minister Mohammad Nasim.

immediately release all party leaders

who have been kept detained for long

without any specific charges," said

Sheikh Hasina and steps for her treat-

ment abroad are important for creat-

ing the environment necessary for the

dialogue," he said. But in the AL's

written statement obtained by The

Daily Star, there was no mention of

the demands are logical. "They told us

that they will discuss the issues at the

advisory council and inform us of the

outcome during the official talks,'

Briefing reporters, Commerce Adviser

Hossain Zillur Rahman said they

discussed different issues with the AL

in a free environment, both the parties

emphasising on the need for creating

"an air of confidence" for the dia-

sary to uphold the legal process and

ethical questions," Zillur said adding,

"We hope the air of confidence will be

created through the dialogue so that

we can take the nation towards an

election by this December 31, he said

they assured the AL leadership that

holding the election within this

another aspiration of the nation--to

improve the quality of the political

process, culture and system," said the

adviser, adding that the government

has agreed to find out ways to that end

to reach a consensus through the

the modality and venue of the official

dialogue were also discussed at the

meeting. On the AL suggestion for

holding bilateral dialogues with

political parties, the commerce

adviser said they do not have any

Zillur said they will gradually sit in

unofficial talks with other political

parties and move towards the official

GOVT SETTLING ISSUE OF PARTY

Meanwhile, the caretaker govern

ment is aiming at resolving the politi-

cal parties' conditions, including

release of Khaleda Zia and Sheikh

Hasina, for the formal talks with the

government during its ongoing pre-

dialogue meetings, an adviser said

has also been determined at these

preparatory meetings

Communications Adviser Maj Gen

(retd) Ghulam Quader said after a

dialogue preparatory meeting with

three other advisers at his ministry

political parties during the final dia-

logues," he told reporters after a

preparatory meeting with Law

Adviser AF Hassan Ariff, Education

and Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur

Rahman and Women and Children

Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury

be leading the dialogues' preparatory

task, said the chief adviser will for-

mally declare the dates of the final

BNP's conditions of releasing their

chiefs -- Hasina and Khaleda -- before

the formal dialogues, he said, "I don't

think the conditions are a hurdle.

They are being resolved in the pre-

"We all will have to come to ar

Asked if representatives from the

agreement, and that is why we are

continuing the discussions," Quader

civil society or donor agencies will be

allowed at the dialogues, he said, "The

dialogues will be held between the

But during his stint as the adviser,

his assets rose to stand at Tk 1.14 crore

in tax year 2006-2007 and 1.24 crore in

2007-2008, which primary investiga-

tions found had been earned through

tax year 2007-2008, he did not submit

any documents to back up his claim

of having liabilities amounting to Tk

28 lakh, and this all was done to

26(2) and 27(1) of the Anti-

Corruption Act-2004 and section 5(2)

of article 2 of the Corruption

Prevention Act-1947 and section 15 of

forces conducted a five-hour raid on

Justice Haque's Al-Baraka Tower

apartment in the city's Kataban area

and quizzed the former adviser for

came up on the ACC list of graft sus-

in appointments and postings of

public servants". He allegedly

received Tk 80 lakh in bribe to arrange

allocate them 84 acres of khas land.

45 lakh from Bashundhara Group to

President lajuddin Ahmed, the then

chief adviser, resigned their positions

Though nine advisers including

Earlier on October 4, his name

He made a fortune out of a "trade

On October 23 last year, the joint

Emergency Power Rules-2007.

The case was filed under sections

conceal his actual wealth.

In the income tax return filed for

government and political parties

nobody else will be allowed in them.'

Fazlul Haque

worth around Tk 67.83 lakh.

dialogue meetings."

FROM PAGE 1

Asked to comment on AL's and

Ghulam Quader, who is thought to

"We will sit separately with the

A framework for the final dialogues

alternative opinion on this matter.

dialogue as soon as possible.

CHIEFS' RELEASE

vesterday.

A few other minor issues including

timeframe is also their target.

On the AL demand for holding the

"We have also put emphasis on

effective and acceptable election."

'We also told them that it is neces-

ADVISER ZILLUR'S BRIEFING

He said the advisers admitted that

Hasina's treatment abroad.

Ashraf said.

