Bhuiyan asks

FROM PAGE 1 residence prior to heading out for the court to surrender. "...unity is now a matter of time, "he added.

Many leaders, activists and followers of Bhuiyan gathered at his residence since the morning and tears roll down their cheeks when he

secretary general of BNP for about 11 years. The party's Chairperson Khaleda Zia appointed him secretary general soon after the general elections of 1996. She expelled him and his close aide Ashraf Hossain, a joint secretary general, from the party on September 3 last year before her arrest, accusing both of violating constitution of the party. She also appointed Khandaker Delwar Hossain as the new secretary general of the party.

Bhuiyan, who was reinstated by ber, said, "The country is passing a ist forces is essential for the sake of the country and the people. As BNP did in

faction of the party said, "I devoted my labour and merit and have been working for the party for a long time along with other leaders and workers of the party.

including Chairperson Khaleda Zia would be released soon and Khaleda Zia would bring about timely reforms [in the party] through council of the party, hesaid.

Mannan Bhuiyan hoped that the party leaders and workers would engage themselves in reorganising the party in field levels following the ideologyoflate president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of the party.

He also hoped that the people of the country would work together to restore democracy and achieve economic freedom as the country is now going through a crisis.

When the chairperson expelled him from the party and appointed Delwar as the new secretary general, Bhuiyan claimed that the chairperson did not follow the constitution of the partywhile taking such actions.

her canton mentresidence at the time.

Bhuiyan and his aides, without any consultation with Khaleda, also initiated a move to hold council of the party to bring about the amendments in the constitution.

Bhuiyan in his proposal said the absolute power vested in the party chief must be curbed by amending the party constitution so that BNP can be

leaders and workers of the party and they especially did not support his proposal regarding the tenure of the partychairperson either.

On July 8, 2007, Khaleda Zia, addressing a Jubo Dal meeting in New York over the phone, said, "Those who joined BNP from other parties are conspiring to destroy the party in the name of reforms, taking the opportunityofthestateofemergency."

"The conspiring leaders who came from other parties do not love BNP, they just want to stay close to the state power at any cost and have no ideal -- they just love power, "sheadded.

events, the BNP standing committee in amarathon meeting on October 29 last year appointed former finance minister M Saifur Rahman as the party's acting chairperson and replaced Khandaker Delwar Hossain with Major (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed as acting secretary general.

The meeting of the highest decision making body of BNP also disapproved the expulsion order of former secretary general Mannan Bhuiyan. Khandaker Delwar was absent in the meeting due tounknown reasons.

Delwar later alleged that he was threatened with death and was told not to attend the meeting. Four members of the standing committee later in affidavits submitted to the court said that the meeting was not a formal one as they were invited for tea only.

In the meantime, Bhuiyan and his followers' attempts to unify the party failed due to negative response from the pro-Khaledaleaders.

The 'reformists' led by Bhuiyan recently had a major blow when their acting chairperson Saifur Rahman, before leaving Dhaka for Singapore on May 7, shifted his stance and put the blame on the reformist leaders, saying that the reformists cannot bring a party together, they can only divide it.

Saifur Rahman also said his leadership became ineffective when the party's standing committee members withdrew their endorsement in him through affidavits.

Mannan Bhuiyan and other reformist leaders continued to hold series of discussions with their rivals to unify the party and leaders of both the factions even reached a consensus for the unity. The initiative however failed as Delwar refused to be a part of the process until the decisions taken in the meeting of October 29 were declared cancelled.

AL leaders

marking Hasina's homecoming day.

sion due to illness. But in a written statement, read out by AL leader Asaduzzaman Noor, Zillur said neither the dialogue nor the elections can be fruitful keeping Hasina behind the bar.

Amu said they would decide whether to hold dialogue with the government in consultation with Hasina.

presence of Sheikh Hasina," he

Hasina.

others, were present.

