ACC.

very little.

time to save their children from the line since 7:00am to purchase rice.

son is struggling to provide for the

line at BDR outlet on Salimullah

Road, said she had been waiting in

home with the rice," she said add

ing, "It's impossible for my rickshaw

It is alleged that some people are

making profits by selling the rice at

higher price after purchasing it from

Meanwhile, the Directorate

General of Food in a bid to relieve

the people of the rising price of rice

yesterday started direct sale of rice

from trucks in different locations in

be taken to the hospital tomorrow

according to the recommendation

of the hospital", Deputy Inspector

General (Prisons) Maj Shamsul

Haider Siddiqui told The Daily Star

hospitalised this time too, the

prison deputy said, "She's physi

cally quite OK. Her physical condi-

tion does not require her to get

subjail at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban

vesterday threatened to go for

tougher agitation programmes

across the country if the govern

ment does not release her uncon

ditionally and send her to the US

bars for corruption allegations

since July 16 last year, told the trial

court Sunday that the jail authori-

ties have been denying her funda-

mental human rights and pro

duced her before court from hospi

Brig Gen Zakir Hassan, however

denied the news reports on the

Meantime, acting AL President

Zillur Rahman yesterday said

people's patience is wearing thin

day by day as the government is not

responding to the call for Hasina's

release as she needs treatment

The veteran leader was speak-

ing at a hunger strike programme

organised by Awami

Swechchhasebak League at the

party's central office on

the same programme at the same

venue today to press home their

demand for Hasina's release.

grounds for ten months.

the US for treatment.

FROM PAGE 16

tracks need repair.

Awami Jubo League would hold

Zillur said the time is not far

away when people would take to

the streets to get Hasina released,

adding that the AL chief has been

kept behind bars without any good

halt Hasina's trial and send her to

BR to install theft

price is more than double the regular

clips. However, considering the

rising trend in clip theft, we are seri-

ous about installing the anti-vandal

existing clips, the DG said although

welding the clips could safeguard the

tracks, the measure cannot be

applied everywhere as it would be

the track between Banani and

Cantonment stations temporarily,

difficult to remove these when the

Sleeper clips would be welded on

Responding to a query, the DG

Commenting on welding the

He called on the government to

Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

Inspector General (Prisons)

Hasina, who has been behind

for better treatment.

tal by force.

the time," he said.

AL'S HUNGER STRIKE

complex following the check-up.

Hasina would be whisked to the

Meantime, the Awami League

On whether Hasina would be

from retail stores."

the BDR outlets.

the capital.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1

last night.

hospitalised.'

Yasmin, a young girl standing in

"My mother will start cooking for

FROM PAGE 1 outlets noticed that the majority of the people in the lines for rice were women -- some cradling their toddlers in their arms, having a hard

unbearable summer heat. our family of six members after I get Many of these women arrived at the outlets early in the morning to secure a front spot in the line, said sources at the outlets.

Shahnur Begum, a slum dweller at Duaripara in Pallabi who came to the BDR outlet located near Pallabi police station, told The Daily Star that she along with her adolescent daughter had been standing in line

since 3:00 in the morning. After standing in the line for nine hours, her daughter fell sick due to the heat and scuffle among the customers, she said adding that locals had to take her daughter home.

"As the BDR started selling rice at 9:00am, a scuffle broke out to get ahead of the line. My daughter started crying and at one point she passed out. She could not bear the scuffle or the blistering heat," she

"After a long struggle, I got five kg of rice at around 2:30pm," said the visibly exhausted woman wearing a smile of satisfaction. "I am happy now since it is good for at least two

Covering their heads with shopping bags, at least 1,000 people were seen standing in lines for rice at noon at Nawabganj BDR outlet. Many of the elderly in the lines were seen quivering due to the heat.

Although a separate line is supposed to be formed for the disabled, pregnant women, garment workers and the elderly, the correspondents saw only a single line at BDR outlets on Zakir Hossain Road, Salimullah Road and Ring Road at Mohammadpur, Indira Road, Mirpur 10, Pallabi, Azimpur staff quarter ground and Nawabganj.

When asked, BDR members at Nawabganj said the people who spend hours in line do not prefer separate lines. The BDR, however, makes special effort to sell rice to the people from the particular group, they added.