"We told them that release of

year, the advisers emphasised on

improving the quality of the political process, culture and system to reach a national consensus through the official dialogue with political parties. The AL delegation also includes

Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury and Syed Ashraful

The advisers present at the meeting were Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury, Communications Adviser Ghulam Quader, Education and Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman and LGRD Adviser Anwarul

Earlier, the same government advisers sat with four AL leaders at the Rail Bhaban in the capital for the first round of unofficial talk last Monday. On Wednesday the AL decided not sit for any further talks without a formal invitation, then on Saturday in a reversal of that decision its presidium in a meeting decided to sit in yesterday's unofficial dialogue with the government anyhow following an SMS invitation sent by Hossain Zillur Rahman to the party's Acting President Zillur Rahman.

In yesterday's statement the AL speculated that some sticky problems might emerge when the dialogue will move on to the highest levels of both parties, which might turn out to be very difficult to solve without the presence of Sheikh Hasina at the dialogue. "If a situation like that occurs, the talks will remain only talks," the AL warned in its statement. Saying that anger and discontent

have been prevailing among the people due to skyrocketing price hikes of essentials, the AL warned the government advisers that it will be tough to keep the people's discontent under control if the trend continues.

"So immediately the price hikes of essentials must be reined in and necessary essentials must be supplied to the lower and middle income group people for affordable prices or for free, otherwise a serious famine might occur in the country," the AL advised the government.

About trials of war criminals, the AL statement said trials of the war criminals, meting out of exemplary punishments to them, and barring them from contesting in any election have become the public demand now. "But with sadness, we are observing that the government has not yet taken any effective step to resolve the matter. If they [the government] would try these killers, and the anti-liberation oppressors of women, the nation would welcome them," the statement

The statement went on to say that dialogues between the government and political parties are necessary to get out of the present crises, but there have to be will and commitment among both sides.

The statement termed the formation of the present government as the? outcome of the AL's movement against widespread 'misrule' of the immediate past BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

The AL in the statement observed that the present crises in the country would not even occur if the govern ment and the AL, 'whose aims and targets are similar', would have cooperated mutually. It added that 'misunderstandings between the AL and the government happened due to some government adviser's irresponsible

But it is a matter of hope that the government is willing to resolve the prevailing crises through dialogues, the statement added. Syed Ashraful Islam said they also

asked the advisers not to allow anyone selse including members of the civil society at the official talks. He said they suggested that the

government hold the official dialogue at the office of the chief adviser but said they would not object if it is held at any state guesthouse. The AL also asked the government

to conclude the official dialogue within May, hoping that the formal dialogue would be fruitful. It demanded that the national

election be held before local government elections and there must be a good will for establishing rule of law and political freedom. Drawing the advisers' attention to

the fact that the judiciary has been separated but it has not become independent yet, the AL leaders demanded independence of the judiciary and judicial system.

The AL also demanded immediate release of all detained party leaders including General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Presidium members Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader and former home

BDR starts

sold at Tk 1180-1250 per maund (37.32kilogram) yesterday while those were sold at Tk 1280-1360 a week ago. Wholesale prices of fine rice also

decreased by Tk 50-80 per maund in the last week, said wholesalers at different markets. Some retailers reduced the price of coarse rice by Tk 1 per kg yesterday although its wholesale price has been going down for the last for a forest official's transfer while Tk

The minimum price of coarse rice was Tk 34 per kg at some retail shops while it was Tk 35 per kg at most of the

retailshops in the city. Retailers have been selling coarse rice atTk35 perkgforthelast three weeks.

The price of fine rice, however, remained stable at Tk41-47 per kg. The BDR increased the number of its

fair price outlets to 75 from 50. Fewer people thronged the outlets to buy essentials yesterday than the day before while the open market sale (OMS) outlets official of the Justice Fazlul Haque remained closed yesterday. Foundation. There was no rush at the BDR-run

outlets on Indira Road, Zakir Hossain road, Salimullah road, Mohammadpur Link road, and Nawabganj in the old part

None was found standing in queue at the new BDR-run outlet at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital

in Agargaon. BDR Sector Commander Col Mojibul Hoque told The Daily Star that the rush was less at the BDR-run outlets yesterday than other days following the launching ofnewoutlets

Pakistan-based militants may attack US: Bush "We have also asked the advisers to

ANI, Washington

President George W Bush believes another 9/11 attack on the United Sates should be considered a reality, and warned that such an attack could originate from Pakistan.