Anti-terror ordinance

FROM PAGE 1 with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair gave the final approval to the ordinance that con-

tains 10 chapters and 44 sections. Earlier, the council had approved the law in principle.

As per the new ordinance, terrorist activity has been defined as acts through which a person forces the government or any other person to do or refrain from doing any job by creating panic among the people or sections of the people with a view to jeopardising the integrity of Bangladesh, its solidarity, security or sovereignty and for that kills a person, inflicts serious injuries, detains or kidnaps or causes loss of property to any person as well as uses or keeps any explosives and flammable material, firearms, or any kind of chemical substances in their possession.

If any person commits crime against any Bangladeshi staying outside the country, commits crime inside Bangladesh while remaining outside Bangladesh and commits crime outside Bangladesh while remaining inside Bangladesh, then 30 days. their crime will be tried in the coun-

If any person commits terrorist activity, they will be awarded death sentence or life imprisonment or for reviewing the draft bill. But the maximum 20 years' and minimum 3 term of that parliament expired years' rigorous imprisonment," says while the process was underway

the latest anti-terrorism law. In addition, there are provisions

for fining the offender. Provisions for other sorts of punishment have also been made in the ordinance for sponsoring terrorist

activities and sheltering terrors. Public Accounts and Audit Review If anyone provides money for terrorist activity, then there are provisions for maximum 20 years' and minimum 3 years' imprisonment

and pecuniary punishment. outlawed party, they will be given a Public Accounts and Audit Review maximum six-month jail or monetary punishment or both," says the in the absence of parliament.

ordinance. If anyone campaigns or broad- attended the meeting at the CA's casts programmes in support of an office. Cabinet secretary, CA's press outlawed party, they will earn maximum 7 years and minimum 2 years were also present.

Meanwhile, in a dramatic turn of

Engineers Institute in the capital with presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury in the chair

party activists to remain prepared to forge movements anytime to free their party chief.

"All decisions will be taken in

Presidium members Abdur Razzak and Tofail Ahmed asked the party activists to make preparation

Presidium members Suranjit Sengupta and Motia Chowdhury, AL. acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam, AL chief's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Mukul Bose, Abdul Mannan, Mahamudur Rahman Manna, Abdur Rahman, Yafes Osman, MA Aziz and Qumrul Islam, among

Women Dev Policy Tahmima Anam

FROM PAGE 1 in Cape Town, South Africa yesterday, says a press release of the

Commonwealth Foundation. The book, based on Bangladesh's War of Liberation in 1971, earned the prestigious award as part of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize 2008 organised by the Commonwealth Foundation. The award, which carries a cash

prize of £5,000, was handed over to Anam by South Africa's Minister for Arts and Culture Z Pallo Jordan at a ceremony. The award for Overall Best Book went to Canada's Lawrence Hill for his work, The Book of Negroes. Earlier, Anam's work was adjudged Best First Book in the Europe and Asia regional category.

Responding to her newest triumph, Tahmima Anam observed: "I'm honoured and humbled to be the first ever Bangladeshi winner of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. I wrote A Golden Age because I wanted the story of the Bangladesh war to reach an international audience. It is a story of great tragedy, but also represents a moment of hope and possibility for my sometimes trou-

bled country." The winners for Best Book and Best First Book were selected by a try director of Hunger Project | panel of judges from six different countries. Commenting on A Golden Age, Justice Nicholas Hasluck, chair of the panel, said: "This is the first major fictional account of the creation of Bangladesh. Housewife, widow and mother, Rehana Haque, exemplifies the power of the individual to resist and ultimately prevail against the ravages of war. The assured and lyrical prose evokes the tumultuous birthing of a new nation in an intensely personal narrative."

> Tahmima Anam has been in the news since her book appeared last year, creating waves in global literary circles. A Golden Age is in the process of being published in 18 languages,

FROM PAGE 16 end of September."

