Saifur group

FROM PAGE 1

constitution, the HC writ bench soon as possible to return to democcannot adjudicate matters involving internal disputes of a political party.

The court also referred to the judgment given by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court that the HC cannot take any decision on a matter involving politics. would try to complete their electoral

Earlier on November 18 last year, an HC bench issued a rule on the EC, Hafiz and six BNP standing committee members, and the government, asking them to reply why the EC's invitation letter should not be declaredillegal.

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

On October 29, the BNP standing objections of Khaleda-appointed committee appointed M Saifur Rahman and Hafiz Uddin Ahmed as the acting chairman and acting secretary general of the party.

On November 5, the EC invited to Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, the Hafiz to the dialogue slated for November 22.

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

After 10 days' of hearing, the court on March 24 fixed yesterday for second round of electoral reform delivering its judgment.

In the case, advocates TH Khan BNP since the matter was pending at and AJ Mohammad Ali appeared the court. before the court as Khaleda's counsels while Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for the EC, Dr Shahdeen Malik for Hafiz and Saifur, and Masood Reza Sobhan for Mannan.

After the HC verdict TH Khan told journalists that they did not challenge anything regarding politics but the legality of the EC letter to Hafiz.

"We had challenged the action of the Election Commission, but since Khaleda Zia is a former prime minister and a political figure, her case automatically became a political issue," Khan said.

Replying to a question, he said, "We will decide about filing any appeal after discussing with persons concerned.

He alleged that there is a conspiracy to destroy the BNP.

Welcoming the HC verdict, on the other hand, Dr Kamal said the writ petition was filed regarding BNP's internal affairs. According to the jurisdiction of an HC writ bench, it cannot dispose the matter, so the court discharged the petition, he

Shahdeen Malik said the petitioner filed the writ petition challenging the legality of the EC letter but the letter did not appear illegal to the court.

The court mentioned that as there is no law regarding the EC dialogue it cannot be said that the commission violated any law, Malik said, adding, "It means the Election Commission's letter was legal.

He said matters relating to which faction of the BNP is bigger are sub-

Huda said, "I think the verdict of the court has paved the way for them [the BNP factions] to forget the past and come together."

The commission might informally talk with the two factions of disputes, Huda said when he was asked if the EC would take any initiative in resolving the differences between the factions.

"The country is going through a

critical time. We want elections as

racy and to overcome the present

with BNP, the CEC said they needed

some time to organise the docu-

ments for the electoral reform talks.

Replying to a query, he said the EC

reforms dialogue with the BNP

before the planned talks between the

again encounter difficulties if the

Khaleda-led BNP filed appeal against

yesterday's HC verdict, Huda said it

would be very unfortunate if they do

talks with political parties on

September 12 last year. Ignoring the

Secretary General Khandaker

Delwar Hossain, the EC invited the

Saifur-led faction of BNP to the

reform talks by sending the invitation

secretary general to the Saifur-led

with the Saifur-led BNP could not be

held on November 22 last year as the

prompted the HC to stay the opera-

talks with 15 political parties except

talks within the timeframe specified

in the electoral roadmap as it did not

succeed in holding talks with the

Diouf informed that FAO has called

an emergency meeting of head of

states during June 3-5, 2008 to

discuss the overall situation

including impact of climate

the meeting will also discuss

whether to stop biofuel production

in the developed countries which

are diverting foodgrains to make

said currently 100 million tonnes of

cereals are being diverted for

biofuel production in one country

and the quantity is estimated to

tion is at its lowest since 1980s.

"The situation (food shortages) is

due to a structural problem and a

decision requires to be taken at the

ple in developing economies like

China and India is an important

factor in driving up the food

demand. The supply of foodgrains

has been affected by drought in

increase food production through

raising productivity level of crops,

better water management.

products.

investment in rural areas and

When asked his views about GM

crops to increase production, he

The rising income level of peo-

structural level across the world."

He said the world grain situa-

increase twelve-fold by 2017.

Without naming the US, Diout

ethanol

The FAO director general said

Food prices

In February the EC completed its

The EC could not wrap up the

tion of the invitation sent to Hafiz.

The EC's electoral reform talks

faction.

The EC began electoral reform

Asked whether the EC would

government and political parties.

About the tentative time of talks

crisis," the CEC said.