Stating this in an interview to news channel, Bush said: "If another September 11 style attack is being planned, it probably is being plotted in Pakistan, and not Afghanistan."

Bush said if the terrorists were planning such attacks, they would be

Ex-MP Shahjahan

The court also fined the two accused Tk 1 lakh each, in default of which they will have to serve an additional three months in jail term.

(SUV), a Range Rover V8, which he did not mention in his wealth statement. Shahjahan Chowdhury was sent to jail after surrendering before a

Faisal is still on the run. Faisal's imprisonment will be effective from the day he surrenders to a court or is arrested. On July 1 last year, ACC Deputy Director Abul Kalam filed the case with Bandar Police Station in Chittagong against Shahjahan Chowdhury, fugitive at the time, accusing him o

On October 1, the ACC investigator submitted charge sheet against Shahjahan and Faisal.

Charges were framed against the accused on November 4 in Chittagong Divisional Special Court. The case was shifted to the Special Court-2 in Dhaka on February 12 this year.

The Jamaat leader is accused in five other cases including three for extortion and one for murder. THEOFFENCE

After Shahjahan Chowdhury submitted his wealth statement to the ACC on

statement mentioned that he had imported the vehicle under duty-free privilege of members of parliament The automobile's importer, Motor World Ltd, did not hand it over to him as he failed to pay Tk 50 lakh for it. The ACC discovered that in August

2006, Shahjahan had released the vehicle by making the necessary payment through an LC (letter of credit) opened with Mohakhali branch of AB Bank Ltd and AB Bank Chairman Faisal Morshed Khan assisted him in the

Violence

FROM PAGE 16

could resort to violence when the said, "When the country is vocal in its demand for the trial of war criminals, fundamentalist quarters are trying to put pressure on the government by policy an issue."

pull the plug on using the mosque in achieving political and other gains. ARRESTED ISLAMISTS DENIED BAIL

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail petitions of nine Islamist activists Mosque Friday.

Magistrate Ehsanul Haque passed the order after their lawyers submitted the bail petitions.

Ehtasamul Haq, Obaidullah, Mostafa Kamal, Al Amin and Shah Alam.

to jail on Saturday.

Police Station filed a case against the 17 identified individuals and 4,000 to 5,000 anonymous people on Friday night for instigating violence and assaulting law enforcers.

The charges brought against the accused include violation of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) snatching firearms from policemen, and vandalising properties.

Lankan troops

while another soldier and 10 rebels were killed elsewhere.

However, a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam statement said the Tigers lost only three of their fighters in Mannar, adding that the Tigers killed at least 25 government troops and wounded another 75 in eight hours of

CUTA polls

FROM PAGE 16 The election was scheduled for tomorrow and all preparations

were completed, sources said. The chief commissioner of the election Prof Azizur Rahman said they received a letter from the Chittagong Superintendent of Police (SP) yesterday morning and it directed them to seek permission from the district administration for

holding the election. "We met SP Kamrul Ahsan in the evening [yesterday] and he asked us to obtain the permission from Chittagong DC [deputy commis sioner]," Azizur Rahman said.

"We would meet the DC soon and issue a notification today [Monday] postponing the election," he said.

Leaders must quit

FROM PAGE 1

group of union parishad chairmen under the banner of Bangladesh Union Parishad Oikya Jote at the EC Secretariat conference room.

However, the EC and the government have reached an understanding that such political leaders will have to resign from their party posts before taking oath as elected representatives to the local government bodies, Huda added.

He said he enquired about the progress of formulating the electoral laws and was informed that the Council of Advisers to the caretaker government would finalise the laws this week.

"We will announce the schedule for holding polls to four city corporations and seven municipalities in May when the laws are finalised,' the CEC said, adding, "We are ready for the elections, but we cannot proceed with the elections due to lack of laws."

Senior officials in the EC Secretariat said the restriction has been initially imposed for city corporations and municipalities and that similar restrictions would be included in the laws dealing with other local government bod-

In response to the union parishad chairmen's demand for holding the long due polls to upazila parishads before the parliamentary polls, Huda said, "We will inform you soon whether the upazila elections would be held before or simultaneously with the parliamentary elections."