Col Mujibul Haq, BDR commander in Dhaka, said the BDR is trying hard to tackle the rush for rice. They are also considering increasing the number of lines to ease sufferings of the people, he added.

Elderly asthma patient Amir Ali Sikder had to step aside for a while after standing in line since early morning. "I am an asthma patient and I could not breathe standing amidst the huge crowd. That's why I often come out of the line just to take some long breath," he said.

When asked why he had to come to the outlet at such an age, Amir replied, "My son is a tea vendor on footpath and her wife takes care of my grandchildren. My conscience brought me here because I feel bad sitting around whole day when my

## Mugabe aides discuss ceding power

AP, Harare

Advisers of President Robert Mugabe and opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai are discussing the possibility of Zimbabwe's longtime leader relinquishing power, a businessman close to the electoral commission and a lawyer close to the opposition toldThe Associated Press.

The businessman said Mugabe has been told he is far behind Tsvangirai in preliminary results of Saturday's presidential elections and that there could be an uprising if Mugabe were declared the winner. The lawyer said advisers to both men were discussing a "transitional arrangement.

Both spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of

However, the secretary-general of Tsvangirai's party, Tendai Biti, dismissed the reports, saying "It's rubbish."

**Prof Wahiduddin** 

aplenty on food situation, but the

food policy should not be deter-

mined on the basis of unauthentic

Bangladesh Bank statistics, we

have surplus in rice grains, but in

reality we are now importing rice to

Mahabub Hossain, executive

director of Brac, delivered the

keynote speech. He said the price

of rice might mark a slight fall after

the Boro harvest, but the possibility

of purchasing rice from interna-

tional market at lower cost is little.

"It is the beginning of the end of

availability of low priced food in

world market. The alternative for

the government is to invest more in

research and modernisation of

cultivation methods," he added.

cover production shortfall."

He went on, "According to

the 84-year-old president.

FROM PAGE 16

information.

Independent observers say when funds are available. trends indicate Tsvangirai won the most votes in the presidential race, but not enough to avoid a runoff a

sleeper clips and arrested 14 persons prospect that could be humiliating to in this connection.

Police suspect involvement of railway personnel in the theft. The police also blamed negligence of duty by the BR employees who were assigned to patrol the rail tracks every 12hours.

The BR authorities formed a three-member committee to probe the sleeper clips theft.

Engineer Abul Kashem, head of the committee, said, "We are investigating the allegation whether any railway personnel was involved in the theft and if anyone was negligent in their duties.

SLEEPER CLIPS RECOVERY

Meanwhile, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Monday night recovered 251 more sleeper clips of rail tracks from a scrap shop in Tongi and arrested three people in this connec-

The arrestees are Sarwar Hossain, Sohel Miah and Badshah Miah.

Rab-1 officials said acting on the information obtained from the three the clips were recovered from the scrap shop of Kashem Sikder at Ali Commissioner Market.

Professor MA Baqui Khalily, Earlier, railway police arrested 14 executive director of the Institute people and recovered 160 clips from of Microfinance, also spoke on the the capital's Banani and Gulshan

## Mad rush to buy rice Bigwigs' trials linger

FROM PAGE 1 trials for months.

The highest number of cases was filed against Tarique Rahman, the man who had allegedly been at the centre of the rampant corruption that had permeated every sphere of the society in the five years of the immediate past regime of BNP-Jamaat led four-party alliance puller father to buy rice at Tk 36 a kg

Although he reportedly controlled every aspect of the state and the government ranging from the civil administration to political agenda, from BNP's political office Hawa Bhaban in the capital, he is yet to face trial in any of the cases, despite being detained for over a

Several other politicians however were convicted through trials while the trials of some other big fishes of politics, including detained former prime minister also AL President Sheikh Hasina, have already begun.

Sources said progress in the investigation of most of the cases filed against the political leaders is not satisfactory enough for pressing

In defence of the delay in submitting charge sheets in the cases, investigation officers of a number of cases said they are overloaded with work while suffering from an acute shortage of manpower and logistics.

Trial of an extortion case of Tk 3 crore against Sheikh Hasina already had begun, the fate of which became uncertain following a High Court (HC) order declaring illegal the military backed caretaker government's decision to bring the case under EPR.

The HC ruling is currently stayed, pending the Supreme Court Appellate Division's judgement on it, since the government appealed against the ruling.