FROM PAGE 16 directives from the home ministry not to disclose identities of those involved in the murder.

A police source said Emon did not implicate himself in the confessional statement. During an earlier interrogation

by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Emon had confessed that he had heard that notorious criminal Khandaker Tanveerul Islam Joy has killed Prof Aftab.

Detective Branch (DB) Inspector Mohammad Hasan, who is also the investigation officer of the case, produced Emon at the chamber of Metropolitan Magistrate Habibur Rahman Siddiqui where Emon submitted his statement.

Emon's statement comes after 11 days on remand, in three phases.

Meanwhile, Emon has now been placed on a five-day remand in the Neon murder case filed with Mohammadpur police station. DB police last week filed a petition with a Dhaka court seeking 10 day's remand for questioning in the said

Prof Aftab succumbed to his injuries in city's Combined Military Hospital (CMH) on September 27 morning four days after assailants shot him in his residence on September 23.

Three unidentified youths shot Aftab after breaking into his Fuller Road residence, adjacent to the British Council on Dhaka University campus.

The then general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) Prof M Akhtaruzzaman at a rally had said that he suspects the government intelligence agencies might have a hand in the killing.

Prof Akhtaruzzaman had said at the time that such a daring attack on the Dhaka University campus is impossible without involvement of government agencies.

Hafiz hails

FROM PAGE 1 sent me the invitation letter.

"We will take the other faction with us to participate in the electoral reforms talks, though the ruling stands in our favour.'

He added, "We will soon contact Khandaker Delwar and Hannan Shah, and hopefully there will be a positive response from them.' The pro-reform stalwart said he

believes the party factions would unite and contest the election with their traditional symbol 'sheaf of paddy'.

He said there might be differences of opinion within a large organisation like BNP, but there is no disagreement over the leadership of Khaleda Zia.

Khandaker Delwar in his reaction said, "In the context of the party constitution and laws, we feel we have been deprived of justice." Politics however, he added, does

not run on court decisions. Asked what they would do in response to the latest developments, he said, "We will decide on the next course of action after

consultation with lawyers." BNP acting office secretary Rizvi Ahmed and former lawmaker Selim Reza Habib, among others, attended the press briefing.

said the member countries are Now detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia filed the divided on the issue. So far as GM issue is concerned, FAO follows the petition challenging the validity of WHO and Codex standards of food EC's invitation to Hafiz Uddin Ahmed for talks on electoral

Jamaat FROM PAGE 1

Ahmed led the Jamaat delegation

at the meeting at city's Rail Bhaban that lasted for nearly one and a half hours starting from 10:00am. Communications Adviser Maj

Gen (retd) Ghulam Quader, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Education and Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman and LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal attended the meet-

Other members of the Jamaat delegation were Maulana Abdus Sobhan, Muhammad Qamaruzzaman and Abdur Razzag.

"We have talked about creating an atmosphere for election, holding the national polls before local body elections, releasing the BNP proposed dialogue, Qamaruzzaman told reporters

The fare will be half for children Gen (retd) Ghulam Quader and Both Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina were the prime ministers of the country and they will not flee the country (if released), therefore they should be allowed to participate in the dialogue," Abdur

the advisers. over the matter, Addus Sobhan told The Daily Star.

on Wednesday.

"We also asked the advisers to about the UNDP and Basnyat's withdraw the emergency power rules for creating an atmosphere fir for election," he added.

Terming the resumption as In 2001, the governments of the "beginning of a new chapter in but it was not implemented. As a said that it is not possible to result, a supplementary deal was achieve the goals on trade and commerce and people-to-people Initially, two trains will run on connectivity without the connec-Saturdays and Sundays every week. tivity among Saarc countries.

Oamrul Islam, one of the lawyers representing the former prime minister, said she has urged party workers as well as people to stay united and act cautiously since the country is in a crisis situation.

She, however, did not say anything about the government-AL

"I was once told that I would get Tk 2,000 crore a year if I allow gas export. But I rejected the proposal right away since I cannot betray my "I said I would export gas only if

over the next 50 years," Hasina told her lawyers.

trial cannot be paroled to be sent abroad for treatment, barrister Shafique Ahmed said, "It's not correct. She is on bail in every case filed against her. Besides, the High Court has said one of those cases was not even valid.