The president promulgated an amendment ordinance for the Upazila Parishads Act 1998 on April 7, giving back the authority to fix the time for upazila elections to the

Communications Adviser Ghulam

Quader yesterday afternoon made a

phone call to Maj (retd) Hafizuddin

Ahmed, acting secretary general of

Saifur loyalists, inviting the faction to

an introductory dialogue with the

phone, and now we are discussing the

matter among ourselves. We will also

talk to the other faction of the party

before sitting for the dialogue with the

government," Hafiz told The Daily

Earlier in the day, after a meeting

with leaders of Jatiyatabadi Tanti Da

handloom weavers' wing of BNP,

Hafiz told reporters in his Banani

residence, "I've told the adviser that

we are contacting Khandkar Delwar

and others in an effort to sit with the

government together. So we will wait a

"If they [Khaleda loyalists] don't

come with us, we will sit with the

government by ourselves soon, under

the leadership of our Acting

Chairperson Saifur Rahman." He said

General Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, a

Khaleda loyalist, yesterday said if the

government wants to have a dialogue

with BNP it will have to send an invita-

tion to Khandaker Delwar Hossain,

Waving aside Hafizuddin's

remarks, he said, "Who is Hafiz to

democratic and secular India seek to

develop such intimate links with

Additional Secretary ATKM Ismail

told The Daily Star last night, "We

have heard the news... As far as we

know the inaugural run of the

He said security has been beefed

up on both sides of the border and

the Bangladeshi authorities stepped

up searches along the railway lines

Dhaka-Kolkata rail link will end

today when two passenger trains

called the Maitree Express start

simultaneously from Dhaka and

compelled to add another compart-

ment to the train due to the high

demand of tickets. The train will

leave Dhaka Cantonment Railway

station in Kolkata will be greeted with

Pahela Baishakh festivities at the

Dhaka cantonment station on its

of 418 passengers--36 AC cabin, 80

The train, which has the capacity

The train starting from Chitpur

The Bangladeshi authorities were

Meanwhile, the 43-year hiatus in

Maitree Express will go ahead."

on this side of the border.

Kolkata this morning

Station at 8:30am.

arrival around 8:30pm.

Communication ministry's

Islamic Bangladesh?"

otherwise the party will not talk.

Meanwhile, BNP Joint Secretary

Starlast night

little longer.'

"The adviser talked to me over the

government seeking a date for it.

Pro-Saifur BNP

FROM PAGE 1

The CEC said the EC announced the electoral roadmap on July 15 last year considering all aspects and giving a tentative timeline for the local government elections and

nobody raised any objection to it. "But now, when we are seriously thinking about holding the local government polls, objections have been raised," Huda said, referring to the political parties' demand for not holding the local government elections before parliamentary

Golam Sarwar Milon, coordinator of Bangladesh Union Parishads Oikya Jote, submitted to the CEC a six-point recommendation that includes holding upazila elections before the parliamentary polls and cancelling the permanent poll symbols in parliamentary elec-

In defence of their proposal for holding upazila elections before the national polls, the jote leaders said the political governments in the last 17 years did not hold the polls and they fear the future political government will also follow the footsteps of their predecessors. "The Election Commission can

begin holding upazila elections in areas where the voter lists are ready," said Mahbubur Rahman Tulu, a leader of the alliance.

Bangladesh Union Parishad Oikya Jote urged the CEC to initiate steps so the union parishad chairmen and members can contest elections to other local government bodies without resigning from their current posts.

A number of union parishad chairmen told the CEC about their miseries and shortage of resources.

invite us? BNP leaders and workers

don't accept him as a leader. He is

known just as a vice-president of the

lawful secretary general of the party,'

Goyeshwar told reporters in former

On April 7, Education and

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur

Rahman made a phone call to pro-

Khaleda leader also BNP's Acting

Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed and

invited Khaleda loyalists to sit with the

The next day, Communications

Adviser Ghulam Quader talked to Maj

government in an 'informal' talk.

flatin the capital.

2001 terrorist attack on the heart of

the celebrations at Ramna Batamul. The security agency personnel will also distribute drinking water around Ramna Park area, while Fire Brigade and ambulance services will also be deployed.

