EC finalises proposals

FROM PAGE 1 lose its registration, if it continues

to have those front organisations flouting the provision.

The EC's first basic proposed condition for registration says a political party that won at least one INTERNAL DEMOCRACY since 1973 will be eligible for registration. A party that does not meet the first condition will have to have offices and committees in at least 21 districts and 100 upazilas with at least 200 voters as members in each of those units.

If a party does not even meet the second condition, it must prove that it bagged at least five percent of the total vote cast in the constituencies it contested in elections since 1973, to be eligible for registranon.

Political parties have been alleging that the EC is trying to have control over them, but the commission has repeatedly rejected the allegation saying the proposals are aimed at brining discipline and financial transparency in the parties.

FINANCIALTRANSPARENCY

A political party registered with the EC and contesting in parliamentary polls will have to maintain accounts of its income and expenditure at any scheduled bank since the announcement of the polling

A registered political party may receive donations from individuals and institutions to build its fund. But an individual may donate no more than Tk 5 lakh or assets or services equal to that amount to a political party per calendar year while an institution may donate no more than Tk 25 lakh or services equal to that amount in a year.

A registered political party may spend Tk 4 crore if it nominates over two hundred candidates, Tk 3 crore if it nominates over one hundred candidates, Tk 1.5 crore for one hundred candidates, and Tk 75 lakh for over 50 candidates.

"Expenditure of a candidate with a party ticket will be considered a part of the party's expenditure," the EC's proposal says.

Any violation of these provisions by any registered party will be considered an offence punishable with fines up to Tk 10 lakh.

About submissions of election expenditure reports by political parties, the EC's proposals say, every party contesting in an election will have to submit its expenditure report to the commission within 90 days of the poll's completion.

"If a political party fails to submit the expenditure report within the 90 days timeframe, the Election Commission may warn the party by providing it with another 30 days. If the party again fails to do so, the commission may provide another 15 days with a fine of

Tk 10,000 for each of those 15 Commission may cancel the party's registration if the latter fails to submit the expenditure report at all," the proposals say.

"If the registration of a political party is cancelled, none will be allowed to use the name of the party for registration with the Election Commission," the proposals assert.

The EC's proposals go on saying, the expenditure reports and other documents submitted by political parties contesting in an election will be kept open for a year, so the people may inspect the documents, and some of the documents will be posted on the EC website.

"An election to a parliamentary seat will be declared null and void if the winner is later found to have submitted wrong information to

10 grenades

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Tofail Ahmed of Patiya Circle said the grenades and ammo could have been left there a long time ago since they had rust on them. Karnaphuli bus counter at Taltala. He said they would ask special-

Staffs of this bus service at ists to examine the grenades and ammunition today.

Ex-army man FROM PAGE 16

Rab arrested Shamsul with his four associates on April 26 in

Brahmanbaria. They are Tajul Islam Al Mahmud alias Baba Tajul, Mizanur Rahman, Jamal Miah and Saiful Islam. Of them, Jamal also gave confessional statement before the magistrate. All the five arrestees were sent to

Brahmanbaria jail yesterday.

Meanwhile, both Rab and police sources said the arrestees revealed important information regarding militancy, jihad and arms and ammunition.

Col Gulzar Uddin Ahmed yesterday said: "As they revealed important information, we are trying to take the five suspects to the Taskforce today and place their demand of for Interrogation (TFI) cell for more raising the bus fares. quizzing."

of explosives and firearms recov- buses to it," ABC member Mafizul ered abandoned following the Islam told The Daily Star last night. explosion on April 13," the Rab ADG said.

the confessional statement, Tk16.75 per cubic metre. Shamsul also said he had trained

the EC," the proposals say.

Besides, a registered political party will have to have its accounts audited annually by a chartered accounting firm and must send annual reports to the EC.

parliamentary seat in elections Every political party seeking registration with the EC will have to have specific provisions in its constitution promising to follow democratic norms and conventions within itself.

A party will have to elect committees from the central to grassroots levels with specific intervals according to its constitution. Currently most of the major political parties do not follow even their own constitutions in electing party committees.

