# BDB, PDP for polls

At the talks, the four parties also proposed holding local body polls prior to the national elections.

The meetings were held as part of the ongoing informal talks between the government and the political parties to prepare grounds for the forthcoming formal dialogue.

A delegation of Unity for Political Reforms (UPR), a reforms initiative, also met the advisers yesterday.

Communications Adviser Ghulam Ouader, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman and Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, sat with the representatives of the parties.

BDB said that 'protective emer-

blackmoney and muscle power. BDB and UPR also proposed forming a national consensus govern-

After about an hour-long meeting starting from 12.30pm, Ferdaus Ahmad Quarishi, convenor of PDP, told the reporters that caretaker government is giving too much importance to two major political parties who were responsible for the

pre-1/11 situation. For a fair election, it is necessary that the election be held under the state of emergency, he said adding that they had asked the advisers to relax some provisions of the emergency power rules four months prior to the election and to lift the ban on

Led by Quarishi, the eightmember PDP delegation submitted eight proposals to the panel of advis-

per the electoral road map. About lifting of the state of emer-

forcibly, saying she was asleep in the

morning due to illness.

gency, Mahi B Chowdhury said that they had asked the advisers so that 'protective emergency' prevails in the country till the election takes place.

It also urged the advisers to ensure proper treatment of the two detained former prime ministers Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia and their fair trial.

The BKP delegation was led by its chairman Maj Gen (retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim. Their proposals include bringing balance of power between prime minister and president and lifting of state of emergency four months before the election.

Meanwhile, LDP in its 13-point proposals emphasised on freeing all 'innocent' politicians who are behind bars and not to harass political leaders byfiling 'false cases' against them.

The delegation was led by party secretary general Jahanara Begum.

Led by ASM Abdur Rob, the tenmember UPR delegation placed six proposals, which includes setting up of a special tribunal to try the war criminals and holding the election in line with the electoral roadmap.

They also demanded that the advisers bring amendments to the constitution to strike a balance between the powers of the prime minister and the president. It also proposed forming a national consensus government for ten years after the

Talking to the reporters after the daylong talks with the five parties, Adviser AF Hassan Ariff on behalf of the panel of advisers said that they had discussed meaningful election, bringing qualitative changes in politics and how to involve people with the dia-

The advisers did not give any reply to questions asked by the reporters.

power plants in Haripur, Khulna and

Shikalbaha, depriving the lowest

"The boards of the three banks will decide on the committee report on pay scale and the boards are now authorised to take independent

working on the new pay scale has already collected service rules and pay structure of different private commercial banks.

"We will not be able to provide as high as the private banks are offering, but there will be increase in salaries and other benefits," said a committee member. "We will also recommend bringing changes in the service rules of staffs at the state-owned banks."

Another member of the commit tee said, "In the new pay scale, there will be performance-based salary increase of staffs... Usually, staff salaries are increased at the stateowned banks through yearly increments. But the new pay scale will suggest salary enhancement for staffs performing well at any time of

Referring to salaries of private commercial banks, a high official of a state-owned bank said a senior officer at their bank gets gross salary of Tk 11,040 while the same post at the private commercial banks yields

Another official said, "It is not possible to provide the staff at these banks with the same salaries as the private banks, but we will enhance the salaries gradually...Many skilled and competent officials are leaving

As of December last year, the three state-owned banks had 50,000

A high official of Agrani Bank said times higher.

pany, we need to compete with the private banks and for this we need to employ competent staffs with good salaries," he said, adding that the banks will have to enhance staff salaries gradually considering the profit scenario of the banks.

In 2007, the three banks made Tk 1,673 crore profit with an increase of 55 percent, comparing to the profit of the previous year. Sonali Bank made Tk 606 crore profit while Janata Bank profited Tk 540 crore and Agrani BankTk527 crore.

shortfall against defaulted loans, however, the net profit of the banks came to zero.

Operational expenses of Sonali Bankwas Tk 570 crore last year while Janata Bank's operational cost was Tk 423 crore and Agrani Bank's Tk 315 crore. Available data shows that 79 percent of the operational cost of these banks was used for staff salaries and benefits.

