Pak army chief briefs PM on militancy

Musharraf ally dropped as intelligence chief

Pakistani premier Yousaf Raza Gilani was briefed by the country's army chief Wednesday as part of his new government's efforts to find political solutions to Islamic mili-

Kayani met Gilani along with key coalition partners and ministers in Islamabad, two days after the ministers were sworn in and just over a week after the premier was elected by parliament.

The new government is led by opponents of the embattled US ally President Pervez Musharraf, including the party of slain opposition

An official statement said Kayani "presented all the efforts it (the army) had undertaken to stabilise the situation" in Pakistan's troubled tribal areas bordering Afghanistan and in the restive northwestern Swat

ordered the briefing "in order to come up with political policy guidelines to address the menace of terrorism and extremism, through a comment and backed by a creditable

included Bhutto's widower Asif Ali Zardari, the de facto head of her Pakistan People's Party, and former premier Nawaz Sharif, whose party is the second biggest in the coalition.

Gilani is a leading member of

Taliban militants since Musharraf joined the so-called "war on terror" on the United States.

Gilani said on Saturday that and Taliban militants. militancy was the new government's biggest priority, but stressed the need for political as well as military solu- analysts said.

ings in Pakistan. These include reforming the British colonial-era laws that govern the tribal areas, an ethnic Pashtundominated region that US officials have branded a safe haven for Osama bin Laden's terror network.

tions amid a wave of suicide bomb-

Meanwhile a key ally of President Pervez Musharraf has been dropped from his position as head of one of the country's top intelligence services, the military said Wednesday.

Army chief General Ashfaq Kayani appointed Major General Mohammad Asif to take over as head of the powerful Military Intelligence (MI) outfit from the current holder of the post, Major General Nadeem

MI is one of Pakistan's three main spy agencies. The others are Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), which is also run by the army, and the Intelligence Bureau, which is a civilian organisation.

"Major General Mohammad Asif has been appointed director general Military Intelligence today, replacing Gilani and his coalition partners Major General Nadeem Ejaz," chief military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas told AFP.

Asif previously served as Pakistan's defence attache to Russia. Analysts said Ejaz was a close

confidante and a relative by marriage of key US ally President Musharraf, who seized power in a coup in 1999 Those present at the meeting and was army chief until November last year.

Musharraf appointed Ijaz in 2006. Under Ijaz, MI assumed a greater role in the country's political affairs and Ijaz was one of the key witnesses when Musharraf controversially suspended the country's chiefjustice

Asif, by contrast, is close to Kayani, who took over from Musharraf last year and has since set after the September 11, 2001 attacks about reducing the army's role in politics to focus on tackling al-Qaeda

The MI chief is supposed to be the eyes and ears of the army chief,

Aug 21 attack case

The grisly grenade attack on August 21 of 2004 on an Awami League (AL) rally on Bangabandhu Avenue left 22 AL leaders and workers killed and scores of others

narrowly escaped the attack, but suffered serious ear problems.

The investigation into the attack changed course several times, but the present interim government now says it has unearthed the perpetrators of the attack.

of the case, allegedly influenced by the then political government, came up with a fabricated story of the attacks. The CID then maintained that Mokhlesur Rahman, an AL ward commissioner in Maghbazar area, and several toplisted criminals were behind the carnage. They also attempted to feed the public the made up story through an ostensible confessional statement made by a petty criminal Joj Miah. In his statement, Joj Miah named Mokhlesur as one of the

However, after the present government assumed power, the investigators found Islamist militant outfit Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji)'s involvement in the attack. Mufti Abdul Hannan, chief of a section of the Huji and several other leaders and activists of the militant group have already confessed to the crime.

CID found out that fugitive militant leader Moulana Tajuddin, a brother of former deputy minister and BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu, supplied the grenades used in the attacks. Following the findings, the CID has already arrested

Nur Mohammad, the inspector general of police, told reporters yesterday that punitive measures would be taken against any police official who is found to be negligent in conducting the investigation of the case.