A party will have to have specific provision in its constitution promising to elect 33 percent women in each of its committees at all tiers by

In an effort to put a stop to the lucrative business of nomination sales, much popular in most of the major parliamentary parties, the EC proposed to primarily nominate a panel of prospective candidates of each party from every parliamentary constituency. Party members of grassroots level committees will nominate the panel and forward it to the party's central parliamentary board which will then pick the candidates for elec-

A party will have to report to the EC on a regular basis about its compliance with electoral laws, and must notify the commission if any change is brought to its structure or the constitution, the EC's proposals say.

"Registration of a political party will be cancelled, if it fails to provide the information required by the Election Commission for three consecutive years," the proposals say adding, "Besides, its registration will also be cancelled, if it does not contest in parliamentary polls for two consecutive years."

The EC also proposes laws empowering the government to cancel the registration of a political party, if necessary. It also proposes, if a party gets banned by the government, that party should not be eligible to get registered with the EC again.

TALKS WITH PARTIES

The EC held a series of dialogues with political parties to finalise the electoral reform proposals since September 12 of last year. The talks were concluded on Sunday with a dialogue between the EC and Saifur-led faction of BNP, while Delwar-led pro-Khaleda faction of the party was left out.

The political parties, which in 2001 had strongly opposed the erstwhile EC's proposal for their registration, however did not reject days. And finally, the Election it this time around, although they did suggest relaxing the criteria for registration.

CNG-run bus

Mirpur-10, 6 and 7, Kazipara, Sheorapara, Agargaon and Taltala locked horns with the staffs of the CNG-run buses, as they demanded Tk 1 to 5 extra to the previous fare.

The picture was similar at other ticket counters from Mirpur to

Five CNG-run bus operators stopped their operations after 1:00pm protesting police interventions, staffs of the bus services told The Daily Star.

The passengers had to face immense sufferings when the buses of Shatabdi, Mega, Raja City, Trans Silva and Maitree services stopped plying the roads. "It's an anarchy. I don't know

how I will maintain my family in this situation...price hike of essentials followed by increase in bus fares...its really unbearable," Munira Begum, a garment worker, told The Daily Star while buying ticket for Farmgate from

Mirpur were forced to sell tickets at the previous rate following protests by the aggrieved passengers.

Ticket sellers Nazrul and Saiful of Shatabdi Paribahan and Ekushey Paribahan admitted that they have been facing the anger of the passengers due to higher fares.

"We are helpless, as our companies have instructed us to raise the fares," they said.

BRTA mobile court reinforced by Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday filed cases against 93 buses and seized four buses for demanding increased fares. The court also fined Tk 12,000 in five cases and arrested two bus staffs.

Police detained two ticket sellers of Trans Silva bus service for Rab Additional Director General charging higher fares, but they were released later.

The ABC will hold a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club "If the government does not

"We should identify the source increase the fare, we will give our On April 24, the government increased the price of CNG (com-Rab and police sources said in pressed natural gas) from Tk 8:50 to

Two days later, it adjusted the | Development Board Director up other militants, who are also his fares of the CNG-run threeassociates, on how to make gre- wheelers and taxicabs, but gave nades and bombs and how to use directions for not hiking the fares of Division Ehsan Hafiz Chowdhury CNG-run buses.

Huji man

FROM PAGE 16 granted three days.

Sources from CID and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) said they were not satisfied with the information given by Suman about his involvement in the grenade attack on the AL rally.

Rab sources said they would take Suman to the Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) cell for squeezingout more information.

According to sources, the charge sheet in the August 21 grenade attack case would be submitted in the first week of May accusing around 25 people including former BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, Huji leader Mufti Hannan, Abdur Rouf, Moulana Tajuddin, Arif Hassan Suman, Moulana Abdul Latif, Moulana Monir, Moulana Idris, Moulana Abu Taher, Waliur-1 and Waliur-2.

Meanwhile, Dr Zafar, arrested in connection with the bomb explosion at a rally of Communist Party of Bangladesh at Paltan Maidan on January 20 in 2001, was taken on three-day remand.

He is also an accused in the August 21 grenade attack case and was shown arrested in the Paltan Maidan bomb explosion. In the case Huji boss Mufti

Hannan is also an accused. Earlier on December 17, 2003, CID submitted the final report. But following the government directive, investigation into the cases

Cyclone Nargis

in the Bay since the deadly Sidr in

was restarted.