Sheikh Hasina, who was detained on July 16 last year, is facing three extortion and two graft cases filed during the regime of the present caretaker government, with only an extortion case's trial already initiated while the others have been under investigation for months.

allegations Monday saying that Meanwhile, three graft cases they cannot force a person like filed against former premier also Sheikh Hasina, a former prime BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who minister, to appear before court. was detained on September 3 of last "We took her to the court after year immediately after the Gatco the Square Hospitals told us that scam case had been filed against her physical condition was fine at her, have yet to make any headway towards trials.

The investigation officers could not press charges in the Gatco scam case in the last eight months while two other graft cases in connection with Niko and Baropukuria coal mine scams are also still under investigation.

The investigation report in the Niko graft case against Khaleda and four others was submitted to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) on March 13, with a proposal for indicting nine more persons.

Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami, its Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mojahid, and BNP leaders M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MK Anwar, and M Shamsul Islam are also facing graft charges in connection with the case of Baropukuria coal mine scam filed by the ACC on February 26 this year. But they have not been detained, for reasons yet unknown.

Khaleda Zia, her sons Tarique and Koko, and Obaidul Quader were arrested by the joint forces immediately after filing of graft and extortion cases against them, while some others were also detained without specific charges.

AL Secretary General Abdul Jalil had been detained on May 28 of last year and kept in custody without any specific charge, until he was allowed to go abroad for treatment

Only when the HC declared his detention illegal, the ACC filed a case against him on December 18 of last year in connection with concealing information in his wealth statement submitted to the com-

mission, till now the investigation of which has not even produced an indictment.

Former law minister Moudud Ahmed, detained on April 13 last year, is facing two cases, one for possessing alcoholic liquor illegally, the proceedings of which was stayed by the HC, and another for graft, which is still under investiga-

Former health minister also BNP Standing Committee Member Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, who was detained on March 7 last year, is facing a number of cases in connection with extortion and graft, trials of which are also yet to begin.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, who was detained on March 8 last year, is facing as many as ten extortion cases, one graft case, and a swin-In last April police pressed

charges against Tarique in a case for extorting Tk 1 crore, which was the first to be filed against him. But the HC stayed the indictment, and the case is now pending while the government also has made no move to overturn the stay order.

All other cases against Tarique, who was sarcastically called the 'prince' by people quashed under the bulldozer of rampant corruption and thuggery during BNP-Jamaat rule, have been under investigation for months now.

Three extortion cases involving several crores of taka were filed with Dhanmondi police station on April 1, 3 and 19 of last year against Tarique, who was shown arrested in one of the cases on April 23.

Gaisuddin Al Mamun, a close friend and business partner of Tarique, gave confessional statements in the cases implicating his friend, in the same month those

Another three extortion cases were filed with Gulshan police station against Tarique, in which he was shown arrested on March 29, April 23, and on May 14. Mamun also gave confessional statements implicating his friend in those cases on April 5 and 16, and on May 10. In another extortion case of

Tk10.30 crore filed with Shahbagh police station on April 9 against Tarique, again Mamun implicated his friend in a confessional statement given on April 23. In a case filed against Tarique with Kafrul police station, he was

shown arrested on April 13, in which also Mamun gave a confessional statement implicating his friend on

All of those cases were brought under EPR soon after filing.

In a latest development, the ACC on Monday pressed charges against Tarique, his wife Dr Zobaida Rahman and mother-in-law Iqbalmand Banu for amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information.

The ACC filed the graft case on September 26 last year with Kafrul Police Station. Now the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, which received the charge sheets against them, will transfer the case to the special court for framing charges to begin the trial. Harris Chowdhury, former

political secretary to a prime minister, however was sentenced to various terms of imprisonment in absentia. On five separate charges he was sentenced to 59 years of jail term in November of last year for swindling, corruption, and abuse of

Harris, also a joint secretary of BNP, was sentenced to three years of imprisonment in last May for not submitting his wealth statement to the ACC. In October, he was sentenced to three years in jail for illegally possessing foreign currencies.