Food crisis

FROM PAGE 1 market for direct marketing of farm produce. He said such markets would be set up across the country to help decrease the number of middlemen, which will benefit both

He assured the farmers of taking initiatives so that the market is not evicted with the change of govern ment and developing the marketplace as a permanent business

Gen Moeen noted that the country faced natural disasters last year but nobody had to starve to death. "We all tried and succeeded in

Irish PM announces UNB adds: The army chief said the Food Department has already started selling rice at fair price on the open market and the government is increasing rice allocation and the number of dealers.

> "More people will be able to buy rice at fair price [at Tk 25 per kg] and save money," he said.

> He said 78 lakh tonnes of potato has been produced across the country in the current season and the production of wheat also almost doubled. He hoped there would be a bumper production of Boro paddy this season as the supplies of seeds

> Bogra Area Commander and GOC of 11 Infantry Division Major General Muhammad Shamim Chowdhury, senior army officials and government officials accompanied the army chief.

Meanwhile, Naznin Moeen, wife of the army chief, yesterday inaugu rated Millennium Scholastic School in Jahangirabad Cantonment area in the city.

Stealthy death

brother Ratan Das, 11, and his relative Biren Karmakar, 62.

The truck driver and his helper fled the scene as local people rushed to the spot to help.

Later, highway police and fire service personnel reached the spot and recovered the bodies of the victims who were crushed beneath the load of the truck and its goods. Police sent the bodies to Barisal

Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for postmortem. Md. Amiruzaman Amin, officer

in charge of Gournadi police station and Moazzem Hossain, in charge of Gournadi highway police post said that Khkonon Das had come from India some 12 years ago and settled illegally in the area.

The orphaned baby has been taken by his maternal grandmother who lives in Kuriana village under Shorupkathi upazila in

Railway

Following the theft, the authorities formed the committee headed by chief of BR's Engineering

Department Abul Kashem. Abul Kashem told The Daily Star that they have submitted a fivepage investigation report to the BR director general.

"We have collected statements from 12 persons including the managers and key-men of Banani and Cantonment stations. We found that six to seven thieves took one and a half hours to two hours to steal the clips," he said.

The other recommendations of the committee include deploying ansar members as railway guards and welding regular clips with the sleepers.

Meanwhile, another committee ation in the last six to seven years, headed by Assistant Superintendent of Government but the present government has Railway Police Rakhal Chandra initiated the rental power purchase Sutradhar was formed Saturday to scheme, which is expected to addinvestigate the incident. The comsome power to the national grid mittee was given 10 days' time to submit its report.

Rajuk staff's wealth

FROM PAGE 16 hardly 11 years in 1985. The local

chapter of Unicef also confirmed tax officials that she never served there.

Sources say Parvin, owner of a six-storey building in Rupnagar in Mirpur, is actually a housewife.

Moreover, Amir claimed he had received Tk 14 lakh as interest free loan from one Shahinur Islam. But the 'lender' said he even does not personally know Amir and even filed a forgery case against him

with Tejgaon police on February 7. The Rajuk inspector did all these to his tax document to make his black money white.

Although a class-three employee, Amir was one of the most powerful staffs in Rajuk due to his political influence, and became a millionaire through power abuse.

is on the run for the last one year, had an absolute influence over the organisation during the BNP-Jamaat rule.

"No transfer, promotion or other activities were possible without paying him bribe," said a identified.

According to investigators, he Sheorapara in Mirpur, another in Rupnagar residential area. None of his family lives in either of these houses now. Neighbours said Amir's wife and children are in Muradnagar.

He along with his wife also owns a five-katha plot in Purbachal Housing Project, three plots of 2.5 katha each in Badda Rehabilitation Project and around two acres of land property in Muradnagar, Comilla, from where he hailed.

All these assets he showed in his income tax file as earned through rent of his house and bank interests.

The investigators have found two business entities -- Nishat Design and Consultant, registered in 2005, and Niloy Enterprise, registered in 2006. "But those business entities did not do any transaction. These were made just to use as tools to whiten black money," said a taskforce member.

The investigators believe Amir's brother-in-law Omar Farukh's five-katha plot on Uttara Officials of Rajuk say Amir, who road No. 7 and his mother Qazi Hosneara Begum's two plots in Uttara are also his making.