November last year. The met office has said it is hard to be definite right now about the

cyclone's movement in the coming The office mentioned that the cyclone might intensify further and move in a northerly direction

towards the Bangladesh and Indian

"Its tendency is to move in a northerly direction. But there is a possibility it may change its course and move in a northeast direction to hit the Bangladesh -Myanmar coast," Arzumand Habib, the director of the metrological department,

The wind speed within 54 kilometres of the storm center, the met office said, is about 62 kmph, which may rise up to 88 kmph in gusts. Sea will remain rough over the northern part of the bay.

The Met office has advised the maritime ports, including Cox's Bazar, Chittagong and Mongla, to hoist distant cautionary signal number two at present. It also warned all fishing boats and trawlers to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution till further notice.

The name of a cyclone is fixed in advance by at regional metrological conferences. Since the name Nargis was fixed, it became a much talked about fear among people in the coastal belts hit by Cyclone Sidr.

There were several false alarms along the southern coast in the weeks following Sidr and people rushed to cyclone shelters thinking Nargis was about to hit the coast.

River erosion

Head Morphologist M Maminul

Haque Sarker said presenting the

prediction study. These rivers

erode thousands of hectares of

floodplain every year leaving many

without a roof over their head, he

In 2007, the three rivers swal-

lowed up about 3,970 hectares of

land, 530 hectares of settlement,

1,930 metre of embankment, 2,020

metres of district road and 2,390

devoured 40 educational institu-

tions, nine market places, five

government offices, one non-

government office and two health

centres during the period," he

Water Resources Adviser Dr CS

Karim said riverbank erosion is not

only devouring lands, houses,

roads and settlements, but also

damaging the historical heritage.

"In last one year, 40 educational

institutions, including 100-year old

schools, were washed away," he

mentioned while addressing the

community people into the pre-

vention measures taken by govern-

ment and development agencies.

He suggested involving local

Terming the riverbank erosion as

a silent killer, Hua Du, country

director of Asian Development

Bank (ADB), said the river erosion is

taking a serious turn day by day

because of rapid changes in climate.

climate change could affect more

than 70 million people in

Bangladesh," she said addressing

emergency disaster damage reha-

bilitation project for rehabilitation

and restoring the damaged infra-

Giasuddin A Choudhury

Comprehensive Disaster

Management Programme (CDMP)

Chief Technical Adviser and Team

Leader Ian Rector, Water

General Mozaddad Faruque and

CEGIS Head Quality Control

also addressed the seminar.

CEGIS Executive Director

ADB has approved \$220 million

the seminar as special guest.

structures, she added.

"According to a UN report,

seminar as the chief guest.

"Besides, these rivers also

metres of rural road.

pointed out.

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AL places to CA

FROM PAGE 1

adviser would take appropriate steps soon for the release of Hasina immediately taking into consideration the signatures.

Later at the closing ceremony of the signature campaign at city's Institution of Engineers. Bangladesh, the AL leaders asked the government to free Hasina before starting the official dialogue with the political parties to make the talks a success. They also demanded that the

government lift the state of emergency right away and announce specific date for the next parliamentary election. Addressing the programme, AL Presidium Member Amir Hossain

Amu said a silent revolution has

taken place with the collection of

Hasina's release. Abdur Razzak, another presidium member, said with the signachief's release.

If the state of emergency is lifted, 70 percent people of the country will also make the same choice, he added.

Razzak also said that Hasina's release is a must to create a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election in the country.

Another Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed said the people of the country do not believe that the election would be held in time. "If the election is not held for any reasons, you (government) cannot blame us for that," he said.

Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta said that if the government wants a meaningful dialogue and solution to the present crisis, it should free Hasina and hold talks with her. He also asked the government to allow resuming political around 25 lakh signatures for activities all over the country.

Motia Chowdhury said that state of emergency could not be put in force for a long period of ture campaign, around 70 percent time, as there is no such instance in voters of the capital have expressed the world. She criticised the govtheir opinions in favour of the AL ernment for its alleged move for "minus-two" politics.

