rahman and

Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed. Sobhan, however, could not give any precise answer when the court asked him who is the authority under the party's constitution to

He told the court that except for a few reformist leaders in Dhaka, there is nothing called reformists elsewhere in the country.

election schedule. But Sobhan did not make any comment. Referring to Khaleda, Hafiz's counsel Dr Shahdin Malik said a person remaining in jail cannot file a writ petition to execute her political authority. Since she is in jail, her political power and activities remain suspended. "She cannot agitate before the court being in

able," he argued. Supporting EC's lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, Mailk said the matter raised before the court is political, which cannot come under the judicial review. He said disputed question of fact can be resolved at designated court, not in the High Court.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

### Obama

FROM PAGE 16 Mississippi victory left Obama with 1,606 delegates compared to 1,484 for Hillary -- both well short of the 2,025 necessary to clinch the party's nomination.

an increasingly ugly campaign raged after Ferraro told a California newspaper: "if Obama was a white man, he would not be in this position.

woman who made history as the Democrats' 1984 vice presidential candidate "patently absurd."

did "not agree" with the comments and found it "regrettable" that supporters might resort to personal attacks, but did not cut Ferraro loose from her finance committee.

In a second interview with the Daily Breeze, which carried her original remarks, Ferraro escalated the row.

Source said the government is considering Hasina's release on parole for greatment. While on parole, the AL chief will have to comply with certain conditions which include not getting involved in any political or business activity, and not contacting any organisation or individual for any reason other than her treatment.

release on bail. Sources close to the negotiation told The Daily Star last night that the negotiation is likely to produce a result within the next 48 hours and the government might end up allowing the AL chief to fly to the US either on the 17th or the 19th of this

halfandleft.

the security personnel, both Modasser and Abdullah questioned why they were not being allowed to examine their patient as she had been admitted to the hospital on their advice.

told The Daily Star. He said they contacted Deputy Inspector General of Prisons Maj Shamsul Haider Siddigui over the phone while in the hospital to knowthereason behind the restriction.

doctors' advice.

surgery at Square Hospital, told reporters that a medical panel of seven physicians of the hospital was formed for Hasina's check-up there under his leadership. Other doctors are Dr

treatment has not begun yet. Only tests are being done, he said adding, as she had not undergone any test over the last several months, she needs some

complete the tests. He however said it is not possible to

FROM PAGE 1 powerabuse. The report adds that in many cases the suspects were arrested without having any formal charges or arrest warrants against them and kept in custody or taken to unknown places or at military cantonment either for having confessional statements on some issues under severe

physical and psychological torture or

to extract information about other

suspects. It said the government in many cases filed politically motivated and false cases. The issue that tops in the report is "arbitrary or unlawful deprivation of life" in which it is illustrated that security forces including Bangladesh Rifles, military and Rapid Action often subject to direct restriction by Battalion (Rab) committed numerous extrajudicial killings while the government did not take any action or initiate any public measures to investigate the cases. However,

"there was a significant decrease in the number of killings by security personnel", the report adds. The report reveals that the security forces frequently employed torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, such as threats, beatings and electric shocks,

during arrests and interrogations. The caretaker government used Emergency Power Rules (EPR) to curtail the freedom of speech and freedom of the press when individuals were not able to criticise the sive to the government or military. government publicly without fear of reprisal, indoor and outdoor political gatherings remained suspended, legal action was taken against critical editors and journalists, compelled to

broadcast or publicise stories supporting the government. The report says after banning Corruption and Transparency", the radio and television talk shows in August, the government rescinded the ban after developing strict rules to govern the format. The report has six sections each

with subsections containing evalua-

tion of human rights condition from

different points of view including

legal and fundamental. It also

indigenous population of the Hill focuses on the issues of rights of women, children, those with disabilities, the minority communities and indigenous people. It presents examples for almost every case. It also focuses on different

important belated trial.

HR record worsens AL adviser Kazi Zafarrullah, the

person was re-arrested immediately upon release on a new set of charges. "While the government said that these were legitimate charges, some cases, such as the filing of charges against former Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and former Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, were seen to be politically motivated. The authorities charged Ahmed and Manju with alcohol possession, normally

minor offence for which bail i

The report gives examples of

curtailing rights of freedom of speech

and freedom of the press. "Newspa-

per ownership and content were

the military's Inter-Services Public

granted during trial."

Relations office and DGFI. Journalists reported being cautioned frequently by DGFI against criticising the government or the military "Newspapers that were critical of

the government, particularly of the

military, came under strong pressure throughout the year," the report says. "According to journalists, editors, and other media personnel, intimidation and pressure on the media intensified considerably after the declaration of a state of emergency. DGFI officials monitored the various media outlets and cautioned them about airing material deemed offen-Numerous editors and journalists in Dhaka reported being summoned to DGFI headquarters for questioning and encouragement to file positive

In a point titled "Government report says, "Most high-profile cases were handled under the Emergency Power Rules and therefore denied suspects both the right to bail and the right to appeal their cases during the course of the trial." On indigenous people, it says,

"Tribal organisations continued to

allege that security forces abused the

stories about the government and

military," the report adds.

The report says about women, "Domestic violence was widespread, although violence against women was difficult to quantify. Research showed that up to 50 percent of all The report says, "On several women experienced domestic violence at least once. Some of the occasions when the Appellate Division upheld the High Court reported violence against women ruling to release a high-profile continued to be related to disputes detainee, such as in the case of senior over downes."