He used his influence to allocate a three-katha plot to Salahuddin Khan, a survey assistant of Rajuk, in Uttara third phase. Salahuddin sold this plot Rajuk employee asking not to be allocation to Anwara Begum, Amir's mother-in-law.

Later, Amir used his influence abused his influence and made to transfer the land to Uttara sec two six-storey buildings -- one in tor 10 without any application and sold it to one Sirajul Islam at Tk 50

The taskforce started investigation against him with the bank transaction of that money, sources

Talks with parties

FROM PAGE 1

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed chaired yesterday's cabinet meeting participated by all advisers, except Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury as he is now on a foreign tour, and the special assistants to the chief adviser.

On dialogue preparations, Fahim Munaim said the government is working on several aspects of the dialogue like its type and format, whether to sit with the political parties together or sepa-

Asked if the government has its own agenda, Fahim expressed his ignorance "since the details have not been fixed yet" The chief adviser will decide who

government side, Fahim said replying to a query. Asked about an adviser's state-

ment that the dialogue would take place before or after Pahela Baishakh (April 14), he declined to miers. comment on it. When a reporter enquired about

the government attitude towards Saifur faction of BNP, welcomed programmes like fasting and statements about movements with the state of emergency in place, Fahim said, "It will be clear through the dialogues whether there is any necessity for these at all. Let us see."

In his January 12 address to the nation, the chief adviser announced that the council of advisers decided in favour of having a dialogue with the political parties. He also said his administration would soon take steps to that end.

But a number of advisers said later that the talks will not take place before the Election Commission ends its reform talks with the par-

The Election Commission began its second round talks on February 24 and had discussions with 15 parties in five days. But it could not finish off the job since it must wait for the BNP issue to be resolved in the High Court. Housing and Public Works

Adviser Ghulam Quader recently said the government will not have any special agenda for the dialogue.

The campaign against corrup-

decide whether the corrupt would be spared, he added.

On January 14, Quader said the government would consider conditions the political parties might insist upon for the proposed dia-BNPREACTION

Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah, an that they can participate in the

"Any dialogue with the namewould lead the dialogue from the only parties will not bring any result," he told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that the government should hold an effective dialogue with important political leaders like the two detained former pre-

Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, acting secretary general of the proolitical parties' recent the government decision to hold the dialogue this month. He expressed hopes that political crises would be resolved and the process to restore democracy will begin through it.

> "We want to help the govern ment and it should also have faith on the political parties," he told The Daily Star last night.

member Suranjit Sengupta said they want to sit with the government with an open mind and with-

government's agenda to be discussed with the political parties and accordingly we will take part in the discussion," he told The Daily

discussion including release of our president, price hike of essentials and elections. We will also ask the caretaker government to hand over early as possible through holding a free, fair and credible election,

Rice export ban

FROM PAGE 16 that the neighbouring country had

promised.

the ban on export of non-Basmati rice was provided under the Food Aid Programme. According to the notification

Trade, the ban on non-Basmati rice will not be applicable to the 5,51,010 tonnes of rice exported to Bangladesh. Thirty-five consignments of rice which have already been

accepted for export until March at land customs stations in West Bengal as part of transitional arrangements will not be affected by the ban, the notification said.

On Basmati rice, it said exports would be permitted only if the freight-on-board price is \$1,200 per tonne. The export will be restricted through six Indian ports. The minimum export price of Basmati rice was \$1,100 per tonne.

THEAGREEMENT

Sources said the governmen will import the 4 lakh tonnes of rice from four state-owned Indian organisations through river routes.

Department said they received confirmation regarding signing of the agreement from India at 4:00pm yesterday. The sources said according to

"In macroeconomic management,

whichever happens first. However, none in the Food Department or the food ministry could say when the consignments will start arriving in Bangladesh.