Roads stretching from Matsya Bhaban through Shahbagh to Doel Chattar inside Dhaka University campus are off-limits to all vehicles during the carnival. A total of 24 closed circuit TVs have been installed across the capital.

Dog squads, bomb squads, closecircuit security cameras, and metal detectors have also been deployed as part of the security detail.

Replying to a question, Karim said they had not yet got any threat from any terrorist organisation like Harkatul Jihad, neither had they got any report of calls for boycotting the celebrations. PRESIDENT, CA GREET NATION

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief

Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, through separate messages, conveyed new year's greetings to the nation yester-Referring to the language, culture, literature, agriculture and economic activities of the nation that are deeply

rooted in the Bangla calendar, President Iajuddin said, "Pahela Baishakh is a unique day of nurturing our everlasting tradition and selfrealisation. He hoped that the Bangla New

Year will 'enrich all with welfareoriented thinking through forgetting all previous conflicts and also will be the harbinger of joy for all'.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin said celebration of Pahela Baishakh has been an integral part of the Bangalee culture, tradition and livelihood since time immemorial.

RMG unrest

attacking police while bus owner

Anwar Hossain filed another case in connection with setting ablaze According to witnesses, workers

of Liberty Garments, Cadtex Garments, Microfibre Factory and Palmal Garments at Sostapur, Shibu Market, Katherpool and Post Office Road went to work but only staged demonstrations inside the factories. Authorities concerned of Chictex

Garments, TexAsia Garments, Mishwear Garments, Gamsons "Khandaker Delwar Hossain is the Garments, Rupashi Garments and Times Garments kept their factories closed fearing untoward incidents. BNP lawmaker Md Shahjahan's NAM Around 40 to 50 non-workers of

Chictex Garments attacked the factory and tried to get the workers out of the factory yesterday. The workers, however, resisted their attempt resulting in chases and counter chases. Army and Rapid Action Battalion

(Rab) personnel, police and different intelligence agencies patrolled the area from the morning to avert further clashes. In the first information report (FIR), police said provocation of

vested quarters might have led to the violence. They said they are looking for the pajama-panjabi clad bearded young men who joined the agitating workers and attacked the law enforcers Saturday. More than 50 people including 27

law enforcers were injured during clashes between a few thousand garment workers and police at Fatullah Saturday. The three-hour-long clash, which

ensued after police tried to stop a group of garment workers from demonstrating, had turned Dhaka-Narayanganj link road at Shibu Market area into a virtual battlefield.

Train rolls to Kolkata

FROM PAGE 1

Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises at

ears and carried out other medical check-up.

(Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddiqui told UNB that her physical condition is better than before.

"She's now feeling better with her new glasses and her earache

299 foreign

FROM PAGE 16

concerned sometime inform us that they failed to trace the detainees' origin," he said.

The IG-Prisons said a few NGOs have been working with foreign prisoners and their repatriation keeping them in jail.

Former adviser to a caretaker Pahela Baishakh celebrations at | tive director of Ain O Shalish Kendra, told The Daily Star yesterday, "We have been working with the jail authorities and also con-

> depend on diplomatic and bureaucratic decisions."

A total of 961 prisoners of 14

Myanmarese, 380 Indian, 17 Pakistani, six Nepali, five Tanzanian, two Nigerian, two Filipino, one Malaysian, one Saudi Arabian, one Ghanaian, one Kenyan, one Hungarian and one is from Ivory Coast.

Pahela Baishakh Tigers stumble

But the game's turning point was definitely the wicket of opener Tamim Iqbal, who sparkled with 63 off 69 balls before failing to beat Fawad Alam's brilliant throw from the third man fence. Left-hander Tamim, who smashed eight boundaries, shared 90 for the second wicket with Aftab Ahmed. But once the two Chittagongians fell and captain Mohammad Ashraful was run out while chasing a single which was never there, Bangladesh's hopes faded.