UN starts meet

FROM PAGE 16

the Universal Postal Union before going in to the main talks with 27 key UN agencies.

Also in Bern were Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the UN's World Food Programme; World Bank President Robert Zoellick; Jacques Diouf, head of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO); and Lennart Bage, president of the International Fund for Agriculture Development.

Ban was expected to issue a statement and hold a press conference on Tuesday morning at 0700 GMT (0900 CET).

In Geneva, UN special rapporteur on the right to food Jean Ziegler said the meeting in Berne on Monday marked "an essential day for hungry people around the Ziegler called for a suspension

of biofuels which he said is one of the causes of the sharp increase in food prices. World Trade Organisation to conclude trade liberalisation talks,

saying that it works against those who are dying from hunger. "The line taken by Pascal Lamy (director general of the WTO) is completely against the interests of people dying of hunger because it's exactly the protectionist taxes that

allow farmers to cultivate food

crops," he said. He also criticised the tion of non-food products, thereby further cutting down on the cultivation of food produce.

governments to support him to her North Kafrul home.

"put a priority on the cultivation of food produce.

Asked about the protectionist measures taken by numerous riceproducing countries, Ziegler said he "understands the attitude of these countries which consider first their own provisions."

But their governments "know that in history, hunger riots can bring down entire states," he said.

Mugger stabs

FROM PAGE 1

After Baset captured the mugger, who got inside the school, the thug stabbed him twice in the chest and fled scaling the school wall. Baset was on duty in the area in plain

Critically injured Baset succumbed to his injuries immediately after he was admitted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka.

Law enforcers, however, He also criticised efforts by the arrested mugger Mohiuddin Tipu, 22, six hours later at North Bhasantek with a knife and a cellphone, said Akheruzzaman, a sub-inspector of Kafrul Police

Baset is the son of Adam Miah of village Paneratika in Sheebganj upazila of Bogra, an ISPR press release says.

He will be buried at his village home today.

Baset's wife Arjuman Banu told International Monetary Fund The Daily Star that her husband which he claims has "imposed on joined the service on August 14, the poorest countries" the cultiva- 1992. He was transferred to the DGFI on September 10, 2004. The couple had no child.

"I was waiting for my husband He welcomed IMF chief as we were supposed to go to Bogra Dominique Strauss-Kahn's "rever- to adopt a daughter," with these sal" on the subject and called on words Arjuman burst into tears at

Saifur's younger son

FROM PAGE 1

case against Babu accusing him of concealing information about wealth worth Tk 1.28cr in his wealth statement. Babu will also be charged with amassing wealth worth Tk 13.85cr beyond his known sources of income.

Babu was one of the 11 graftsuspects disclosed by an ACC list last October.

approved issuing notice on former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir's daughter and son, Joya Alamgir and Jalal Alamgir, to submit their wealth statements to the commission.

ACC will submit the charge sheet against Rajib Siraj under section 13 of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

ACC approved filing of a case against former BNP lawmaker Alamgir Mohammad Mahfuz Ullah Farid and his wife Nur Akter Zahan for concealing information of wealth worth Tk 87.91 lakh from the

Ex-MP Lalu

The court ordered to confiscate around Tk 1.75 crore worth of wealth belonging to Lalu and around Tk 57 lakh worth of wealth belonging to his wife.

On September 6 last year, Ashish Kumar Kundu, an assistant director of the ACC, filed the case against the couple with Borga Sadar Police Station. The former BNP lawmaker

earlier received a total of seven years' imprisonment in two separate cases. He was handed down five years' imprisonment for setting up a wireless tower illegally at his Sutrapur residence in Bogra while he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment as he was found guilty of misappropriating government relief materi-

Asst judges FROM PAGE 16 public interest, ignoring necessary

prerequisites. But an assistant judge posted as a senior judicial magistrate would

neither be considered for being promoted as a senior assistant judge nor entitled for enjoying facilities of the post.

ACC and accumulating wealth worth Tk 2.39cr beyond their known sources of income.

In another case the ACC will charge nine people, including former director general of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BSB) Waliul Islam and former BSB director (administration) Khurshid Kamal, of misuse of power.