A food ministry source said Bangladesh does not have any more time to wait for rice arriving from India and the government Wasiuddin Ahmed, commercial will start collecting Boro rice

Zia family

FROM PAGE 1

However, a few former lawmakers who are known to be loyal to the pro-Saifur faction of BNP said requesting anonymity that they were not aware of the statement in which their names have been mentioned as signatories. Responding to a query, Selima

Rahman, also a former state minister, said the people would resist the government's plot to form a "puppet government consisting of individuals recommended by the World Bank and the IME" "The government, with the help of its foreign masters, intends to form

a rubber-stamp parliament, but the people won't accept it," said the former lawmakers adding that they were ready for any sort of sacrifice to forge a movement against the interim government. Demanding the release of political

leaders including BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, they said no election would be held in the country without

In reply to a question, Mohammad Shahjahan, former lawmaker and an organising secretary of BNP central committee, said the people have a growing sense of doubt that the electionmight not be held on time.

The statement contains the names of among others Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmad, M Shamsul Islam, MK Anwar, Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, Ali Newaz Khaiyam, Nasirul Haque Sabu, Abdul Hye, Elen Bhutto, Mohammad Shahjahan, Shahjahan Chowdhury, Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi, Ashraf Uddin Nizam, Sohrab Uddin, Shirin Sultana and Rehana Akhter Ranu.

GE surprised

FROM PAGE 16

the bids in consultation with IFC, which may also finance the successful bidder of the Bibiyana and Sirajganj 450 megawatt power projects. The bids submitted by Summit Industrial and Mercantile Corporation had 20 percent stakes held by GE. After dilly-dallying an explana-

tion for the rejection, Power Cell late last month said the tenders required the bidder's net financial value to be over \$100 million. The IFC's assessment determined that Summit's net value is \$32.5 million, though Summit submitted auditor's copy stating its net value as \$121 million.

This evaluation surprised most industry operators, since Summit was good enough for the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank's financing for the Sirajganj 450 MW power project in 2004. The Khaleda Zia-led government on political grounds had cancelled that project.

Having no stake in the power sector, Power Cell, which is an arm of the power ministry, after three years of the cancellation is now holding the tender for the same Sirajganj power project with IFC as its consultant.

"But this time, it's IFC which is telling the Power Cell what it should do," said a source. "The Cell has its own bid evaluation committee to decide matters like this. But unfortunately the cell is not utilising that

The Daily Star asked global power giant GE Power's chief whether he struck alliance with local Summit without verifying its financial strength. "The GE did its due diligence with Summit. This is why we will take up this matter with IFC," he said.

Power Cell's rejection of Summit's bids reduced competition in these two major power bids. The Bibiyana tender will now have only three competitors and Sirajganj just

6pc GDP growth

physical infrastructure, especially power and transport, together with continued efforts in improving the quality of education and basic healthcare services.

Hua Du pointed out that natural disasters have worsened growth and inflation indicators, but said uncertainty among investors due to the ongoing anti-corruption drives has started to ease.

The GDP growth is forecast to reach 6.5 percent in 2008-09 due to improved external and domestic demand and a recovery in agriculture, she added.

The ADO assumed that the caretaker government would take measures to further boost business confidence and that substantial external assistance would be available to cushion the flood and cyclone effects on economic growth and inflation.

It also assumed that the authorities would pursue well-coordinated fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies with a focus on curbing inflation and raising revenues.

"A final assumption is that the government will at least partly rationalise fuel prices."

The report said the economic outlook considered several downside risks that could derail projec tions -- the main risk was political developments in the lead-up to the | have voluntarily submitted their general elections scheduled to be | tax returns. The first such event was held by the end of 2008, and their organised by the Tax Zone

the major risk is rapidly growing inflation: failure to rein it in could seriously undermine macroeconomic and political stability," it said, adding that the perennial vulnerability to natural disasters also presents a risk. The report said the GDP growth must be raised to seven-eight per-

cent for faster poverty reduction and job creation while climate change increasingly looms as a major developmental challenge. It said greater investment is needed in power generation, the Chittagong seaport needs to continue contracting out operations and

Formulation of an appropriate coal policy is especially important so as to expedite decisions on some of the other foreign investment proposals worth US\$ 11 billion in important sectors, it added.

Hasina's parole

FROM PAGE 1

to avoid movements after her return home following treatment in US.