But the visitors showed tremendous fighting sprit that was amiss in the first two games with Shakib whisking off to his seventh halfcentury and sharing a 59-run stand with Mahmudullah Riyad, who chipped in with 24. Then Mashrafe Bin Mortuza and wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh took 19 off Rao Iftikhar's eighth over but the tight 48th over from Sohail Tanveer gave Pakistan the series victory. AFP adds, earlier openers

Salman Butt and Kamran Akmal scored centuries to punish a hapless Bangladesh attack and helped Pakistan reach 308-8 in the daynight international. Butt made a career-best 132 for

his fifth one-day hundred while Akmal notched an entertaining 100 for his fourth as the home batsmen once again let loose on a flat pitch after they won the toss. Butt and Akmal were in punish-

ing mood right from the start as they shared an opening stand of 151 by the 24th over, hitting the bowlers to all corners of the park. Akmal, who survived a confident leg-before appeal against

on one, was the fastest of the two, reaching his fifty off just 42 balls with the help of eight boundaries. The 23-year-old Butt was steady, reaching his hundred off 106 balls with eleven boundaries and ensured Pakistan did not spoil a good start after losing Bazid Khan

(two), Mohammad Yousuf (two)

and Shahid Afridi (13) in quick

paceman Mashrafe Mortaza when

succession. Butt, who struck 15 boundaries in his 137-ball knock, added 80 runs for the fifth wicket with captain Shoaib Malik (33) and 30 with

Mashrafe in the penultimate over. Pakistan brought in Fawad Alam, Sohail Khan and Bazid in place of Jamshed, Umar Gul and Younis Khan. Bangladesh brought in paceman Shahadat Hossain in

Misbahul Haq (10) for the next

before he was caught behind off

place of Syed Rasel. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the Pakistan innings in the third one-day international against Bangladesh at the Gaddafi

Stadium in Lahore on Sunday: PAKISTAN Butt c Dhiman b Mashrafe Akmal b Mahmudullah 100 Bazid run out Yousuf st Ghosh b Shakib Afridi c Mortaza b Shakib Malik Ibw b Reza Misbahul c Razzak b Shahadat Tanveer b Mashrafe Fawad not out Iftikhar not out Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-5) Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 308 Did not bat: Sohail Khan Fall of wickets: 1-151, 2-164, 3-173,

4-187, 5-267, 6-297, 7-298, 8-299 Bowler Mortaza Shahadat Razzak Mahmudullah 7

BANGLADESH Tamim run out Nafees c Butt b Tanveer Aftab c Akmal b Malik Ashraful run out Shakib b Afridi Riyad b Iftikhar Forhad st Akmal b Afridi Mashrafe not out Dhiman not out Extras: (b-5, lb-3, nb-3, w-8) Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 285 Did not bat: Shahadat, Razzak Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-113, 3-125, 4-153, 5-212, 6-245, 7-250 Bowler 0 Tanveer Sohail

Iftikhar Malik Fawad Result: Pakistan won by 23 runs. Man-of-the-match: Salman Butt.

Please sir

was no rice left at the shop by the time Aslam's turn came.

Aslam, of Bahirchapra area, had sold a cooking pot to get the money to buy one kg rice at Tk 25. He has been without work for

two days now like Niran Das from Bichipara village. Niran has no savings and had sold a mango tree -- at only Tk 200 -- to buy rice. "I sold my only possession and yet I am not sure if I will get any rice today," a worried Niran told The Daily Star as he waited in the queue.

"My pregnant wife and two-yearold son have been living on boiled potatoes for the last two days, that's all I could manage for them," Niran said, his voice thick with emotion.

Like Aslam and Niran, thousands of day labourers, marginal farmers and even people with regular jobs like non-government school and college teachers in the ten upazilas of Netrokona are the losers in the fight against rising prices. Coarse rice was selling at Tk 34 to

while fine rice sold for Tk 40 to 44. The OMS shops sold coarse rice at the subsidised rate of Tk 25. Abdul Karim, a marginal farmer from Bijoypur said all marginal farmers in the area are struggling to get two meals a day. Like him, most of

them lost their aman harvest to the

floods and are left with nothing.