Conservator of Forest, Khulna Meanwhile, the ACC has Sheikh Mizanur Rahman will be charged with concealing information of Tk 2.18 lakh from ACC and amassing wealth worth Tk 14.93 lakh beyond his known sources of

> The ACC is also set to file a case against former deputy assistant engineer of the Power Development Board (PDB) Jafrul Hasan and his wife Shefali Hasan for concealing information about wealth worth Tk 79.63 lakh in their wealth statement and amassing the same by illegal means.

Power projects

FROM PAGE 16 participate in the bid, and also because of the arbitrary disqualification of Summit.

The power cell in a letter informed Summit of its disqualification to participate in the Sirajganj power project in January 10 without giving any explicit reasons. On February 14, the cell in another letter disqualified Summit in the Bibiyana project citing reasons which Summit thought was wrong and unjust.

Summit's disqualification surprised all power industry operators as it had gained a stable reputation in the power sector for nearly 10 years. Presently operating the 100MW Khulna barge-mount plant and several small power plants, Summit was previously about to be awarded with the 450MW Sirajganj power project in 2004. Summit had also finalised

finances from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). However, the-then prime minister Khaleda Zia had cancelled awarding the project without citing any official reason. Unofficially, she did so as the chief of Summit was considered close to her political rival, sources said.

FROM PAGE 1

pro-Khaleda faction of BNP and the five government advisers began at 5:15pm, marking the end of the firstround.

Meanwhile, Commerce Adviser Hossairt Zillur Rahman told reporters, "We started the talks emphasising three points -- creating confidence, holding a meaningful election, and making decisions to bring qualitative changes in politics."

He said they are happy as the discussions were held in congenial atmosphere and since they received good suggestions form the political leaders. During the informal talks, a ground for formal discussions was created which will help them to hold a credible election timely, he added.

He said they will report to the chief adviser tomorrow about the talks with political parties held over thelast 22 days,

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, Communications Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Ghulam Quader, Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, and Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury represented the government yester-

Tanveer Ahmed Siddique led the 11-member pro-Khaleda BNP delegation. Other members of the delegation were BNP Standing Committee Member Dr RA Gani Vice-presidents MK Anwar and Begum Sarwari Rahman, BNP chairperson's advisers Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah and Riaz Rahman, Joint Secretaries General Nazrul Islam Khan, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy and Selima Rahman, and Acting Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed. Earlier in the day, Commerce

Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman invited Khaleda loyalists to the talk by sending a cell phone text message to Khandaker Delwar Hossain, the faction's executive chief also BNP secretary general appointed by its detained Chairperson Khaleda Zia. Khaleda loyalists also demanded release of all detained political lead-

ers including Tarique Rahman. They argued that the detained political leaders should be tried under the regular laws of the land if there are reasonable allegations against them. They also asked the authorities to withdraw all cases filed against detained political leaders and urged

the government not to interfere in

the functions of the judiciary, consti-

tutional institutions, the media, and the administration. Urging all to uphold the spirit of the constitution, pro-Khaleda BNP leaders demanded an end of intervention by 'certain quarters' in political and electoral process.

in They also demanded access of the

media to the proposed formal dia-

logues between political parties and

the government, and stressed the need for taking necessary measures to bring back confidence among the business community. Comparing the present situation in the country with a 'famine-like situation', the leaders asked the

people and allowances for the job-The leaders of the BNP faction also asked the authorities to stop 'harassing' their leaders as such 'harassments' create obstacles to

holdingapeaceful election.

system for the lower income group

They also asked the government to disclose the steps taken by the government for the treatment of detained political leaders as well as the recommendations made by the medical boards formed for their Earlier, the panel of government

advisers held talks with Krishak Sramik Janata League and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal.

HC halts FROM PAGE 1

'complete control' over selection of the prospective judges. Law minister, two senior most judges of the Appellate Division, attorney general, two lawmakersone to be nominated by the leader of parliament and the other by the leader of opposition--president of SC Bar Association and law secre-

the commission. The Supreme Judicial Commission will also recommend names of eligible candidates drawn from the HC Division for appointment as a judge of the Appellate

tary will be the other members of

Noted jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik moved for the petition filed by SC lawyer Idrisur Rahman while Additional Attorney General Salahuddin Ahmad opposed the plea for stay.