Sakhawat said the EC is planning to ask the field level election officials to start preparing the draft list of presiding officers for the parliamentary election to avoid controversies over their recruit-

He said the draft list of the presiding officers, who works as the chief polling officials at the polling stations, will be finalised after disposing of objections, if any filed.

Banks

Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) at the BAB

"We have agreed to fix the highest Former law minister Moudud ceiling of bank interest rate at 14 Ahmed and former state minister percent from the previous offer of for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain 14.75 percent for productive secare among the other chargetors," BAB President Nazrul Islam Mazumdar told reporters after the Sources said Barrister Nowshad

Lending to productive sectors include working capital and term

Businessmen have long been blaming the private commercial banks for not cutting the interest rates despite pressures from the government and the central bank.

FBCCI President Annisul Hug welcomed the rate cut but said, "The rate is still high and we have demanded reducing it to 12 percent for the productive sectors. "We will sit again on this issue and

also on other charges the banks take for different services," he said, adding that banks charge 14-18 percent interest rates for working capital and term loans.

Annisul, however, said, "They [the BAB| could not slash the rate anymore considering the present economic situation including soaring inflation.' Chairpersons of 29 private com-

mercial banks sat with the leading trade bodies to discuss two major issues--reduction of interest rates and help salvation of the sick indus-

Syed Manzur Elahi, Kazi Akramuddin Ahmed, Muhammad A Rumee Ali, BGMEA President Anwar-Ul Alam Chowdhury Parvez and BKMEA President Fazlul Hoque were present, among others, at the meeting.

including French, Spanish and

German. The Italian, Portuguese and Dutch versions of the work are already on sale. The book has been published by HarperCollins in the US and Canada. In India, it will be published by Penguin. Meanwhile, a Bangla version of the book has

already been published by Shahitya

Prakash, Dhaka. Anam is the granddaughter of late Abul Mansur Ahmad, a prominent writer and political figure of the South Asian subcontinent and Mrs Akikunnessa Ahmad, and daughter of Mahfuz Anam, Editor-Publisher of The Daily Star, and Shaheen Anam, Executive Director, Manusher Jonno Foundation. Born in Dhaka, she grew up in Paris, New York and Bangkok.

Anam has a Ph.D in social anthropology from Harvard University and holds an MA in creative writing from Royal Holloway College, where she studied with Britain's Poet Laureate Andrew Motion. Her articles have been published in the prestigious Granta magazine, The Guardian and The New York Times. She is at present a contributing editor at The New Statesman. She divides her time between Dhaka and London.

Manju FROM PAGE 1

fined him Tk 1 crore.

Besides, the court also sentenced Manju's wife Tasmima Hossain and cousin Mahmud Hossain to five years' jail each in the same case and fined them Tk 5 lakh each. The three will have to serve one

more year in jail if they failed to pay the fines. The convicts remain absconding

and were tried in absentia. In the first information report (FIR) filed with Dhanmondi Police Station on July 25 last year, ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Faiaz Alam, the complainant, said the accused took Tk 1 crore bribe from Al-Amin Construction Company Ltd between February 17 and February 20, 2000 promising it to award the work order for a Roads and Highways Department (RHD)

construction job. The FIR further said the managing director of the company Amin Ahmed Bhuiyan gave the amount to Manju in two pay orders. Manju was communications minister at that

On December 12 last year, ACC Assistant Director Abu Sayeed, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the three before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses

Special Public Prosecutor Harun-ur Rashid moved for the ACC before the courts and only and

On June 26, 2007, Manju was handed down five years' simple imprisonment and was fined Tk 10,000 for possessing 21 bottles of liquor at his Dhanmondi home.

Buddha Purnima

Buddhist religious flag atop all verses from the Tripitak and breaking of fast by the monks.

Mass prayers, blood donation, 'sangadana' (presentation to the monks), discussion, 'panchashilla' (prayer) and pradip puja will also be held.