36 per kg in Netrokona yesterday

occasional potatoes. An indigenous schoolteacher of a Garo Baptist Convention (GBC) school in Durgapur spoke to The Daily Star requesting anonymity. "I came to the Amlapara shop to buy rice with 150 taka I have bor-

Their families are living on the

hilly arum for the last three days." It has become impossible for this teacher to feed a family of five on his monthly salary of Tk 1800. Rafigul Alam, a non-government high school teacher, has the same

rowed. We had nothing to eat but

story. He told The Daily Star that he tries his best to not let people who know him see him standing at the OMS centre queue with destitute The price of rice has increased more than a two-fold but has my

"Teachers like me have to swallow their pride and buy rice from here." OMS dealers in the district said that they turn down around 40 per cent of those who queue up at the

salary? How can I manage?" he asks,

shops because of stock shortages. To tackle this in the short run, some OMS dealers are not selling more than 2kg to each person so that more people are able to get at least a small portion of rice.

With this shortage, and the poverty, the number of people almost begging for a little rice at the OMS centres in Netrokona is not about to go down.

Women policy

FROM PAGE 16 now being looked into whether there is any such thing in it," Hassan Ariff, also a legal expert,

Asked whether there is any vagueness, he said, "I don't see any. They (review committee members) can say if there is any."

Although both the law adviser and Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury made it clear on several occasions that the policy includes nothing against Islam, the Islamist leaders have been organising demonstrations accusing the government of trying to implement an anti-Shariah policy.

On Thursday, the surrounding areas of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque turned into a battlefield when activists of an Islamic organisation clashed with police as the latter resisted them from marching towards the chief adviser's office in defiance of the state of emergency to protest the policy.

The next day, hundreds of Islamist activists locked in clash with police for hours in the same area leaving over 200 people

Explaining about the women development policy, Hassan Ariff on March 11 told the Ulema (Islamic scholars) at Islamic ing a law about it.

women development policy without going through it.

The committee will meet on April 16 at the Islamic Foundation. The committee convener and acting Khatib of the National Mosque Muhammad Nuruddin and 10 others are expected to

could have caused it.

A police official said Saturday that a homemade bomb caused the explosion. Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini said Sunday that no group has claimed responsibility.

Fars province, whose name was given as Rezazadeh, told state televi-"The incident could have happened as a result of negligence. A

while ago at this site there was an exhibition commemorating the (1980-1988) Iran-Iraq war," provin-"The munitions left at the site

out an act of sabotage. Television pictures showed shards of glass and piles of debris

blood, filled local hospitals. "Last night's incident... was definitely an accident. We are studying the cause, but as of now but main reason is not clear," Deputy Interior Minister Abbas Mohtaj told the Mehr

possibility of a militant attack had not been ruled out, however.

FROM PAGE 16 Different varieties of coarse rice were

on January 11, Fazlul Haque, most senior of them, did not quit. He continued to claim to be an adviser even after a new advisory council had UNB adds: The ACC will serve notices on Fazlul Haque's son Afzal Hossain Raj, son-in-law Tariqur, Raj's friend Sujon, and Abdul Malek, an

> In the graft case, the four were accused of aiding and abetting Justice Haque in his illegal income. ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal said, "Yes, the commission today approved the issuance of notices on them, directing them to

turn in wealth statements.

The anti-graft body has also decided to issue a notice on Khandaker Azadur Rahman, former additional chief engineer of Roads and Highways, asking him to report his wealth to the anti-graft body.

routed out.

him guilty of aiding and abetting the Jamaat leader in committing the

Moreover, the court directed the government to confiscate Shahjahan's Tk 49.49-lakh sport utility vehicle

Chittagong court on October 29 while

concealing information on Tk 50.49 lakh worth of wealth in his wealth statement. ACC Deputy Director Jahangir Alam investigated the case.

February 20 last year, the ACC investigators found the SUV in his possession and seized it as the Jamaat lawmaker did not mention the SUV in the state-However, Shahjahan in his wealth

order in a bid to bag political gain. Wondering how the Islamists state of emergency is still in force, it

making the women development The Democratic Left Alliance (DLA) expressed anxiety over the violence at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque and urged the government to

who are charged with instigating violence and assaulting policemen near the Baitul Mukarram National Additional Chief Metropolitan

The arrestees are Syed Zakin Hossain, Abul Kalam, Mohammad Billal, Mostafa bin Hossain

Police also arrested eight others from the scene. They were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, which sent them Sub-Inspector Ershad Ali of Paltan

FROM PAGE 16

AC chair and 302 Non-AC chair--in the seven compartments, will carry 80 passengers more in the added airconditioned compartment. The passenger train service between the two countries that was introduced during the British rule was snapped in March 1965 due to India-Pakistan war. Though governments of the two countries signed a

mented.