But the AL is yet to make its position clear on participation in the election in any circumstances. A high profile meeting of the party yesterday decided that they would not go for movements and would prepare for the elecwere also discussed at the meet-

"But finally a green signal from Sheikh Hasina is a must for joining the electoral race. She had earlier directed us to take part in the election even if she is barred from contesting it," said a key leader of the AL.

to the country. Highly placed sources said

for tougher agitations.

terday was held at acting party President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence in the capital to finalise the patty stance over

sending Hasina abroad. keep contact with the authorities

Earlier, AL Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury held a meeting with some foreign diplomats Tuesday evening at a European diplomat's

Later, Saber went to Zillur Rahman's residence and had talks with him. Party AL leaders Tofail Ahmed, Asaduzzaman Nur and Rahmat Ullah were also present there.

Following the talks, Zillur telephoned some senior presidium members of the party including Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta and acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam to join the meeting yesterday morn-

Talking to The Daily Star,

In reply to question, he said "If she is sent to US, then we there would be no need to go for have to move towards the elec- movements if the AL chief is sent tion, giving up the present hard abroad. "Everything is being line," said another senior AL done to resolve the issue through

Rice price hike

FROM PAGE 1

while the price of local varieties of coarse rice also hiked by Tk 10 to Tk

Retail price of a kg of coarse rice

rose by Tk 1 in the capital yesterday, selling at Tk 35 to Tk 40. The retail price of fine rice also increased slightly at different markets in the city where a kg was

selling between Tk 41 and Tk 46. variety of rice, for Tk 43 per kg a week ago, but the rice retailers yesterday were asking Tk 46 for a kg

A leader of Wholesale Rice Association at Badamtoli and Babubazar said there is no crisis of local rice in the market, but a crisis of Indian rice existed in the market. There is no reason behind the

price increase as the supply of rice

is sufficient and new rice will reach the market by 15 days, he said. The price hike of rice in rural markets and the rising prices of

Meanwhile, some of the around 50 BDR outlets in the capital were found to be selling 4 kg of rice to each person instead of 5 kg.

Park, around 100 people were seen standing in line for rice, braving the afternoon thunderstorm. In the line, many of the women

and their toddlers in their arms were seen shivering in the down-Rabeva Begum from Bramhansur in Keranigani came to the outlet with her 2-year-old child

profusely "I've been standing here for six hours and more than 300 people were ahead of me. I could not head back home as I came a long way

Top taxpayers

Institute of Diploma Engineers. priority. This goal can be achieved by extending tax bases and though participation of all," the NBR Chairman said during his speech as

chief guest at the event. A total of 566 new taxpayers of Tax Zone -5, Dhaka handed over their returns to the NBR Chairman. Another 511 possible taxpayers submitted applications for the Taxpayer Identification Number

It was the second such event in the capital city where taxpayers 6, Dhaka at Elephant Road on March 27.

taxpayers submitted a total of Tk 54 lakh and another 443 businessmen applied for TIN numbers.

received a total of US\$ 5,000 crore in foreign aid and 52 per cent of that amount was given as a loan. He said the country now pays over Tk 4,000 crore annually to repay this Majid pointed out at present,

through local and foreign loans. reliant only when it is able to collect

enough revenue to manage 100 per cent of the national budget, he

ment which had no relevance to the case, the ex-lawmaker said: "Is the word 'razakar' bad?"

He said his wife had to submit the wealth statement in just 72 hours when he was in jail.

children were present at the court.

Bangladesh. over the meeting.

AFP, Islamabad

tancy, a statement said. Army chief General Ashfaq

leader Benazir Bhutto, which trounced Musharraf's allies in elections in February.

prehensive strategy based on political engagement, economic developmilitary element," it added.