Law secretary and the SC registrar are respondents to yesterday's HC rule on the military-backed caretaker administration. In his submission, the petitioner said the ordinance states that ini-

tially the law ministry will send a list

of probable candidates and the

commission will select one from

those on the list. "This ensures complete control of the executive over selection of judges for the apex court," he added. The ordinance also authorises the president not to accept any of the names recommended by the commission. And this all undermines the independence of the

Shahdeen Malik argued that the ordinance entails interviewing candidates whereas appointment to no other constitutional positions like the chief election commissioner or chairman of Pubic Service Commission requires interviewing the candidates. He said this is derogatory to the

judiciary, he observed.

Chakma.

status and prestige of the top court and more so when the interview Ghulam Quader, Education and will be conducted by persons of the rank below an SC judge. Shahdeen was assisted by Tawhidul Islam and Protikar

Anwarul Igbal.

Khaleda, Hasina Indian rocket

FROM PAGE 16

Japan.

nano-satellites, each weighing between three kilograms and 16 kilograms, built by research institutions from Europe, Canada and

The PSLV, the workhorse of India's space programme, blasted off on its 13th flight leaving behind a massive trail of orange and white "The mission was perfect," said G. the past four years.

Madhavan Nair, chairman of the Bangalore-based Indian Space Research Organisation, after the launch was telecast live by public broadcaster Doordarshan.

because it is the first time that we have launched 10 satellites in a single mission," he added, congratulating Indian scientists who broke into applause at the mission control centre.

The flight, which Nair said had not deviated "even a dot" from its specifications, broke the previous record of eight satellites launched at onego by a Russian rocket, according to Indian news reports.

The marketing arm of ISRO, Antrix Corporation, charged a fee for the launch of the miniature foreign

programme 45 years ago, wants to compete alongside the United States, Russia, China, the Ukraine and the European Space Agency in offering commercial satellite launch "By launching so many satellites

at one go, India has showcased the commercial applicability of its space programme," said Ajay Lele, a space expert at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi. "It wants to market its launch

systems and also its capability in

earth imagery," Lele said. "The mis-

sion is very significant from a commercial point of view." India first staked its case for a unchanged, he said. share of the commercial launch market by sending an Italian spacecraft into orbit in April last year. In January, it launched an Israeli spy

satellite in the face of Iranian pro-

The South Asian nation has been offering its services at about 60 to 70 percent of the cost charged by other international space agencies. India carried out the first successful launch of a domestic satellite by a home-built rocket in 1980, when it

was less preoccupied with reaping

commercial benefits and more with

harnessing space technology to

and broadcasting facilities. Cartosat-2A, the main satellite launched Monday to an altitude of at the meeting.

boost deficient communications

630 kilometres (391 miles) above earth, also has a domestic economic dimension and can be used for

intelligence gathering as well, offi-More advanced than a predecessor launched in January 2007, it will boost India's efforts to reinforce urban and rural infrastructure to keep pace with economic growth

that averaged nearly nine percent in The all-weather satellite, whose camera will beam "very clear and detailed images of even miniscule objects" on earth, will aid economic planners in land and water resources

"It is a historic moment for us management, said space expert Lele. Monday's mission precedes the planned launch this year of a lunar mission, which will see India join Asian nations Japan and China in

Scrap metal price FROM PAGE 16

moon exploration.

Rashidul Hye gave the directive at a meeting with the ship breakers and owners of steel re-rolling mills in the conference room of Chittagong Circuit House. It asked the ship breakers'

leaders to hold a meeting to re-fix India, which launched its space the price of scrap metals before the committee sits in the capital today evening. "Otherwise, we shall be forced to suggest a fixed price," said the

housing and public works secretary adding that the present situation cannot continue. If there is a price hike of scrap metals, it should be proportionate to the increase in prices of

Rashidul Hyesaid. There is no valid reason for skyrocketing prices of rods since all factors including import of decommissioned vessels remain

40,000 and Tk 52,000 a tonne respectively. The re-rolling mill owners said MS rods would be sold for Tk 45,000 to Tk 53,000 a tonne if they could