FROM PAGE 1

rice increased by Tk 10 to Tk 20.

1150 a maund yesterday. Some retailers yesterday sold

Besides the Indian restrictions

ment's inquiry into hoarding.

3800 yesterday.

A correspondent from Benapole Bangladesh and the exporters of India expressed their frustration as meetings between the exporters and Indian customs officials bore

of Customs Anwar Hossain said the Indian government has clearly directed that the rice stranded on

The ACC served the notice on Hasina

The West Bengal Essential

The adviser also told the journalists that 16,000 metric tons of rice from World Food Programme was

(SP) Shah Golam Mahmud refuted the allegations saying, "The police had no complaints to chase the NGOs. (SWD) in a departmental probe found irregularities and on Monday suspended five officials of Natore office -- deputy directors

# Hannan

"I have talked to Delwar Hossain

leaders are not involved in the unity process and Rizvi is also not

were present at Hannan Shah's

# FROM PAGE 16

to the growth and development of the Saudi economy", he said. recent reported issues and both

They discussed a possible visit to

The Saudi minister was assisted in

his two wives has been absconding, will have to suffer 13 years in jail and that the verdict will be effective once they surrender to the court or are been sentenced to three years' rigor-

Deputy Director of Anti-

Anisur Rahman, and clerk Abdul Mannan. Filing departmental cases against these officials is underway, said SWD Director General Dr

Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury.

Due to registration flaws, many

'unskilled' people like Ishaq Mia, a

class-five pass former night guard

at a Dhaka garment factory, became key persons of the NGOs. On the other hand, many NGOs were operated by changing names head offices and beyond registered

### The victims demanded a judi cial as no investigation into the whole scam has yet to take place. Private car

driver and detained his two broth-

ers--Limun Hossain Bhuiyan,

Kendua upazila correspondent of

the daily Amar Desh, and Farhad

Hossain Bhuiyan--for interroga-

Netrakona Superintendent of Police Shakhawat Hossain ordered Kendua police to raid SI Sanwar's village home in Digdair village after Emon, now on an eight-day "The decision (of allowing other remand, told officials of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) imously only after the NGO men that he gave the policeman a pri-

vate car as he maintained a good

Police Station Sanwar allegedly

After being posted at the Ramna

Police sources said a depart-

mental inquiry has been initiated

against Sanwar, now posted at a

relation with Emon.

of any drive to arrest him.

Natore Superintendent of Police used to inform Emon beforehand

Social Welfare Directorate police station in Rajshahi, and that if found guilty, he would be The CID took Emon and another top criminal and gold smuggler Ishaq Ali in custody after tion officers Ismail Hossain and Indiadeported them on Friday.

batting remained as pathetic as Shakib Al Hasan (52) and newcomer Rokibul Hasan (63) put on

company Hosaf.

large-scale mine." Petrobangla's license says the exploration should refrain from any activity that might adversely affect the bio-diversity and the environment, or harm agricultural land. Prior to the exploration, Petrobangla will obtain permissions from the of land, the local government, and other relevant departments. The license was issued under the Mines

A company that has experience in

finance the entire project and take the responsibility of managing the

nologies. If a bidder can bring in a Bangladeshi coal mining company

proposed methodologies and tech-

The company winning the bid will have to consider that it will have to explore Dighipara prior to developing a mine. Till now, geologists have drilled only four wells in a 1.5 square kilometre area out of 4,000 hectares of land there. Therefore, the strategic partner will have to carry out seismic and geological surveys, feasibility, environmental and social studies, drill wells, and submit mine designs. Once the design is approved, the joint venture com-

partner will pay the royalty.

### strategic partner will gradually hand over the management to

Women policy

suggested setting aside one-third of parliamentary seats for women and arranging direct elections to the reserved seats.

preted. "The reason for such hue and cry is not clear to me because the policy does not say anything about inheritance law, it only indicates property earned by women," she said referring to a clause of the policy that suggests enacting new law to ensure equal opportunity The police also arrested Sanwar's | reserving gas for industrial sector | and control on all earned movable

"The policy has some progres-

The caretaker government will Saying that the caretaker gov-

ernment is not enacting any law, she said mechanism will be strengthened to monitor enforcement of the existing laws passed to ensure women rights.

chief made his first visit to

Bangladesh in 2005 and signed an MoU seeking a coal mining license saying it would invest 1 billion dollars in the energy sector. But follow up

pany did not respond. Rather, the last letter bounced back with the remark 'unknown'. Petrobangla sent the last

submitted a data sheet along with a joint work proposal to Petrobangla, saying it had formed a consortium of Meanwhile, the Korean govern-

energy cooperation. Luxon has been lobbying the

Poll timetable FROM PAGE 1

# the secretary to the EC.

FROM PAGE 16 Khaleda Zia.

convene the standing committee's

He said the EC has no business to hold dialogues with political parties. "The only duty of the EC is to prepare a voter list and hold general election," he added. The court sought Sobhan's opinion about Khaleda counsel TH Khan's remark that the whole scheme behind all these activities

of the EC is aimed at who it will give

the BNP's election symbol--sheaf

of paddy--after announcing the

jail. So, the writ is not maintain-

The latest racially tinged row of The first African-American with a viable shot at the White House,

Obama called the remarks by the

"I don't think that Geraldine Ferraro's comments have any place in our politics or the Democratic Party," he told Pennsylvania newspaperThe Morning Call. New York Senator Hillary said she