"There is no obstacle to sending her abroad, and it depends only on the goodwill of the government which is holding back her passport without any reason. COURT PROCEEDINGS

The Special Court-1, set up at MP hostel on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex, adjourned the hearing after the defence delivered submissions on the discharge petition for the third consecutive day yester-

The arguments in favour of the petition submitted on April 3 will resume on April 15.

Duta polls

election commissioner. Earlier on April 8, the court had issued show cause notice asking the respondents to explain within two days from the date of receipt of the notice why an interim injunction

In response to the show cause notice, Vice-chancellor SMA Faiz, Registrar (acting) Rezaur Rahman Duta President Sadrul Amin and **Duta Election Commissioner Dalim** Chandra Barman appeared before the court yesterday through their lawyers for contesting the civil suit.

Their lawyers submitted written statements on the suit and made submissions on the issue while the plaintiff's lawyers opposed those. On April 3, the plaintiff Ashiqul

injunction on the Duta election. In his plaint, Ashiqul said intense election activities by rival candidates might lead to untoward incidents

during the state of emergency. So, there is an urgent need to stop the election, he added Later on April 6, the plaintiff prayed for an interim injunction on

the election. After hearing, the court directed the respondents to main tain status quo on the Duta election. The court also issued a show

cause notice on them. Advocate M A Taher moved the petition on behalf of the plaintiff

while advocates Masud Ahmed Talukder and Abul Mannan Khan appeared for the defendants. REACTION ON INJUNCTION Talking to The Daily Star, Duta

President Sadrul Amin said, "I am frustrated...Since it is a court verdict, I cannot say anything more."

acy by a certain quarter about Duta has feached court. Now, we are concerned about our national elec-He added, "We are aggrieved,

surprised and concerned."

2nd ODI today

FROM PAGE 16 129 in their first game.

However, the team management might opt for a left-handed batsman in Zunaed Siddiqui to bolster the batting. In that event the axe might fall on middle-order batsman Rokibul Hasan,

The second match, also a day night affair, will kick off at the Iqba Stadium at 4pm Bangladesh Standard Time. Bangladesh Television and satellite channel Ten Sports will beam live coverage of the match.

Pakistan invited Bangladesh to take part in the five-match one-day series after Australia withdrew from their scheduled tour on security ground.

Zabiullah, wife

FROM PAGE 16 Masudur Rahman, and his wife Salma Rahman in a case for concealing information and amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director AFM Zahid Hossain, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Zabiullah and his wife to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses.

warrant against them and the order to attach their properties, as they have been absconding since the filing of the case.

ment submitted to the commis-

In the first information report (FIR), the complainant said Ismai accumulated Tk 1.30 crore beyond his known sources of income. He also concealed information about his wealth worth Tk 1.17 crore in the wealth statement.

accused of abetting her husband. **CASE AGAINST MASUD**

ACC Assistant Director Zahangir Alam, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the same cution witnesses.

was filed. The ACC filed the case against the couple with Ramna Police Station on November 30 last year

giving false information in the wealth statement submitted to the commission. In the FIR, the complainant said Masud accumulated Tk 5.86 crore beyond his known sources of income and concealed informa

for amassing wealth illegally and

His wife Salma was indicted in the case for abetting her husband.

GMG officials at Zia International Airport said Harun detained by Thai security Tuesday morning returned to Dhaka Tuesday night and has reached his village home in Jhenidah. "Harun actually suffers from

tuberculosis [TB] and he was sad as he lost his job and everything in Malaysia," an official told The Daily Star quoting Harun who showed his medical certificate to GMG "We gave him money to go

home as he did not have any," a GMG high official requesting anonymity told The Daily Star last

"Harun had no job for the last three months. Therefore, he was sad but he was not mentally disturbed," said another GMG official.

About cutting an apple with a knife on Tuesday's flight, one GMG official quoting Harun said he did not know that carrying a knife was not allowed on flights.

"He remained silent through the journey as he did not feel good due to his disease," the official added.

Govt targets

Of the 22 lakh tonne procurement target this fiscal year from domestic sources and import, only 7.06 lakh tonnes were procured, the secretary said.