Another political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Mosaddak Ali Falu, who was arrested on February 5 of last year, has not yet been convicted for any offence, despite having allegations

## Emon

of illegally amassing a huge amount

lawmaker through a controversial

by-election in Dhaka-10 constitu-

ency, is facing four cases --- three for

misappropriating government

relief materials, and the other for

concealing information in his

wealth statement submitted to the

He was indicted in all the cases,

but trial of only one in connection

with misappropriation of relief

materials began recently. His wife

Mahbuba Sultana however was

detained along with his mother

Khaleda Zia in connection with

Gatco scam, is now facing two cases

for graft and extortion, progress in

the investigation of which has been

The ACC pressed charges against

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, who

was detained on February 4 last year

in connection with concealing

information in his wealth state-

ment. The HC stayed the case, while

the government has made no move

Secretary General Mirza Abbas, who

was detained on February 26 last

year, is facing three graft cases, a

money laundering case, and a tax

evasion case. Trial of the money

laundering case began, and charges

nection with misappropriating and

selling 18 government houses, and

Abbas was convicted in two cases in

Salman F Rahman, who was

detained on February 4 last year, is

facing 10 cases --- eight for swin-

dling, one for money laundering,

and another for graft. Some of the

swindling cases were settled outside

the court, while charges were

pressed in the money laundering

Fazlul Karim Selim, who was

detained on May 28 last year, is

facing an extortion case as a co-

Under such circumstances

questions have been raised whether

trials of the political honchos, sus-

pected of graft and other criminal

activities, will be completed in the

next eight to nine months, to make it

impossible for them to contest in

the next parliamentary election,

which is supposed to be held by the

had launched anti-graft crackdown

on political suspects on February 4

of last year, a large number of politi-

cal leaders and businessmen were

detained and cases were filed

whom have been in politics, were

however convicted and sentenced

to jail in connection with 61 cases.

As many as 240 people, 217 of

Political leaders Dr Mahiuddin

Khan Alamgir, Nazmul Huda,

Mohammad Nasim, Amanullah

Aman, Mir Nasiruddin, Iqbal Hasan

Mahmud Tuku, Ali Asgar loby, Abul

Hasnat Abdullah, Sahjahan Siraj

Ziaul Huq Zia, Ruhul Kuddus

Talukdar Dulu, Naser Rahman,

Mizanur Rahman Minu, and

DCC's acting legal officer M

Karim filed the case with Shahbagh

Police Station, accusing the firm's

Managing Director and Orion

Group Chairman Obaidul Karim, a

scamster on the run, and four

did not act according to the con-

tract with the DCC. Besides, the

accused had submitted fake and

Shahidul Islam, officer-in

charge of Shahbagh Police Station

told The Daily Star that the case was

The complainant said the firm

others of forgery and cheating.

forged bank documents.

Lutfozzaman Babar are among the

Since the caretaker government

accused of Hasina.

against them.

convicted.

DCC sues

FROM PAGE 16

AL Presidium Member Sheikh

case, but the trial has yet to begin.

connection with tax evasion.

Meanwhile, his wife Afroza

AL Advisory Council Member

in the tax evasion case.

were framed in a graft case in con-

Former minister also BNP Joint

yet to overturn the stay order.

Arafat Rahman Koko, who was

convicted for tax evasion.

Falu, who was elected as a BNP

of wealth in the past few years.

FROM PAGE 16 along with his gang members. The plainclothes Rab personnel came across a people carrier carrying the

The gang members opened fire on the team and the Rab personnel retaliated with gunfire. The gang managed to flee leaving behind the people carrier. Later the bullet riddled body of Ponir was discovered in the vehicle along with a pistol, Rab-2

According to Rab-2, they located Ponir with the help of Emon's confessions. Emon is now on remand.

Ponir started his underworld activities in 1991 starting with the killing of a man in Dhaka. He had been carrying out extortions and other criminal activities in Dhanmondi, Hazaribagh and various other areas in the city since Emonwas absent, Rab sources said.

Ponir of Shrinagar of Munshiganj was wanted in a number of criminal cases including murder and abduction cases. He was also accused in several sensational murder cases filed in connection with the killings of cable-TV businessman Rubel and Juba Dalleader Shibli.

Rab-2 officials said Ponir was the main hit man of Emon's gang.

Emon was deported to Bangladesh by the Indian authorities on March 7.

previously served as British Ambassador to Afghanistan and British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka. He has also served as the Head of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's South Asia Department Stephen Evans CMG, OBE is

married to Sharon Ann and has two children.