It said as per the contract the rental

power company is entitled to 15

days time for consultation to cure

the default following the delivery of

this notice. "Since the company has

submitted the performance secu-

rity deposit after getting the notice,

It added, "The required commer-

no question of termination arises."

cial operation date of the plant shall

default. But, the contract says that

this time frame has to be agreed on

by the two parties. Finally, Energy

Prima submitted the bank guaran

tee on April 16 but the documents

were dated on April 15, two days

after the time allowed by the con

"So it is mandatory that the govern-

ment discuss the matter with the

The Chief Adviser's Office, estab-

Public Service Commission," it

lishment and finance ministries and

the EC Secretariat were issued copies

of the letter signed by PSC Secretary

But paying no heed to the con-

cerns, the government on March 9

published a gazette notification of

Election Commission Secretariat

PSC sent a letter to the law ministry

on April 16, but it has yet to have any

believes that as per article 140 (2) of

the constitution it was necessary for

the government to have consultation

with it before promulgating the

ordinance," a highly placed source

says the president shall consult [a]

commission on methods of recruit-

ment to the service of the republic,

criteria and principles to be followed

in making appointments and promo-

tions and transfers from one branch

to another, and also on matters affect-

ing the terms and conditions as well

The EC Secretariat ordinance

stipulates that terms and conditions

of the secretariat officials will be

The secretarial committee on

controlled through new rules.

Article 140 (2) of the constitution

response from the recipient.

said, quoting from the letter.

as discipline of that service.

Following the developments, the

"The Public Service Commission

tract. We stand by our story.

**PSC** 

added.

FROM PAGE 1

Abdus Sattar.

Ordinance 2008.

remain same as per contract."

## Rejoinder

#### Cherie Blair

seven others in the barge-mounted power plant graft case.

would not go along the same route as neighbouring Myanmar has gone by detaining a woman politicalleader.

"I am aware that Bangladesh borders with Burma, a country which is not known as a supporter of the rule of law. And in Burma, there is a woman leader in a political party, who is being detained,' said Mrs Blair, who arrived in town Tuesday on a three-day visit to help

Hasina's counsels in the graft case. e-Elahi Chowdhury, another Bangladesh was going along that accused in the case, after he was route. I am sure that the government and the people of Bangladesh Tawfiq-e-Elahi was arrested a few want to be applauding human

> "It's clear to me, as I have spoken to her, that her health is not good. She is suffering both physically and

mentally due to her detention. "I have advised her and her legal team for her own safety. It is important we should take new proceedings against her detention on the

"And I am sure they [people of Bangladesh) would not want to see Sheikh Hasina brought to such a situation that her right to life is being undermined by such inhuman and degrading treatment

which is contrary to the constitution of Bangladesh. "I hope they would see that it was in the best interest to release

The special court-1 dealing with the barge-mounted power plant graft case yesterday also adjourned the hearing on charge framing till

Abdul Karim of the intercity train April 30 as Hasina fell sick in the UNB adds: Cherie Blair said Bangladesh is passing through a

> Speaking at a reception hosted by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at its auditorium, she said where parliament is dissolved and politics is absent, the

She said it is the time to see whether human rights are being maintained in Bangladesh as a signatory to the UN convention on

She deplored the prevailing situation where "even election to the Supreme Court bar is barred" and hoped that the elections would

beheld soon. SCBA President barrister M Amir Ul Islam presided over the reception function.

#### Gas tariff 3 SCBs

FROM PAGE 16

Petrobangla source. Bapex had unfairly been labelled as a government burden since the government spends around Tk 30 crore for its overhead and administration purpose annually. But in reality, Bapex's problem originates from its unrealistic low gas sales revenue of Tk 7 per thousand cubic metre of gas whereas the international oil companies get close to three dollars (around Tk 200) per thousand cubic feet of gas. The government's bulk sale price of gas is Tk92 per thousand cubic feet.