Special prayers will be offered at the monasteries across the country seeking peace, progress and prosperity of the Buddhist community as well as the nation. President Iajuddin Ahmed and

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in separate messages greeted members of the Buddhist community on the occasion and announced the day as a public holiday. In his message, the president

said the ideology of Buddha is nonviolence and love for the humanity. "Buddha worked relentlessly for a lasting fraternity among all people and wished happiness and welfare of all creatures in the world," he added.

Iajuddin hoped that all people would work for welfare of the nation from their respective posi-

The president will host a reception for the members of the Buddhist community a Bangabhaban in the afternoon.

Prince Aga Khan

FROM PAGE 16

became the Imam on July 11, 1957 at the age of 20, succeeding his grandfather, Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah Aga

Prince Aga Khan will call on Differing with the estimate of President Iajuddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and hold meetings with several advisers.

Savar and attend a state banquet at initiatives and programmes. Hotel Sonargaon today. He will also host diplomatic reception and Imamat banquet at the same venue tomorrow.

Basundhara tomorrow and the permanent Jamatkhana of the community on May 21. The Aga Khan Academy will be built on 21 acres of land at a cost of around US\$ 50 million to teach brilliant students from the primary

dation of the Aga Khan Academy at

to the secondary level and impart training to teachers. Foundation said some 750 to 1200 areas. Bangladeshi students will be admitted to the Academy on the basis of merit. The medium of teaching will be both Bangla and English.

has been paying official visits to some 35 countries, using these occasions to recognise the friendship and longstanding support of leaders of state, government and other partners in the work of the Ismaili Imamat, and to set the direction for the future, including the launching He will visit National Memorial at and laying of foundations for major Like his grandfather Sir Sultan

Mahomed Shah Aga Khan before him, the Aga Khan has been concerned about the well-being of all Prince Aga Khan will lay the foun- Muslims, particularly in the face of the challenges of rapid historical hiding.

countries, mainly in West and Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East, as well as in North America and Over the four decades since the

present Aga Khan became Imam, there have been major political and An official of the Aga Khan economic changes in most of these The Aga Khan has emphasised

on March 16 in 2005.

Drama

FROM PAGE 1 on board a van but struggled to make way due to the barricades put up by

Jamaat activists. Some of them even jumped on the police van.

At one stage, Jamaat leaders asked the demonstrators to calm down and only then the police could move along the road to the Cantonment Police Station.

A procession of Jamaat supporters marched alongside the police convoy up to Malibagh rail crossing. Party insiders said the showdown was planned immediately after they

were sure that Nizami was to be detained. Before the arrest, front-ranking Jamaat leaders had a meeting to

decide the party's next course of

Jamaat's Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and Assistance Secretary General Mohammad Kamaruzzaman were present among others.

residence but they seemed helpless when Jamaat activists blocked their ways. Police were only trying to make their way by blowing whistle. While being taken away, the Jamaat ameer kept protesting his innocence. Addressing the reporters

and others present there, he said, "

Four platoons of police were

deployed in and around Nizami's

have been implicated in the graft caseillegally He asked the party leaders to keep patience.

Earlier, he bade farewell to his

wife, daughter and son. Mojaheed quoted Nizami as saying, "The clouds will clear and the people's rule will be restored."

Meanwhile, senior Nayeb-e-

Ameer Abul Kalam Muhammad

Yousuf has been appointed acting RAIDFORANWARANDOTHERS A police team raided the New

Elephant Road residence of former agriculture minister and BNP leader MK Anwar but did not find him there. Gulshan police said although they knew that former finance minister M Saifur Rahman is now in abroad and former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud

Chowdhury is hiding in abroad, they went to their houses in Gulshan just tor formality. A Dhaka court issued arrest warrants on May 15 against 12 "absconding" accused in the Gatco case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission

(ACC). A team led by Assistant Commissioner of Ramna Zone of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Hamida Akhter went to Anwar's residence on the eighth floor of Sheltech Sierra Apartment at 9:50pm with the arrest