## Haji Selim

FROM PAGE 16 Haji Selim's case, showing 20 peo ple as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against the couple and an order to attach their properties, as they have been absconding since the case was filed.

tioned that Selim had concealed Tk 1,04,13,936 in his wealth statement submitted earlier to the ACC Selim's wife was accused of abetting her husband for accumulating wealth through illegal means.

Mahabubul Alam filed the case with Lalbagh Police Station against Selim and his wife under sections 18 and 26 (1) of the ACC Act, 2004, and section 15(Kha)/5 of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) 2007 on September 24 last year.

the wealth statement he submitted to the ACC.

Additional Chief Metropolitan ACC submitted a petition in this connection.

ACC Assistant Director Shafiul Alam filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Dr Mosharraf and his wife Bilkis Akhter for amassing Tk 12,51,06,666 and concealing Tk 3,11,38,678 in their wealth statements submitted earlier to the ACC. The case was filed on January 10.

under sections 18 and 26 (1) of the ACC Act, 2004, and sections 15(Kha)/5 of the EPR, 2007.

be distributed as part of the USAID's regular food aid programmes in the flood-prone and seasonally food insecure areas of the country, a US Embassy press release yesterday said. It said the USAID-supported

food aid programmes target the poorest of the poor who live in the most food insecure and vulnerable areas of the country.

designed to bridge the gap between disaster response and development by supporting planning and preparedness activities.

multi-purpose disaster shelters, developed about 4,000 community-based disaster mitigation structures, and established a stockpile of emergency disaster kits for 30,000 families. It provided training for local

disaster committees, volunteers and schoolteachers in 271 of the country's 277 disaster-prone upazilas. The programme focuses on protection of assets by raising homesteads and building raised access roads to markets and schools.

The programme develops alternative livelihood options for the ultra-poor through activities such as poultry raising, dairy farming, cash-for-work projects.

Program addresses disaster risk mitigation and adaptation to climate change threats over the next

## War criminals

FROM PAGE 1 They said the government should take initiatives to try the war criminals without delay and the UN should come forward.

The issue of trying the war criminals had been discussed in various international forums including the UN Human Rights Commission but this is the first time in 37 years since Bangladesh's independence that the government officially informed the top UN official of the demand.

Experts said the government should not limit its initiative to only informing the UN secretary general of the issue; it should ensure UN's involvement in holding the trial of the war criminals.

Deputy chief of Liberation Forces Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandker in his reaction told The Daily Star last night that raising the issue before the UN top boss through the foreign adviser indicates the government's positive attitude towards it. "But I think the government must

take it up to the UN absolutely formally for its help as did Cambodia and other countries," said Khandker, also president of Sector Commanders Forum. He said he hopes that the UN will respond positively.

researcher on war crimes and acting president of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, said, "We demand trial of both Pakistani and Bangladeshi war criminals.

"We expect UN's role in trying the Pakistani war criminals but now we are more concerned about the trial of Bangladeshi war criminals," he said.

The government can form a special tribunal under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 and can seek UN expertise on how to collect documents and evidence of war crimes, he added.

The government can also request the UN to send observers to witness the trial process. Dr MA Hasan, convener of War

Crimes Facts Finding Committee, told The Daily Star that Bangladesh should seek the UN help in writing so that it cannot remain inactive regarding the issue. This is also an obligation of the UN to ensure the trial of war crimi-

nals as Bangladesh ratified the UN Convention on Genocide 1948 [in 1998), "he added. "The UN can help us in forming the tribunal and can send interna-

tional jurists to help the enquiry commission regarding war crimes, Shaheen Reza Noor, president of Projonmo 71, an organisation of the children of martyrs of the Liberation

War, told The Daily Star that the

government will have to pursue the matter to ensure UN's involvement. Meanwhile, the government should take other necessary actions to start the trial National and international communities raised the demand for the

trial of war criminals immediately after the emergence of Bangladesh on December 16, 1971. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman took the initiative to try the war criminals and formulated several laws to this end, but all ended after his brutal killing in 1975. Families and relatives of martyrs,

victims of war crimes, freedom fighters, socio-political and cultural organisations, human rights bodies, leading professionals and eminent

### Purchase body FROM PAGE 1 Previously the ceiling was Tk 5

The finance division would now fix the ceiling of spending of different offices under the ministries, departments and corporations, sources said. The meeting also approved

proposed purchase of 50,000 sleepers for Bangladesh Railway and cancelled the earlier tender for setting up a waste treatment plant for tannery factories.