During Tuesday's presentation, Bapex Managing Director Muhammad Imaduddin raised the issue of the gas tariff, saying that to make the company achieve break even, Bapex's gas sale tariff should be raised to Tk 25 per thousand cubic feet of gas for the next two years, and then raised to Tk 50. Presently Bapex's gas production cost is between Tk 25 and Tk 50 per thousand cubic feet. "If gas price is rationalised and

interim support for exploration and development is given, Bapex will no longer require the government's financing for its overhead expenditure from 2011. By 2014-15, Bapex will not even need any government support for any of its activities," said a top Bapex source.

55 percent of the gas sales revenue as tax, VAT and other charges. To chiefadviser.

support Bapex, the government may lower this total charge to 50

"Since whatever you invest in Bapex have solid returns. The government has nothing to lose," the source said.

Bapex also presented its plans to explore various hydrocarbon zones and undertake other works. These will require Tk 3,200 crore as investment in the next seven years. The schemes are: work over of Fenchuganj Well-3 and drilling a new well, procuring one work-over rig, undertake appraisal well drilling in Srikail hydrocarbon structure, development drilling on Saldanadi Gas Field, Begumganj Gas Field Development Project, drilling four exploratory wells in Block-8 and Block-11, Shailokupa Exploratory Well Drilling Project, Jaldi Exploratory Well Drilling Project and Sitakunda Exploratory Well Drilling Project.

"Since the chief adviser as well as the other policymakers of the government are keen on revitalising Bapex, we are expecting that the government would approve a pack age of projects along with confirmed funding so that Bapex does not have to repeatedly ask for project funding," quipped an official.

The Bapex board yesterday held a follow-up meeting, and decided to Currently, the government takes ask Petrobangla to keep track of the outcomes of the meeting with the

# Saline price

selling SMC's saline at Tk 65 per sachet (consisting of 20 small packets) yesterday while the maximum retail price (MRP) is fixed at

"We are purchasing SMC's oral saline from Mitford at higher price over the last few weeks as its supply is too limited but demand is too high, " said a drug seller, Shah A drug seller at Uttara said the

company has cut its supply in the last two months. "Earler, we used to buy one sachet of oral sailne at Tk 52, and we are buying it at Tk 60 for the last several weeks. A resident of Uttara said,

Salesmen asked for Tk 5 per packet of SMC's saline on the excuse of short supply of it, and I had to buy it at Tk 4 a packet while the retail price is fixed at Tk3." Several retailers at Shahbagh

said they have no supply of SMC's saline for the last three weeks while several others said they were not facing any supply shortage. When contacted, the marketing

manager of SMC said they have neither increased the price of oral saline nor decreased its production and supply. "It is the wholesalers who create

artificial crisis of the item to sell it at higher price as its demand rises in the summer due outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases," said another SMC Meanwhile, the number of

diarrhoea patients in different areas of the capital is increasing since last week.

Some 336 diarrhoea patients were admitted to the International Centre of Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) yesterday till 4:00 pm. About the same number of patients were admitted on the day before yester-

According to the control room at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), some

#### CA reaffirms

FROM PAGE 16 wished its success.

Terming the present relations between Bangladesh and China excellent, Fakhruddin said both the countries are enjoying a comprehensive partnership of coopera-

tion, and expressed satisfaction over the growing bilateral trade. The head of the caretaker government reaffirmed Bangladesh's support to "One China policy"

He said Dhaka-Kunming air link has marked a great success and enhanced trade and people-topeople contacts.

The chief adviser emphasised Bangladesh-Myanmar-China road links for further improving trade and bilateral cooperation.

He also stressed the need for reducing trade imbalance between the two countries, and sought Chinese support for the agriculture sector as Bangladesh is focused on further development of agriculture to boost food production to keep its domestic market price stable in the wake of global price hike.

The chief adviser also sought increased Chinese investment in Bangladesh saying the government is thinking about setting up a special economic zone where Chinese investors can invest in.

The Chinese foreign minister said China considers Bangladesh its good and tested friend.

Appreciating the performance of the caretaker government under the leadership of Fakhruddin Ahmed, he said the present caretaker government has done a lot for the people of Bangladesh.