On April 10, Bangladesh and India signed a supplementary agreement clearing the way for cross-border run of trains on Dhaka-Kolkata route. The two close neighbours are now ready to receive and welcome the guests and passengers of the inaugu-

ral trains. Government officials and

distinguished personalities from

both sides will be aboard the first

trains. Fifty-six newsmen from

five-year deal in 2001 to resume

direct train service, it was not imple-

Bangladesh are also travelling to Communications Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Ghulam Quader will inaugurate the service at deadandscoresmoreinjured.

(retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, acting secretary general of pro-Saifur faction, over the phone extending the same invitation to his group too. In immediate reactions to the invitations, pro-Khaleda faction said their Secretary General Khandaker

Delwar must talk to the detained party

chief Khaleda Zia before accepting the

invitation, while rival Saifur loyalists immediately accepted the invitation in principle, pending finalisation of i in an appropriate forum. Later, Delwar sent a letter to the jail

authority seeking permission to meet the detained party chairperson, also a former premier of the country, to discuss the government proposal but has yet to get the permission.

Cantonment Station at 7:45am today. Several other advisers of the caretaker government, foreign diplomats and chiefs of foreign donor agencies will also be present.

The Cantonment Station has been given a facelift on the occasion. All necessary arrangements including security and immigration measures, have also been completed ahead of the formal run of Moitree

Apart from the communications adviser, the foreign adviser, commerce adviser, women and children affairs adviser, home adviser and LGRD adviser will receive the passengers from Kolkata upon their arrival in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation has made preparations to welcome them through dance, songs and sprinkling of petals. Darshana in Chuadanga will be the immigration checkpoint for passengers from India, while the outbound passengers will go through the checking in the Cantonment Station for the 538km

Aug 21 attack FROM PAGE 16

Ramna Batamul in 2001, sources

Investigation officer (IO) of the

August 21 grenade attack case CID's

Assistant Superintendent of Police

Fazlul Kabir produced Sumon

journey -- 418km in Bangladesh and

120km in India.

before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka with 10-day remand prayer yesterday. The court, however, granted a five-day remand. In the remand prayer, the IO said investigation findings reveal that Sumon was involved in the August 21 grenade attack and he has a

number of cohorts who are still

absconding. He needs to be placed

on remand to gather more informa-

tion about the absconding accused,

the IO said.

The CID arrested Sumon at his house in Ali and Noor Real Estate Housing of the capital's Mohammadpur area Saturday evening in connection with the gruesome grenade attack that left 24 Awami League leaders and activists

Hasina

about 11:00am. Four specialists -- Dr Shaheen Mahmud, Dr Shah Alam, Dr Mizan and Dr Sanwar -- examined her

Deputy Inspector General

has lessened", he added.

"In most cases, we do not get response from them. After receiving our letters, the authorities

issues but they could not make any headway in this regard. He said the state has to count the extra cost of government Sultana Kamal, execu-

tacting the embassies concerned." "The process is lengthy," the former adviser said, adding, "There are some specific cases that

countries are in different Bangladeshi jails. Of them, 521 people, 509 males and 12 females, are under trial while 141 people, 132 males and nine females, are serving time. Jail sources said 541 inmates of foreign nationality are

Foundation that the caretaker government has not passed any "law" regarding inheritance and that there is no question of enact-The next day, Rasheda Choudhury asked people to refrain from unnecessary criticism of a "progressive" document like the

> On March 27, Hassan Ariff and three other advisers held a meeting with the Ulema at Islamic Foundation and formed a review committee with Mufti Mohammad Nuruddin, acting Khatib of Baitul Mukarram, as the convenor to find

in 21 days "inconsistencies in the policy as per Islamic rules and suggest steps."

attend the meeting, according to a government handout released yesterday. Iran mosque FROM PAGE 16

Twelve people were killed and 202 wounded, the governor of the local

cial police chief Commander Ali Moayeri told the Fars news agency. could have caused this explosion," he added. The agency said he ruled

inside the mosque and huge crowds gathered to await news of loved ones. Casualties, their clothes soaked with

news agency. Other sources indicated that the