### UN chief

FROM PAGE 16

The adviser strongly called for

higher representation of Bangladeshis at senior command posts of UN peacekeeping both in the headquarters and in the field missions in keeping with Bangladesh's troop contributions.

Ban Ki-moon in this regard said the UN would positively consider the request. He praised the "training and discipline of Bangladeshi soldiers and police on the ground" that he himself had seen during visiting peacekeeping missions. The UN chief underlined that the

manner in which the Bangladesh government is seeking to strengthen democratic norms can be an example to many other coun-

While apprising the secretary general of the recent political developments in Bangladesh, the foreign affairs adviser told him that the government would soon hold a dialogue with the political parties on all domestic issues. He said the people of Bangladesh

hold the UN in great esteem as the custodian of international norms and standards. Ban Ki-moon accepted the

foreign affairs adviser's invitation to visit Bangladesh and observed that "Bangladesh is always very close to my heart." He hoped that he would be able to pay the visit this year. The UN secretary general

thanked Iftekhar for his longstanding contributions to the UN. The foreign affairs adviser had served as permanent representative of Bangladesh to the UN both in Geneva and New York for over a decade.

citizens of the country waged movements on numerous occasions for the war criminals' trial. But due attention was never paid to the demand.

In the early 1990s, Shaheed Janani (mother of martyrs) Jahanara Imam took to the street with the demand and hundreds of thousands of people joined her. Unfortunately, the movement failed because of the negligence of the authorities con-

After this caretaker government assumed power last year, the demand was raised again with the initiation of different government drives against corruption and irregularities committed by high-profile graft suspects.

The expectation gradually turned into a desire. At one stage, the sector commanders of the Liberation War and war heroes became united last year to press home the demand.

### RMG workers

FROM PAGE 16 despite his complaining of severe

Then the factory was declared closed for the day at 5:30pm instead of usual 10:00pm. This Shahriar Kabir, prominent made the workers suspicious and they found out that their fellow

> Hospital. Soon hundreds of them took to the streets, demanding punishment to those responsible and compensation for the affected

> worker died at Suhrawardy

The workers agreed to end the demonstrations after police and Rab officials assured them that their grievances would be

Later at 9:30pm, a meeting between owners, representatives of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and workers at Adabar Police Station reached a settlement that the family would be given Tk 2.5 lakh as compensation. Of the amount, I lakh was paid immediately and the rest would be paid later.

## going to quit

AP, Washington

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton says she has something in common with legendary film boxer Rocky Balboa -she's not a quitter.

Art from the 1976 Oscar-winning film "Rocky," Hillary said that ending her presidential campaign now would be as if "Rocky Balboa had gotten halfway up those art museum steps and said, Well, I guess that's about far enough.

"Let me tell you something, when it comes to finishing a fight, Rocky and I have a lot in common. I never quit. I never give up. And neither do the American people," Hillary said in excerpts of prepared remarks to be given Tuesday to a meeting of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.

Republican nominee-in-waiting John McCain in the general, and implied that her rival for the nomina-

it doesn't have an off-switch." "But one thing you know about me is that when I say I'll fight for you, I'll fight for you," the New York senator said. "I know what it's like to stumble. I know what it means to get knocked down. But I've never stayed down, and I never will."

race. They've argued that Obama holds the lead in the delegate count and a protracted Democratic primary would damage the eventual

important elections we've ever had. There is so much at stake. But just as it's getting time to vote here in Pennsylvania, Senator Obama says he's getting tired of it. His supporters say they want it to end," Hillary said. Obama refused on Saturday to go

along with other Democrats who are "My attitude is Senator Clinton

a month's parole on March 2. He was flown to Singapore the next day. Since his arrest, five medical

his health. The government however attached a number of conditions to his parole. According to the terms, he would not move anywhere other

as the treatment ends. He or his family members will inform Bangladesh embassy about his health status once in every three days and will not contact any organisation or individual for any reason other than treatment.

ended yesterday, Jalil's family submitted a plea to the home ministry for extension.

parole extension, Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddique yesterday told The Daily Star that the jail authorities have nothing to do in this regard since there is no provision in the jail code for parole. "The home ministry is dealing with the matter like it did before."