He emphasised further increasing cultural and educational exchanges between the two countries and thanked Bangladesh for allowing China to be an observer of Saarc. Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka

Zheng Qingdian, Secretary to Chief Adviser's Office Kazi Aminul Islam, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim and Bangladesh

diarrhoea since Wednesday morn The number rose to 14,572 across the country since last week.

door patients are now seeking treatment for diarrhoea in our hospital, which was 15 percent earlier," said Dr Mahbubul Hasan of Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

"Due to the heat spell, dehydration takes place and at the same time some types of bacteria grow quickly in foods. And by taking these foods, people develop diarrhoeal diseases," he said.

#### Huji man Sumon

FROM PAGE 16 Tajuddin, suspected supplier of the grenades used in the August 21 attack, fled the country following his brother BNP leader and former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu's suggestion around a month after the tenure of the BNP-led alliance government expired, sources said.

He was even seen at a rally held at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque under the banner "Sachatan Islamic Janata" in October, 2006, sources said.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigating the grenade attack case arrested Pintu January 18 in Dhaka after finding evidence of Pintu's involvement in the attack that left 24 Awami League leaders and activists

dead and scores more injured. Sumon, a suspect of hurling the grenades, admitted to the interrogators that he also visited Singapore and Malaysia. Huji leader Mufti Abdul Hannan had borne all expenses for his visits, an interrogator told The Daily Star

He, however, is yet to disclose why he went to those countries.

Sumon while being quizzed by the Taskforce For Interrogation (TFI) admitted to the interrogators

An interrogator also said Sumon admitted to them that he knew Hannan, Tajuddin and several other militant leaders very well but did not admitted to having links with the grenade attack.

A CID team arrested Sumon in Mohammadpur April 12.

#### Laws

local-government institutions and ensuring effective participation of grassroots people in development projects in their areas.

As per provision of the Local Government Commission Ordinance, the president of the country will appoint the chairman and members of the Local Government Commission for three

bers of the commission should not exceed 70 years. A joint secretary level official would act as the secretary to the independent local government commission.

The chairman of the Public Service Commission will be the president and the secretary of Local Government Division and the comptroller and the accountant general would be the members of the selection committee.

Corporation) Ordinance, 2008 was made by unifying earlier six separate City Corporation Acts. The ward commissioner would be renamed councillors. Under the new ordinance, chairman of a municipality would

Members of the Advisory

### Gen Moeen

FROM PAGE 1

today. He said no land should be left unused to combat this situa-

Gen Moeen said, "We have to bring the unused land under cultivation to overcome our own food shortages, and export the excess.

Earlier the army chief inaugurated a Boro harvest at Bhabadaha in Monoharpur village in Manirampur where farmers welcomed him with traditional songs, drum beats and music in Bhabadaha beel area. Gen Moeen inaugurated the

festival by cutting sheafs of paddy with a scythe at the Kopolia paddy field beside the Monoharpur Technical College. The army chief said that the army began the ongoing project in the Bhabadaha area in October 2006.

With cooperation from the local administration, the army helped the Water Development Board in river dredging projects in the area. The current project would complete in 2009 and ensure proper

cultivation by addressing the waterlogging problems in the area. The army would extend its full

cooperation to the implementation of the project, he added. That would enable another 200 hectares of land to come under

cultivation here, in addition to the 16,00 hectares that was brought under cultivation since the project began, the army chief informed the Gen Moeen also told the crowd

that the procurement price of rice has been fixed at Tk 28 per kg and paddy at Tk 18 per kg at the government-purchasing centre after discussions with farmers. The army chief announced ferti-

liser machinery for the farmers of Avaynagar, Manirampur and Keshabpur. He also announced one computer for the Bhabadaha Degree College and two computers for Monoharpur Technical College on behalf of the armed forces.

Major General Rafiqul Islam psc General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Jessore Cantonment, said the joint efforts of the government, army and water development boards have resulted in good production of paddy in the area.