Tk 58,000 to Tk 59,000 a tonne, rerolling mill owners said. Committee members Brig Gen Hasan Nasir, and Commodore Jasim Uddin, and FBCCI Director Kamaluddin Ahmed, were present

stayed upright. News photos showed several of its carriages sitting across the train tracks just outside the city of

government to introduce a rationing in white bed sheets from the sleeper cars stood or sat near the wreckage. Xinhua said bloodstained sheets and broken thermos flasks could be

> were on both trains. "Most passengers were still asleep, but some were standing in the aisle waiting to get off at the Zibo

roller coaster, topple ... to one side and all the way to the other side. When it finally went off the tracks, many people fell on me," Zhang said. Zhang, who was on the train from Bejing, was injured when the train

farm tools to smash train windows to pull out trapped passengers. "I saw a girl who was trying to help her boyfriend out of the train, but he issued.

A 38-year-old woman told Xinhua

unhurt by scrambling through a huge crack in the floor of their carone family were among the injured.

was dead," Zhang said.

cars, with workers aiming to reopen the line by early Tuesday, a little more than 24 hours after the accident. One villager who witnessed the rescue operation said ambulances

being used to move the wrecked rail

"There were a lot of police and soldiers around and I saw a lot of ambulances going back and forth," the villager told The Associated Press. information about his wealth.

Make sure next govt

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Annisul Huq, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Latifur Rahman, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) President Fazlul Hoque, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) President Abdul Hai Sarker and Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceuticals Industries (BAPI) President Shafiuzzaman. The four advisers present at the

prevailed before 1/11 (prior to state of emergency). We want to see a qualitative change in the political culture," the FBCCI chief said in presence of the other business Referring to advisers' comments on political parties' reform proposals placed before the government,

newsmen later.

they would go for.

political atmosphere. We want effective democracy and an elected government, "Annisul said. Business leaders will submit some written proposals to the gov-

he said the parties are yet to specify

what of kind of qualitative changes

"We all want to get back a fair

ernment and will have talks with it again as part of the ongoing dia-

should not be sold for over Tk

Train collision

FROM PAGE 16

News photos showed rescuers pulling passengers from a carriage sitting on its side. Survivors bundled

seen on the ground beside the twisted train cars. It did not say how many people

railway station," one passenger surnamed Zhang told Xinhua. "I suddenly felt the train, like a

toppled into farmland beside the track. She said local villagers used orders following separate petitions.

that she and daughter, 13, escaped Four French nationals three from Xinhua said heavy cranes were

ferried the injured away for more than three hours.

Advocate M Enayetur Rahim appeared for the detained former state minister, who had been accused in several cases on charges of amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income and hiding

hartal or closure of ports when they

get elected, " 'Annisul Huq told

any more a political situation that

"Businessmen do not want to see

Sports Council by abusing power.

that people who will compete in the next general election will not allow

the meeting included Federation of

The probe body also said scrap metals and mild steel (MS) rods

imported vessels for scrapping,

buy scrap metals for Tk 32,000 to Tk 40,000. But, they have to buy scrap metals from the ship breakers for

He would give only his surname, It was the second major railway

accident in Shandong this year. In

January, 18 people died when a train

hurtling through the night at more

than 75 miles per hour slammed into a group of about 100 workers carrying out track maintenance near the According to the 163.com news Web site, it was the worst train acci-

dent in China since 1997, when another collision killed 126 people. Trains are the most popular way to travel in China, and the country's overloaded rail network carried 1.36 billion passengers last year, Xinhua said. That is slightly behind India, which had 1.4 billion passengers last year, according to the Indian National

RailwaysWebsite. 3 graft cases

should not be quashed.

FROM PAGE 16 government to explain why the cases

It also asked the parties concerned to take necessary steps for early hearings of the rules it had The corruption cases, filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)

with Paltan Police Station on

September 30 last year, are pending

The court passed the interim stay

with the special courts set up at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex. The ACC accused Obaidul Kader, also joint secretary of Awami League, of taking Tk 47 lakh, 38 lakh and 57 lakh in bribe from contractors at different times for cleaning their due bills and awarding more development works under the National

The business leaders who attended

meeting are Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff, Communications Adviser

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman and LGRD Adviser The business community wants logue, he added.