The government failed to procure Boro in the last season due to On the failure of Aman and

wheat procurement, Waheduzzaman said market prices sell rice and wheat to government.

for import of nine lakh tonnes of rice but it was able to purchase only 4.87 lakh tonnes. The government distributed 9.51 lakh tonnes of food grains among 6.28 crore poor families

through its various programmes during July-March period of the current fiscal year, he said. As journalists expressed doubts on the number of families who received government-supplied food, the secretary said the number

during the nine-month period. He pointed out that the private sector imports food since 1993. And the government imports food only for its distribution programmes, if it fails in local

procurement. grains requirement, he said

54 Myanmar

and fled, Kraithong said. "The people said they tried to bang on the walls of the container to tell the driver they were dying, but he told them to shut up as police would hear them when they crossed

The bodies of the dead had been buried in temporary graves in a Phuket cemetery until they could be

collected by relatives, he said. The 46 people who survived without injury have been arrested, he

Colonel Narin Bussayawit, the deputy provincial police com-

mander, said the container did have a ventilation system but it had brokendown. "We don't know yet whether the ventilation system was out of order when they entered the container or if

it broke along the way. We are still investigating," he said. About 540,000 migrant workers are registered to work in Thailand, most of them from Myanmar, according to the labour ministry, but

as many as one million undocumented workers are believed to be in the kingdom. Myanmar is one of the world's poorest countries, its economy battered by decades of mismanage ment under military rule and further hampered by Western sanctions

imposed over its human rights The nation's economic plight sparked protests last August which when joined by Buddhist monks in September, snowballed into the biggest anti-government demon-

strations in nearly 20 years. The military responded by open ing fire on the crowds, killing at least 31 people, according to the United Nations.

Six months later, the plight of Myanmar's people remains desper-

Soaring exports of natural gas, reportedly worth a total of 2.7 billion dollars last year, appear to have little impact on the lives of ordinary peo-

FROM PAGE 1

of the AL presidium -- the highest policy making body of the party. Commenting on the refusal of

talks with the government, AL Acting President Zillur Rahman told reporters at his Gulshan residence in the capital, "I told the adviser that we could not hold any dialogue on the basis of verbal invitation as it creates many problems in the party."

"We are keen on taking part in any kind of dialogue -- official or unofficial. However, according to the party decision, we won't participate in any dialogue without a formal letter," he added.

Meanwhile, leaders of Sirajdikhan upazila unit of AL in Munshiganj yesterday gathered at the AL acting president's house and handed over Tk 1 lakh to him for the legal battle to free detained AL President Sheikh Hasina.

AL leaders Motia Chowdhury, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Mannan, Dr Dipu Moni, Sagufta Yasmin Emily and Sirajdikhan upazila unit President Mohiuddin Ahmed and its General Secretary Nazmul Alam Khan were present among others at the programme. AL chief Sheikh Hasina was

again taken to Square Hospital in the city yesterday with complaints of ear pain. Four physicians of the hospital -- Dr Sahil Mahmud, Dr Shah Alam, Dr Mizan and Dr Sanwar -- examined her ears and conducted check-up for other ailments. The doctors prescribed her eardrops and antibiotics. Hasina was later taken back to

the special jail located on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises. Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui,

deputy inspector general of prisons, told The Daily Star that there was nothing to be worried about the former primier's physical condition and she would be taken to the hospital again for further check-ups in three to four days.

Nepal's king

Gyanendra and his controversial son and heir Paras -- loathed for his playboy antics in one of the world's poorest countries -- were nowhere to be seen on polling day. For their part, the Maoists are still

viewed by many with deep suspicion

and accused of using bullying tactics despite their pledge to embrace multi-party democracy. The big question, say analysts, is whether the outcome gives the Maoists -- still classed by Washington as a "terrorist" organisation --

enough political clout to motivate them to stay within the democratic Nepal's main parties, the centrist Nepali Congress and the centre-left Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), are expected to

grab most of the seats. But Maoist leader Prachanda, who was greeted with flowers and cheering crowds when he voted, said the democratic experience was being embraced by his rebel force -whose 20,000 fighters have been confined to UN-monitored camps.

"We are making new history for Nepal and it is fantastic," Prachanda told AFP after casting his vote. Still, his party has warned it could fight again if it feels cheated by the

Youth activist Rajendra Mulmi said the country was simply hoping for better days ahead after the war

crippled Nepal's economy. "People have waited a long time for development and there is no alternative to peace," said Mulmi, head of an umbrella group for youth organisations.