Abul Hossain, deputy commissioner (DC) of Jessore and local farmer Harendranath Biswas also spoke at the programme.

Colonel SM Golam Ambia, commander of 105 brigade of Jessore cantonment, apprised Gen Moeen about the condition of Bhabadaha area. GOC of Jessore Cantonment the DC, police super and other gov ernment officials were present at that

#### SC Bar body

A censure motion came from an emergency general meeting of the association following the apex court's ruling.

Terming the SC edict, disappointing, the meeting observed that the balance in dispensation of justice would be "jeopardised in society following the judgment"

The meeting also demanded the rescinding of section 19 (GHA) of the EPR that revoked the right to bail of an accused in a criminal case being tried under the EPR.

The meeting endorsed a resolution by voice vote declaring not to give traditional retirement farewell to Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin and reception to new chief justice as a mark of protest.

SCBA President Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam chaired the meeting addressed by Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, Shafique Ahmed, SCBA secretary M Amin Uddin, former SCBA secretary M Enayetur Rahim and SM Shawkat Ali.

#### 8 killed

were killed on the spot, while another one died on the way to Bogra hospital.

The dead were identified as truck driver Lal Mia, 40, Ershad Ali, 30, and Raton, 32, all of them from Dariapur village in Rangpur, Rezaul Karim, 27, Rahimuddin, 35, Jahangir Alam, 33, and Moslem Ali, 34, all from Kalikamari village in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj and Fayzul Islam, 60, o Kacharikanda village in Dadira upazila of Shariatpur.

Police and locals rushed to the spot after the accident and rescued the injured.

They were admitted to Sirajgan Sadar Hospital, Raiganj upazila health complex and Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital. Of them, condition of three is very critical the doctors said.

Most of the deceased and the injured were either traders or labourers Police recovered the bodies and sent those to Sirajganj Sadar

Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was lodged with Hatikumrul Highway Police Station. Ashraf Ali, deputy commissioner and Alamgir Rahman, police super in Sirajganj, visited the spot.

Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, the number of accidents, especially on the western side of the bridge, has seen a sharp rise, locals said. The statistics from the Hatikumrul Highway Police Station say that over 100 accidents,

some of them major, occurred

between January 2007 and March

After the inauguration of

2008 under the station's jurisdiction killing some 151 people and injuring 165. But the actual figure is double the number; a police official said seeking anonymity.

Contacted, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station Tozammel Haque cited absence of road dividers, lack of proper training to the drivers and their tendency to overload the vehicles as the main reasons behind the acci-

## Maoists vow

FROM PAGE 16 any compromise on this," Maoist leader Prachanda told journalists.

The former rebel chief, who goes by one name, spoke after meeting foreign ambassadors and UN officials as he prepared to take

charge of the new government. Despite their surprise victory, the Maoist leader said that the exinsurgents could not rule out the use of violence.

"Right now, I cannot renounce every kind of violence," Prachanda, or the "fierce one" warned.

"We want to lead this process to a logical conclusion and we want to create a model of peace. Through this we want to renounce reactionary violence," said Prachanda.

He did not explain what he meant by "reactionary violence" but shortly after, Maoist spokesman Krishna Bahadur Mahara contradicted him.

"We can't think of engaging in violence again when we are coming to power through the ballot, Krishna Bahadur Mahara told AFP. The Maoists, who fought a bloody insurgency that ended in 2006 with 13,000 dead, swept double the number of seats of their nearest rivals and favourites, officials said Thursday.

After counting was completed late Wednesday, the Maoists "emerged well ahead," election commission official Matrika Shrestha told AFP.

The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) won a total of 217 seats in the new 601-member constituent assembly, which is expected to sit for the first time in coming weeks and abolish the 240-year-old monarchy.

The Nepali Congress -- traditionally the dominant party in the Himalayan nation -- took just 107 seats in the April 10 polls, election officials also said.