Bhutto's party. Pakistan has been a bulwark in in March 2007. US-led efforts to tackle al-Qaeda and

down next month.

in Dublin

AFP, Dublin Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, who has come under growing pressure over alleged financial irregularities, announced Wednesday that he would stand

overseeing a decade-long economic boom, denied any wrongdoing but said he did not want the charges to distract the focus of government. "It is my intention to tender my resignation to President Mary McAleese by Tuesday 6 May," he told

a hastily-arranged press conference

"I know in my heart of hearts that

The 56-year-old, re-elected for a

record third term last year after

I've done no wrong and wronged noone," he said. "I want everyone to understand...never in all the time I served in public life have I ever put my personal interests ahead of the public good." During Ahern's period in office at

the head of three coalition govern-

ments, the country has experienced

unprecedented prosperity as a result of the so-called Celtic Tiger economicboom With former British prime minister Tony Blair, he helped steer Britishruled Northern Ireland from decades of violence to the peace process, the landmark 1997 Good Friday agree-

ment and the setting up of a cross-

community power-sharing adminis-

Ahern has come under increasing

tration in Belfast.

on Wednesday.

pressure as a result of revelations at a three-judge Mahon Tribunal investigating planning corruption and payments to politicians. Opposition leaders planned to question Ahern about his finances

when the Dail (lower house of parlia-

ment) resumes after the Easter recess

sitting since 1997, is investigating an

allegation -- strongly denied by

The tribunal, which has been

Ahern -- that he received payments from a property developer between

the 1200 war criminals.

1999 to 2006.

War criminals FROM PAGE 16 hossain Raza, Lt Gen Eagub Malik, Maj Nader Parves, Col Taaj, Ashrafuzzaman Khan, Ashraf Hossain, Harun ar Rashid, and Chowdhury Mainuddin are among

"We have prepared the list on the basis of field-level investigation, statements of the victims and examination of relevant documents." said Dr Hasan. About 13 researchers had been

engaged in preparing the list from

necessary evidence and docu-

ments, he said the Committee is

ready to show its documents and

other information once the govern-

Claiming that they have all the

ment forms special tribunal for trying war criminals. Meanwhile, a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) on February 16 disclosed a list of 15 "war criminals," including Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami.

resignation

The popular premier, nicknamed the 'Teflon Taoiseach' after his Gaelic title and because allegations against him have never stuck, is having to defend details of his finances and the

source of payments that are being

uncovered by the tribunal. In an analysis of the Mahon hearings, the Irish Times said that the total value of lodgements and other transactions that have to date been queried by the tribunal exceeds 886,000 euros (1,387,000 dollars) in today's terms, applying the con

Ahern has been leader of the centrist Fianna Fail party since 1994 and has been prime minister since June 1997. He was first elected to the Dail in 1977 for the north city Dublin-

Finglas constituency and in 1981

sumer price index for the period 1994

to 2006

moved to the Dublin Central constituency, which he has represented ever He has been elected 10 times in 31 After his election victory last year, Ahern said that he expected his Finance Minister Brian Cowen, who

liant mind" and a "great colleague, to succeed him. Cowen stood at Ahern's right as he had read his statement

Wednesday.

he described as a man with a "bril-

the district of Polonnaruwa, 216 kilometres (135 miles) east of here by road, police said. Sri Lankan troops are locked in

combat with Tamil separatists in

sides in the decades-old ethnic

conflict that has claimed tens of

thousands of lives cannot be inde-

Casualty figures given by both

the island's embattled northeast.

Heavy fighting

pendently confirmed as journalists and rights groups are barred from front-line areas.

Varying opinions FROM PAGE 16 exploitation of coal on environmental grounds," he said while speaking at the launching programme of Business Directory of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICCB) at the Bangladesh-China Friendship

Referring to the power crisis in the country, the finance adviser said if they (those opposing exploitation of coal) are so concerned about environment pollution, they should live in caves where there is no pollution. There was no new power gener-

Conference Centre.

soon, he added.

FROM PAGE 1

wounded. AL President Sheikh Hasina

The erstwhile CID investigator

planners of the attack.

the buyers and sellers.

tackling the situation," he said.

fertilisers and power were normal.

out any condition imposed. "First, we will want to know the

power to an elected government as

Suranjit added.