"Whoever rules the country will have to deal with the economic agenda. We have China and India on either side, which are main players in the global economy. We have to take advantage of our location."

plewho struggle to eek out aliving. As a result, many choose to flee across the long land border in to

Thailand, or to escape by sea to Singapore, Malaysia or elsewhere in Asia -- all treacherous journeys. The land border with Thailand is littered with landmines and riven by

civil war while the long sea trip is made on flimsy boats without ade-Those who do make it into Thailand often must deal with criminal traffickers who transport them to

Bangkok or other major economic centres such as Phuket in dangerous and exploitative conditions. Seven migrants and their Thai driver were killed in November

In December, at least 22 died while making the sea journey when their boat collapsed.

returned to party chairmanship Monday, Rawshan on Tuesday sent a letter to Ershad seeking reinstatement of all expelled leaders who

Rawshan Ershad, senior presidium member of the JP, in a dramatic development on June 26 last year proclaimed herself as the acting chief of the party and unveiled plans for intra-party reforms, apparently seeking to dethrone former president HM Ershad from the party chief's post.

Golam Mosih as the new secretary general replacing Ruhul Amin Hawlader. Later, Ershad expelled 23 JP

leaders including three presidium members who supported Rawshan and her moves. JP in a press release yesterday said since followers of Rawshan

ership of Ershad, they were reinstated in the party. Golam Mosih in his reaction said, "We are happy as HM Ershad has taken the charge of the party and therefore we have decided to come back to our main stream.

Sangsad premises, also fined Dipu Tk 5 lakh, in default of which he will spend an additional year in jail. Dipu was sentenced under

section 26 (2) (Ka) of ACC Act 2004. The court ordered that the verdict would take effect from the day Dipu surrenders to the court or is arrested. At present he is on the-

The ACC filed the case against Dipu Chowdhury on November 22 last year showing him absconding. ACC Assistant Director Mohammad Ibrahim filed the case

statement within seven days as directed by an ACC notice served on him on September 27, 2007 A Dhaka court on March 19 this

Bigots fight

action against those who were

Two units of Fire Service and Civil Defence rushing to the spot to douse the burning motorbikes could not do their jobs as the Anti-Quran Law Resistance Committee activists attacked them and chased them

created gridlocks on nearby streets which had a knock-on effect on traffic situation on other parts of the

Law Resistance Committee held a rally on the mosque ground where they demanded resignation of Rasheda K Chowdhury, adviser to the caretaker government. Terming the National Women

Development Policy an anti-Islamic law, they threatened the government of toppling it if it did not amend the After the clash, the organisation held a press conference at the office

njured over 100 activists. Maulana Abdur Rob Yusufi, Naveb-e-Amir of Khelafat Majlish, spoke at the press conference among

Mirza Aziz

FROM PAGE 16

and electricity, he said adding that didn't ask for adjusting the prices of fuel, electricity and gas.

subsidies, the adviser said the diesel subsidies, which could not be disbursed this fiscal year, would be carried over to the next fiscal The government has allocated Tk 250 crore for diesel subsidies

Australia and Kazakhstan, flood in India and Bangladesh, cold temperature in China, besides climate ject to witness and proof and it cannot be disposed in a writ case. When asked for his suggestion CEC'S BRIEFING to improve the overall situation, Commenting on the HC verdict, CEC Diouf said it is essentially to

BNP and ask them to resolve their

Train service

FROM PAGE 1 between Bangladesh and India but also make it possible to establish connectivity among other countries in the region.

The sale of tickets started at

Kamalapur Railway Station yester-

day amid huge rush of enthusiastic

people following the deal. In

Bangladesh, the tickets can only be bought from there from 9:00am to 5:00pm every day. The travellers will have to show

their passports and visas while

buying tickets. Tk 1,400 is fixed for each airconditioned sleeping berth, Tk 840 for AC chair and Tk 560 for non-AC chair, for the 538km journey --418km in Bangladesh and 120km in

Indian territory. The travellers will have to pay Tk 8:30pm. 300 as travel tax. under five. The Indian High Commission's communications ministry will see visa office will be kept open tomor-

wishing to travel on the inaugural run of "Moitree Express." Visa applications may be deposited at Indian Visa Application restored," Communications Centre from 8:00am to 10:00am and passports can be collected between 12:00pm to 2:00pm the same day.

row for facilitating individuals

link Dhaka, the then capital of East bilateral interest and more oppor-Pakistan, with Kolkata, was tunities will open up in various snapped after the 1965 war sectors. between India and Pakistan. two countries signed a five-year connectivity in the region," Indian deal to resume direct train service High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan

required.