After being Nepal's second largest party for years, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) won 101 seats in the body that will chart the impoverished country's political future. The new government is due to fill

a further 26 seats. Despite the historic win, the Maoists want to work with their

#### Pak al-Qaeda FROM PAGE 16

have links to Osama bin Laden's network, issued the order amid peace talks with the government. The typed letter distributed Wednesday in the tribal region of

Waziristan and in parts of North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan warned that those who violated the order would be punished severely. "Violators of the order will be

publicly hanged upside down in main bazaars," added Mehsud, known to be one of the top militant commanders in the rugged region.

"The order is final and there will be no leniency." A senior Taliban source con-

firmed the contents. "We have issued the letter," he said requesting ano-The letter emerged came a day after officials said that the new gov-

ernment, which defeated allies of President Pervez Musharraf in elections in February, had drafted a peace agreement with Taliban in the banished from the country, he said. Hannan said Maj (retd) Hafiz was

#### tribal belt. CNG price

eight months.

FROM PAGE 1 to set up generators within the next

Sources in Petrobangla said the new price would help increase revenues of the state-run corporation. From sale of one cubic metre CNG at Tk 8.5, Petrobangla used to earn Tk 2.37 while the rest would go to fuel station owners. Now it will getTk9.97 fromTk16.75.

In the wake of galloping prices of conventional fuels and environelection under the incumbent mental concerns, the government has been encouraging people to convert their vehicles to run on CNG that is low-priced and considered to be eco-friendly.

The use of CNG as motor fuel started becoming popular with more conversion plants and pumps being installed in the private sector.

## 8-yr-old girl

Court issued a suo moto asking the Metropolitan Police Magistrate of Khulna to explain why the action of arresting an eight-year old girl and putting her behind bars on charge of carrying phensidyl should not be declared unlawful.

The HC division bench headed by Justice M Imman Ali issued the rule following a petition moved by Fahima Nasreen, central vice president of BNWLA.

Fahima Nasreen, drawing attention of the court to a report published in The Daily Star, said the child was held in violation of the existing penal code that provides immunity to children upto nine years of age in criminal offences.

DB police arrested Arifa and Ripon, an alleged drug peddler, on Sunday while the two were on their way to Khulna Jailkhana ferryghat. The police found 20 bottles of phensidyl, a contraband drug, strapped around Arifa's waist and legs under the loose clothes she was

Arifa was sent to the district jail on Monday after a case was filed against herforpeddling drugs. A student of class three, she is the

wearing.

BNWLA, said.

daughter of Rajibuddin of Lobatkati village in Satkhira sadar upazila. BNLWA advocates Sharmina

Nasreen, Shaharunnesa Nila and Fatema Khandakar Rina took Arifa into their custody from the jail gate. She has been placed in a shelter homefor now. She will be produced before the

government. "We all have to respect the people's mandate and all parties should work together to fulfil the people's

defeated foes in building a coalition

wishes for peace and progress," senior Maoist Dinanath Sharma told

King Gyanendra was forced to end a short period of direct rule in April 2006 after mass protests by the Maoists and mainstream parties. Gyanendra began his reign in

2001 under a cloud of grief and suspi-

cion, after nine members of the family of the previous king were killed by a crazed crown prince who then shot himself. In February 2005 Gyanendra sacked the government and took direct control of the nation, a move that pushed the mainstream parties

into an alliance with their former Maoist enemies. Last December, Nepal's interim parliament agreed that the monarchy would be formally abolished in the first meeting of the assembly, before the body goes on to re-write Nepal's constitution.

#### AL accuses govt FROM PAGE 16

power to an elected government by holding a free and fair election.

They said this while addressing a programme at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office on the occasion of handing over a memorandum with signatures collected from people demanding release of detained party chief Sheikh Hasina.

Amu received the memorandum from the city AL leaders.

Amu said the party is now in a movement aiming to get Hasina released and they want to make the movement a success. Motia said no election could be

Hasina's presence and Awami League will only participate in the polls when Haisna is released. Motia accused the government of resorting to dillydallying tactics over the parliamentary elections. "The government wants to hold

local body elections ahead of the

national election, but it's not its

duty...Holding parliamentary

free and fair without Sheikh

elections is the only duty of the caretaker government," she said. Presided over by Dhaka City AL joint secretary Awlad Hossain, the programme was attended, among others, by AL leader Sultan Mohammad Munsur Ahmed and city unit leaders Adv Qumrul Islam, MA Aziz, Faizuddin Mia, Sheikh Bazlur Rahman, Mukul Chowdhury, Shah-e-Alam Murad

## Hafiz

and Dr Dilip Roy.