The family members told the police that he had not returned home for the last four days. The police, however, searched the rooms of the apartment. "We went to the house with the

arrest warrant but the family mem-

warrant

bers told us that he [Anwar] did not monasteries, recitation of sacred | return home," Hamida Akhter told | reporters after coming out of the apartment at 10:35pm. Abdul Awal, caretaker of the apartment, told reporters that the

police also searched the rooftop and lift rooms for Anwar. Gulshan police also raided the Gulshan residence of Gatco Director AKM Musa Kajol but did not find him

Meanwhile, Dhanmondi police raided the houses of former shipping secretary Zulfikar Haider Chowdhury and former member of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) AK Rashid Uddin Ahmed in

Dhanmondi. Officer-in-Charge of Dhanmondi Police Station Monwar Hossain said, "We raided the residences of both the accused but did not find them in theirhouses."

He said neighbours told them that Zulfikar had not returned to his Dhanmondi-27 residence since the charge was pressed against him. He also said Rashid Uddin rented out his house on Road-12 in Dhanmondi in January and had since shifted to somewhere else along with his fam-

A police raid to arrest another Gatco Director Shahjahan M Hasib also brought no result as Hasib was not in the house while Khilgaon police said a team went to raid the house of Gatco Director Ehsan Yusuf.

Another police team also raided the Banani DOHS residence of the late BNP leader Col (retd) Akbar Hossain's wife Jahanara Ansar last night. The police said locals told them that the house has remained under lock and key for the last one month.

Tarigul, family

Shantanu Islam and Aninda Islam and daughter-in-law Lamia Sharmin on September 9 last year. The ACC submitted the charge sheet against them on February 28

this year, mentioning 46 people as prosecution witnesses. arrested February 5 last year. The other accused in the case are in

Meantime, the charge sheet against the Khulna mayor was submitted to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Khulna. A fish trader laid the case against

Tayebur and 16 others on November 23 last year, alleging that of Water Resources, told Xinhua. the accused extorted Tk 2 lakh from him in the name of allotting him shops in a city fish market.

The complainant in his statement said he paid the money to Tayebur at the mayor's residence

Bhuiyan, Shamsul

FROM PAGE 1

The lawyers filed two petitions--one for taking their client into jail custody and another for providing him with division in jail.

In the petitions, the lawyers argued that the Supreme Court (SC) had earlier given a judgment saying the lower courts could not grant bail in connection with cases filed under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR). The Gatco graft case is filed under the EPR and the lower courts could not entertain the bail petition.

On the petition for division, Public Prosecutor (PP) Ehsanul Haq Samaji told the court that the accused would get division as per

After hearing both the sides, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq ordered to send Bhuiyan to jail and sent the petition for division to the authorities concerned for taking necessary steps as per law.

After a while, Bhuiyan was taken to Dhaka Central Jail by a prison van. After about an hour, Shamsul

Islam along with his lawyers advocates Masud Ahmed Talukder and Sanaullah Miah appeared before the same court.

The lawyers submitted three petitions--one for bail, another for providing their client with division in jail and another for his treatment in

They told the court that they appeared before it seeking bail for Shamsul Islam as the High Court (HC) did not earlier entertain a petition for anticipatory bail.

saying the accused would be in jail custody as there is no provision for giving bail in a case filed under the EPR. The petitioner would be provided with division and treatment in jail as per law, he said. The court ordered to send the accused to jail and sent the matter

The PP opposed the bail petition,

related to division to the authorities concerned for legal consideration. The court also directed the jail authorities to arrange proper treatment for the accused, if necessary. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of prisons Maj Shamsul Haider

Siddiqui received the two accused at jail gate. Mannan Bhuiyan was kept in the Champakoli cell while Shamsul Islam in one near the jail hospital.