The starting time from Dhaka is improve the communications 8:30am while from Chitpur, it is

> have the capacity of carrying 418 passengers while those from India have 366 seats. Darshana in Chuadanga district will be the immigration checkpoint

> for the passengers from India,

hours while customs and immigration formalities at Darshana in

Pahela Baishakh will reach Kolkata at 9:00pm while the one from Kolkata will arrive in Dhaka at Communications Adviser Maj | emerging from the meeting.

the first train off at Cantonment Station "It's a historic moment for us. Through the agreement, the rail communications have been

He hoped that the resumption of the service will help develop The train service that used to cooperation in all other areas of

7:10am local time. The trains from Bangladesh will

while the outbound passengers will go through the checking in The journey would take eight Bangladesh and Gede in West

officials of Bangladesh Railway and

Secretary Dr Mahbubur Rahman said after signing the agreement.

Power plant case Emon

there is enough gas for public to use

Replying to the prosecution's statement that an individual on

The lawyers said it's not true

FROM PAGE 1 The respondents are DU vicechancellor, registrar, Duta, education secretary, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and Duta

should not be imposed on the elec-

Islam filed the suit for a permanent

He, however, said Duta would go on with legal process. Duta General Secretary Anwar Hossain said, "The on going conspir-

UNDP boss FROM PAGE 1 rate for Basnyat is a direct result of a radical overhaul of the UNDP

offices here, which included sack

ing or retrenchment of 45-50 per-

cent of their staff.

handshake.

The UNDP undertook the massive changes after competency exams carried out by its New York headquarters found nearly half of the staff in Dhaka were not up to scratch, according to the spokes-

The laid-off staff that had

The spokesperson claimed the

worked for the UNDP for more

than five years received golden

aggrieved staff participated in the

survey and may have even manipulated the data by completing the questionnaire multiple times. Mostly local staff were retrenched during the overhaul. Meanwhile, government sources said several ministries have expressed their grievances

"interference" over the last year.

One senior government official

dealing with the UN told The Daily

Star that differences of opinion

between the UNDP and the gov-

ernment arose over a number of projects. "The country director's lack of cooperation delayed the procurement and progress of several projects," said an official, adding, "Over time this even led to the cancellation of a project."

officially going to the UNDP with the complaints as they thought this would cause unnecessary diplo-

projects to assist in the voter registration, disaster response to the two floods and cyclone Sidr.' Asked about the perception of non-transparent procurement and recruitment procedures, Dessallien said. "We have already had several independent international auditors looking into our

placed UNDP as the organisation most preferred by government

3-4 percent of in the country's food

FROM PAGE 16 opened the door to the storage box

quate supplies.

during a high-speed chase to escape

January, apparently having drowned in a Thai lake while making the illegal crossing

Ershad

FROM PAGE 16

At her Gulshan home, Rawshan introduced presidium member

expressed confidence in the lead-

Dipu get 3yrs

Dipu failed to submit his wealth

with Sutrapur Police Station after

year issued an arrest warrant against him. On March 18, the ACC investigating officer (IO) Mahbubur Rahman submitted the charge sheet against Dipu to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka showing 11 people as prosecution witnesses.

involved in the offence.

People who went to the mosque for Zohr prayers were stuck inside the Vehicular movement in the area came to a halt during the clash and

Before the clash, the Anti-Quran

of Khelafat Majlish. They claimed police prevented them from carrying out their peaceful activities and

others.

(IMF) about the contractionary monetary policy as well as the adjustment of prices of fuel, gas the country will receive record foreign aid this year, but the donors When asked about the govern-

although it had earlier allocated Tk 750 crore for it in the budget of the current fiscal year.

time to identify the targeted beneficiaries of the subsidy.