FROM PAGE 1 Meanwhile, BNP chairperson's Adviser Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah vesterday said the attempt of those who are planning to go for elections without BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia would be foiled by party

leaders and activists. Talking to reporters at his new DOHS house, he urged the dissenters in BNP to return to the mainstream. Otherwise, they would be

leaders and workers. "BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain has already declared him [Hafiz] unwanted for He alleged that some quarters

not authorised to speak for BNP

force BNP leaders and workers to join the Saifur-Hafiz faction. "We shall resist this plan," he said, adding that BNP leaders and workers are not doing politics to implement the plans of others.

Expressing doubts about fair

had resorted to coercive tactics to

Election Commission (EC), the BNP leader said the EC has made itself controversial through its words and He said out of the eight standing committee members, six are with Khandaker Delwar, but the EC sent letter to Hafiz for dialogue. "We apprehend that this commission

elected who will get 20 percent Hannan said apart from carrying on the legal battle to free Khaleda Zia, a different kind of programme would be announced reflecting the

will ignore those who will get 80

percent vote and declare those

sentiment of BNP leaders and activ-Meanwhile, Secretary General of the pro-Khaleda faction Khandaker Delwar Hossain said BNP has been targeted by a quarter to annihilate the nationalist forces from the country, but the party will prevail

foiling all the conspiracies against it.

"False cases are being filed

against our leaders. And our Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been confined in jail. But BNP will foil all the conspiracies under her leadership," Delwar said. He was addressing a group of leaders of BNP and its front organi-

sations at his residence in the evening ahead of a three-day food distribution programme from April 28 at various places in the city. BNP is the largest political party of the country and it always stands beside the people in distress, Delwar said, adding, "In the future

too, Khaleda Zia's leadership will

inspire us to work for the common

people. He said the skyrocketing prices of essentials have paralysed the public life as many people are starving. He urged the party leaders and workers to make the food distribution programme a success.

Party Joint Secretary General Selima Rahman, Prof Abdul Mannan, former lawmaker CMM court on May 5 as the case is yet Principal Sohrab Uddin, General to be disposed of, Advocate Fatema Secretary of city Women BNP Shirin Sultana, among others, were pres-Khandaker Rima, an official of ent on the occasion.

# advisers at the state guesthouse

Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff,

gency' is imperative otherwise the election will turn into a display of

mentafter the election.

indoorpolitics.

The four-member BDB delegation proposed that the election be held as

· Hasina falls sick accusing Hasina and six others of FROM PAGE 1 Court-1 is holding the hearing. using their influence to help a foreign company and its local partners win a Hasina again complained yesterday that she was brought to the court deal for setting up barge-mounted

She also criticised the Supreme Court verdict that the High Court has The other accused are Tawfig-eno jurisdiction to grant bail to an Elahi, former Power Development accused under the Emergency Power Board chairman Noor Uddin Mahmud Kamal, Managing Director Rules (EPR) of Summit Industries and Mercantile 'No civilised society will accept this type of law that violates the constitution and human rights," Hasina said regarding the Supreme

vesterday the defence lawyers could not complete their arguments on the discharge petition filed on April 3. On April 21, the hearing was adjourned until yesterday following Hasina's sudden admission to Square Hospital on April 19 for the

second time as her condition deteri-

Earlier on April 3 and 15, Hasina

became ill in court during the pro-

ceedings of the same hearing. As of

Court verdict delivered on April 23.

same hospital on March 12 for the first time and the jail authorities had her discharged on March 30. Yesterday Hasina was taken to the court set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises around 9:30am

"I am being harassed mentally

and the court sat around 10:00am.