A senior jail official told The Daily Star last night that as per the jail code both Bhuiyan and Shamsul would enjoy divisions. With the two, a total of 49 prison-

ers with division facilities are now

staying at Dhaka Central Jail. There was a controversy centring Bhuiyan as many quarters, especially his rival group in BNP, have been alleging that corruption was rife in the LGRD ministry when he was its minister but he enjoyed the blessings

of the caretaker government.

the supporters of Bhuiyan and a group of lawyers on the court premises yesterday when a lawyer hurled abusive words at him.

committing the offences.

Nuclear Safety Department who

China has a research reactor,

two nuclear fuel production sites

and two atomic weapons sites in

Sichuan province, the French

nuclear watchdog has said, all

located 40-90 miles from the epi-

urged rescue teams to reach

remote villages battered by the

earthquake where the level of

damage remained unknown,

of about 15 people who sur-

rounded an Associated Press

reporter at a gasoline station in

Mianyang city Sunday, appealing

nothing to help us," said one man,

who identified himself only by his

surname, Chen. "If I gave you my

complete name the government

people lived there. He handed over

a note, which said it had been

signed "by the people of Xiushui,"

and read, "Please go to our village

of Xiushui to cover the situation.

The government is doing nothing

arriving, with two US Air Force

cargo plane loaded with tents,

lanterns and 15,000 meals landing

More international aid was

to help us get water or housing."

Chen did not say how many

"The government is doing

for help for their village, Xiushui.

That was reinforced by a group

according to Xinhua.

would track me down.

Chinese President Hu Jintao has

only gave his surname, Li.

body of his 13-year-old daughter,

arms, holding her hand and stroking her back while she sobbed hysterically. "Oh God, oh God, why is life so bitter?" Liao Jinju wailed, over and over. The couple's 9-year-

depending on factors including the

trapped for 139 hours, Xinhua reported. The World Health Organisation said conditions for homeless survivors were ripe for outbreaks of

hygiene facilities. sion routes for communicable

Chinese health officials have not reported any disaster-related

Meanwhile, flood threats from rivers blocked by landslides from the quake appeared to have eased The former minister was after three waterways near the and prayers of the American peoepicentre overflowed with no ple," said Brig. Gen. Charles problems, Xinhua said. County Hooper, defence attache at the US officials diverted released water as Embassy in Beijing, who accompa-

> hydroelectric stations, but no reservoirs had burst, Liu Ning, engineer in chief with the Ministry

chase ensued between the two groups, the law enforcers deployed at

the court remained silent. Earlier in the morning, the HC rejected a bail prayer of Nizami. Later, the Jamaat ameer filed a peti-

tion with the SC to stay the HC order. Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin referred the matter to the chief justice for

taking decision on it. Nizami's counsel barrister Abdur Razzak told reporters that hearing of the petition might be held before the full bench of the Appellate Division on May 20.

Jamaat meanwhile announced a four-day programme, which includes fasting and feeding the destitute across the country, to protest the arrest of Nizami.

"Fasting will be observed on May 22-23 while destitute will be fed on May 24-25 to seek divine will to protect the nation from conspiracy and repression," Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad

Islam and MK Anwar seeking anticipatory bail in the Gatco graft case.

and Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury.

Saifur, who was leading the proreform faction of BNP, is now in Singapore while Amir Khasru has been absconding since the army-led joint forces launched its crackdown on corruption suspects.

Koko have already been detained in connection with the case on September 3 last year, immediately after filing of the case.

Akbar Hossain's wife Jahanara Ansar. The arrestees in the case are former health minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain, former CPA chief finance and accounts officer Ahmed Abul Qashem, former CPA chairman Commodore (retd) Zulfiqur Ali, former CPA chairman AMM Shahadat Hossain, former CPA directors AM Sanwar Hossain. Luthful Kabir, Gatco Managing

The ACC pressed charges against Khaleda and 23 others on May 13 for

China quake

collapsed. Family members who arrived earlier had dug out the Zhou Xiao, who was crushed on the

Experts say buried earthquake

after the first 24 hours. A "slightly bruised" man was pulled out alive from a collapsed hospital Sunday after being

disease and called for quick action to supply clean water and proper

diseases," said Hans Troedsson, WHO's representative to China.

outbreaks so far.

a precaution. The quake damaged some water projects, such as reservoirs and

Worries about possible flooding had sent thousands of people fleeing the day before.