The exemption to Bangladesh and a few other countries from

minister of Bangladesh High from April 21-22. The imported Commission in Delhi, will sign rice will be stored at government the agreement on behalf of warehouses to increase the

logues if they were not "impractical or illogical".

adviser to detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and a key leader of the faction loyal to her, said the government should release all political leaders including Khaleda and Sheikh Hasina so

ALREACTION Awami League (AL) Presidium

"We will bring up everything for

tion will go on and the people would

of the Director General of Foreign

A top official of the Food

the agreement, at least 1 lakh tonne of rice will reach Bangladesh within 30 days of signing the agreement while the total 4 lakh tonnes of rice will have to reach Bangladesh within 75 days of signing of the agreement or 60 days of opening LCs-

> management to the private sector, including those of the New Mooring container terminal.

tion. The party's future strategies

Sources said the AL would not make any kind of commitment with the authorities concerning the party chief but would welcome any decisions taken by her on going to US and coming back

some advisers of the caretaker government on Tuesday discussed the issue of allowing Suranjit said the meeting dis-Hasina to go to US on parole to cussed the situation after Sheikh avert a chaotic situation in the Hasina leaves the country. "But country as the AL made repeated we want she is sent abroad as threats in the last few days to go early as possible."

leader.

the wholesale markets yesterday

Mohammad Mohiuddin, a customer at East Rajabazar market, told The Daily Star that he had purchased Minikate, a medium

of the same rice.

imported rice in the bordering areas are affecting the wholesale market in the capital, he added.

At the BDR outlet in Nawabganj

at 10:00am, she told this correspondent at 4:15pm while both the mother and the child shivered

FROM PAGE 16 "Acquiring financial self reliance through an increase in revenue collection is our topmost

(TIN) at the programme. The government's treasury acquired around Tk 2.87 million through these submissions.

At that event 181 voluntary The NBR chairman pointed out that in its 37 years, Bangladesh has

that 72 per cent of national budget is managed with internal resources and the remaining 28 per cent The country will become self-

Kalipad Halder, commissioner of Income Tax Area-5, presided

It assigned acting AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam to

in this regard.

discussion with the authorities," The AL's secret meeting yes- he added.

from home and it's about my turn to get the rice," she said. The BDR outlets resumed sale of rice after the rain grew weaker at around 4:30pm.

Wyoming

governor to

back Obama

AP, Washington

nomination.

Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal, a former Clinton administration appointee, announced yesterday that he will support Illinois Sen. Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential

Freudenthal said he was

impressed by the large, enthusiastic

crowds that turned out to see Obama when he visited Wyoming ahead of last month's caucuses. "They paid attention and were riveted and reactivated, and trying to be part of an America that's bigger than just their own self-interest, Freudenthal told The Associated Press. "And you hope that can work. Because something has got to dig us

out of this morass that we've gotten into, where it's sort of gotcha poli-

5,000 Biman

FROM PAGE 16

official told UNB.

clean-up drive.

FROM PAGE 16

under the supervision of the National Coordination Committee on Serious Crimes and Corruption, is now scrutinising the wealth statements. "Some of the officials are being questioned over the telephone

while a few have been asked to

provide documents to substantiate

their wealth statements," a Biman

submit the short list of corrupt

Biman officials to the Anti-

He said the taskforce would

The taskforce, which works

submit their wealth statements.

Corruption Commission for taking necessary action. According to the Biman sources, some 1,800 members of the Biman, who went into retirement under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme

(VRS), would not be left out of the

information about them and will

ask them to submit necessary

The investigators are collecting

papers and documents to substantiate their wealth statements. The Biman Bangladesh Airlines last year offered its employees golden handshake under the VRS as part of the government plan to turn the national flag carrier into a public limited company.

Razakars collaborated with the Pakistan occupation forces during the Liberation War. ACC Assistant Director Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan filed the case accusing him of amassing wealth worth over Tk 9.45 crore illegally and hiding information about assets worth Tk 91.42 lakh in the

wealth statement submitted to

As the judge, Shamsur Nahar,

questions to the plaintiff during yesterday's proceedings.

Salahuddin's wife and three

case filed against him by the Anticorruption Commission (ACC).

asked him to withdraw his state-Salahuddin asked around 50