### India bans export said government approval is not required to install the anti-vandal clips and these would be imported FROM PAGE 1 Meanwhile, railway police so far edible oil to zero percent to tame the recovered 160 out of the 3,510 stolen inflation reaching almost seven

percent The decisions were taken at a marathon meeting of Economic Affairs Committee of the Indian cabinet presided over by Prime

> Delhi Monday night. Briefing reporters after the meeting, Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said the minimum export price of basmati rice has been further raised to \$1,200 per tonne from \$1,100 per tonne, thus making it more difficult to export

Minister Manmohan Singh in New

cheap variety of basmati. The ban on all non-basmati rice would bring in an estimated eight lakh tonnes of Pusa-1121 variety into the Indian domestic market. The moves are aimed at softening the prices of basic food items in India and ease supply crunch diverting more grains and pulses into the domestic market.

"We sincerely hope the measures will reduce prices," said Chidambaram. While import duties on crude that "inflation is unacceptably high

edible oil--soya, palm and sunflower--have been removed, those said the central bank was ready to on all refined edible oils were take any measure to control inflareduced to 7.5 percent from 27.5 tion.

Duties on hydrogenerated vegetable oil and fats were also brought down to 7.5 percent. The duty cuts are aimed at higher and cheaper imports which are expected to have trickle-down effect on Indian domestic retail prices of the goods.

The Indian government had earlier banned export of edible oils to tone up their availability in the domestic market and contain the rising prices. India exported 11,630 tonnes of edible oils in 2006-7.

Last month, the government had cut import duties on several varieties of edible oils and milled and non-milled rice. The inflation is giving head-

aches to the Congress Party-1:d United Progressive Alliance government, which faces a series of elections in a number of states by the end of this year and parliamentary polls due early next year. Meanwhile, the Governor of Reserve Bank of India YV Reddy told reporters in Mumbai Monday

and more than anticipated". He

activities at the moment that can be a reason for worry for the peo-He added that Rab is stepping

up measures in collecting informa-

tion about militants and criminals and their activities. Hasan said, "Rab has stepped into its fifth year and during the last four years the force's main achieve-

ment has been to be able to gain the

faith and love of the people."

In reply to a question, Hasan said, "The number of crossfire incidents have gone down as the number of incidents of gunfight between Rab and criminals have reduced."

illegal Voip business, reducing drug peddling and reducing the projection of vulgar scenes in cinema At the meeting, Hassan

that Rab would shortly purchase a helicopter for use in its drive against terrorism.

## Rab

filed at 9:00pm.

FROM PAGE 1

He said Rab has played a vital role in combating crime, stopping

pointed out that Rab has now taken steps to integrate latest technologies into its system in order to be more effective in fighting terrorism. The Rab DG also mentioned

five years.

FROM PAGE 16

Prior to his appointment in

Bangladesh, Evans served as Director of Afghanistan Information Strategy in FCO. He has also served in the British missions in Islamabad, Ankara, Bangkok and Hanoi.

In the charge sheet, the IO men

ACC Assistant Director

The complainant in the first information report (FIR) said Selim accumulated wealth worth over Tk 14.65 crore, which is disproportionate to his known sources of income. The FIR also added that Selim concealed information about his actual wealth and prop erties worth over Tk 8,70, 39,758 in

**CASE AGAINST MOSHARRAF** Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order allowing ACC to interrogate Khondokar Mosharraf after

The case was filed against them

## 90,000 MT food

Bagerhat districts and the rest wil

The food aid assistance i

The USAID has helped build 245

and vegetable gardening. The programme also provides a safety net for the poor through food- and In all, programme activities are helping four million people in more than 3,000 villages. The USAID's \$167 million Food Security and Disaster Management

addressed.

# Hillary is not

Recalling a famous scene on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of

Hillary warned that Democrats won't have an easy time against

tion, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, may not be up to the task. "The Republicans aren't going to give up without a fight," Hillary said. "And no matter how beautiful your rhetoric, the Republicans aren't going to turn off their attack machine

In recent days, Hillary has made an issue of calls from Obama backers for her to abandon the Democratic

Now, this is one of the most

calling for Hillary to drop out of the can run as long as she wants," he

boards were constituted to monitor

than Singapore, he must not get involved in any political or business activities, and would return as soon

As his original length of parole Asked for his comment on the