Bengal would take five hours more. The first train from Dhaka on chairperson and Awami League (AL) president, if necessary on bail, to allow them to take part in the

Razzaq said about their talks with The advisers have agreed to hold dialogue with the political parties separately after discussion

During the informal talks with government on Monday, the AL said that they would not sit in the dialogue if Jamaat-e-Islami and parties accused of war crimes and playing anti-Liberation War rclus are invited. The Jatiya Party (JP) also con-

veyed the same decision at their

informal meeting with government

that Wartsila Power Development Ltd Consortium and its partners Summit Group and United Group were awarded the power plant setup deal depriving New England Power Company consortium. They said it is also false that the

then government had showed Wartsila and its partners as the lowest bidder. In fact, they added, the offer New England Power Company had made was non-responsive and

would have incurred a loss of Tk 316 crore had the government awarded them the contract, The lawyers contended that the deal actually benefited the country and the allegation of favour does

conditional, and the country

not really add up. Besides, they said, the power plants under the deal were set up within a short time and they added 316 megawatts of electricity to the national grid when the country was reeling under severe power short-

The prosecution accused the

defence of wasting time by arguing

on irrelevant issues while the

defence said a hurried trial can never ensure justice.

FROM PAGE 1

would be increased to some extent The chief adviser said the government is carrying out efforts to ensure increased supply of rice and improvements in efficiency at the fair-price outlets so that sufferings of the people who go there could be The main objective of the

government is to supply as much

rice as possible through VGF, VGD

and Kabikha programmes in rural

areas and through OMS in urban areas before the arrival of Boro." He said the government is providing food assistance through 45 lakh Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) and Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) cards across the country, covering 1.5 lakh to 1.8 lakh people if a family comprises three or four members.

He reiterated that increased

allocations for agriculture and

employment generation would be

high on the list of priorities in next

times dwindle.

people there.

200 tonnes.

budget. Short- and mid-term measures would be taken to boost cereal productions. Fakhruddin s'aid special project for employment generation would be taken in a bid to build an employment-support system as employment opportunities some-

The interim government chief

visited OMS shops at Siddhirgan

Pool, New Hajigani and Tolaram

College crossing and talked to

Under the OMS programme, a family can buy 5kg of rice at Tk 25 per kg. Dealers run the outlets under the direct supervision of the food department. Meantime, the chief adviser yesterday summoned a meeting shortly after returning to Dhaka from Narayanganj and directed the food ministry to increase daily

allocation of rice for OMS

programme in the capital and

industrial zones in Narayanganj by

concerned to increase the number of OMS outlets in order to alleviate the sufferings of the buyers who now have to wait a long in the queue. The additional supply of rice would be trucked to the fair-price

shops where demand for rice is

Now a total of 586 tonnes of rice

would be allocated daily for the

high but supply is inadequate.

He also asked the authorities

OMS programme in Dhaka and Narayanganj dotted with industrial pockets. The meeting also decided that the number of trucks being used for the OMS programme in the

Food Adviser AMM Shawkat Ali.

food secretary and a senior BDR

capital would be doubled to 100.

official, among others, were present at the meeting.

matic hassle, according to highlevel government sources. Basnyat's alleged heavyhanded treatment in dealing with certain projects was also resented by some government officials. But, Dessallien said, "He [Basnyat] has been lauded by

several government agencies

because he oversaw massive UN

procurement and none of them have found any signs of wrongdo-

She also said results of a part-

nership survey--in which the gov-

ernment, civil society, and donors

assess UNDP's performance--are

yet to come, but a DFID survey

officials. Dessallien also said the UNDP successfully accommodated massive unplanned projects such as helping in voter registration with photos and cyclone Sidr. The UNDP spent \$55 million in

its development projects in Authorities stopped short of Bangladeshlastyear.

The IO prayed for issuing arrest

ACC Assistant Director Helal Uddin Sharif filed the case against them with Ramna Police Station on November 5 last year for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information in the wealth state-

His wife Ayesha Zabiullah was

court, showing 23 people as prose-The IO prayed for issuing arrest warrant against them and the order to attach their properties, as they have been on the run since the case

tion about his wealth worth Tk 67 lakh in the wealth statement.

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officials at the airport.

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were higher than the governmentoffered procurement prices. That is why farmers were not interested to He mentioned that the government had floated tenders 43 times

is huge since the same families took the benefit several times

The government deals with only

through checkpoints inside Thailand," he told AFP.

police. Seven others were found dead in

ment's failure to disburse the budgetary allocation of diesel

The adviser said it took a long