She had been admitted to the

Doctors prescribed me a lots of sleeping pills and taking those spend most of the time sleeping," she told the court. She criticised the government for arresting former secretary Dr Tawfiq-

released on bail.

days ago on his way home after being released on bail. Hasina said the police arrested Tawfiq under the false allegation of violating the EPR. On September 2 last year, Anti-

Corruption Commission (ACC)

Deputy Director Sabbir Hasan filed

the case with Tejgaon Police Station,

Gatemen, drivers FROM PAGE 16 director general of railway (West) on Monday, said Mozammel Hossain, additional chief engineer (track) of Bangladesh Railway and

Bangladesh Railway formed the

probe body after 17 people were

killed and 25 others injured in the

accident on Elenga Razabari level

also a member of the committee.

crossing on Tangail-Mymensingh road on April 16. The committee in its report blamed gateman Habibur Rahman for the accident, as he did not close the gate on the level crossing while Abdus Samad, the driver of the passenger bus, was blamed for driving recklessly and trying to

cross the level crossing violating

traffic rules.

Driver Dijendranath Chakraborty and assistant driver Ekata Express were blamed for passing the level crossing without receiving any signal from the gate-

Abdul Latif, a senior sub-assistant

engineer of Bangladesh Railway,

responsible for the incident, he The other members of the probe body are Mozammel Haque, additional chief engineer (track) of Bangladesh Railway, Chandan law. Kanti Das, additional chief engineer of signal and telecom and Abdul Matin Chowdhury, additional chief mechanical engineer. The committee also placed

several recommendations to prevent accidents. Those include appointment of local people as gatemen at important level crossings, providing daily wage of Tk 150 instead of Tk 80 to a temporary gateman, and arranging training torgatemen.

decision on pay structure," he said. Sources said the committee

Tk30,000-40,000.

the banks for lucrative salaries at the private banks.

many of their officials left their bank to join private banks for salaries five "As we are a public limited com-

After adjusting the huge provision

Corporation Private Ltd Aziz Khan, Director Farid Khan, United Group Chairman Hasan Mahmud Raja and Director Abul Kalam Azad. ACC Deputy Director Morshed Alam submitted the charge sheet in

the case on January 10, including the

name of Bangabandhu Memoria

Trust Curator Siddigur Rahman.

charge framing against Hasina and She also hoped that Bangladesh

Our Reply Our story did mention that it was a "notice of default and notice of intent to terminate" the contract which was served on Energy Prima March 30 because the company has been failing to submit bank guarantee since early February. Energy Prima's response to that letter was on March 31, unilaterally putting "I would not like to think that April 15 as the time to cure the

rights and the rule of law," Mrs Blair Thanking the caretaker government for allowing her to observe the court proceedings on Hasina and talk with her, Mrs Blair said,

basis that it is a threat to her right to Mrs Blair said in her statement,

her so that she can go to America and undertake emergency treatment which she needs and

very difficult time without parlia-The probe committee also held ment and politics. bench and bar should be vocal to

human rights.

The EC Secretariat ordinance was approved in principle by the council of advisers to the caretaker government on June 23 last year. It was uphold human rights and rule of finalised by the advisory council and promulgated by President Iajuddin Ahmed in March this year.

> administration development on April 10 approved service rules titled "Election Commission (Officers and Staff) Rules 2008". These rules will replace the Election Commission (officers and Ambassador in Beijing were also staff) Rules 1979, said sources. present at the meeting.

2,116 people were attacked with ing while three died of this disease.

"Almost 20 percent of the out-

quoting Sumon.

that he had a plan to visit Libya along with another Huji operative Sharif Shahedul Alam alias Bipul to have arms training. Bipul who had such training from the African country was arrested at Tilagahr point in Sylhet September 4, 2006.

FROM PAGE 1 are also aimed at strengthening the

years on recommendation of the selection committee. Age of the chairman and mem-

The Local Government (City

be called "mayor" or "Poura Mayor" Council attended the meeting at the Chief Adviser's Office yesterday. Cabinet Secretary, chief adviser's press secretary and secretaries concerned were also present.