Sunday in the Sichuan provincial capital of Chengdu. "The current suffering of the people of China as a result of this terrible tragedy is in the thoughts

Most of the American supplies

were to be rushed to hard-hit

Beichuan, said Sr. Capt. Guan Youfei of the Chinese Defence Ministry's foreign affairs office. A 24-hour online memorial to the victims sponsored by top Chinese Web sites was launched

Sunday at 2:28 p.m. EDT, exactly six Nuclear facilities jolted by the days after the earthquake, with forums for people to post messages safe, said a man at the Ministry of of sympathy and virtual wreaths for

left the house at around 2:40 pm. Mannan Bhuiyan served as the

BNP standing committee as its memcritical juncture and unity of nationalthe past, it has to play a vital role in the struggle for development of the country and restoration of democracy." The top leader of the 'reformist'

"I also believe that party leaders

Earlier, on June 25 last year, Bhuiyan, accompanied by a number of other BNP leaders, unveiled a 15-point reform proposal that was seen as an attempt to dislodge Khaleda Zia from the post of chairperson. Khaleda Zia was practically under 'house arrest' in

turned into a democratic organisation. According to his proposal, the chairperson would be elected for three years, as opposed to two years at pres-

The proposal angered most the

The top AL leaders also asked the Acting party President Zillur Rahman could not join the discus-

Presidium member Amir Hossain

for forging street movement to free

students' release. The proctor later

nal, whose crimes may earn him death sentence, then the sheltergiver will get maximum 5 years' jail and monetary punishment. The shelter-giver will get maximum ? years in jail and monetary punish-

ment if the perpetrator of crimes is

subject to life imprisonment or any

authority to identify monetary trans-

Bangladesh Bank will have the

other prison terms.

If anyone gives shelter to a crimi-

injail plus monetary punishment.

actions through banking channel for terrorfunding All crimes under the Ordinance will be cognisable and non-bailable One or more anti-terrorism special tribunals can be formed for quick trial. The tribunal comprises a

sessions judge or additional sessions

judge appointed by the government

in consultation with the Supreme

The judge will complete the trial within six months. Appeal can be made in the High Court against the verdict of the special tribunal within In 2006, the previous government had made draft of the Anti-Terrorism Bill and placed it at a cabinet meeting. The cabinet formed a committee

The council of advisers sent back a proposal for Independent Pay Scale for Bangladesh Bank for examining by the law ministry to see whether there is any need for a new act or ordinance for it. A proposal for approval of the

placed by the Finance Division. But the meeting did not consider it. Earlier, the caretaker government "If anybody is member of an in a notification has formed the Committee for making audit report Members of the Advisory Council

secretary and secretaries concerned

Committee Ordinance 2008 was

FROM PAGE 16 budget for implementation of the policy and a ban on politics at

places of worship. Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, said "Religious bigots who opposed liberation war in 1971, have been protesting against women policy in violation of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR). But why has the government not arrested them for violating the EPR? Why has the government formed the so-called review committee comprising

religious bigots?" Khanam warned that the women of the country, a half of the population, would go for tougher steps if the policy is not implemented immediately.

Sultana Kamal, executive direc-

tor of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and

a former adviser to the caretaker

government, said the people were surprised at the controversial measures taken by the caretaker government. "Bigots are opposing the policy to divert the national attention

from the demand for trial of all war criminals," she said. Badiul Alam Mazumder, coun-Bangladesh, said the government should honour its earlier pledge of reserving 40 per cent seats for women at all tiers of the local government system so that women representatives can be elected

through direct elections.

On March 23, the council of advisers approved in principle two ordinances regarding formations and functions of city corporations and municipalities with the provision for reserving 40 per cent of all seats exclusively for women. But following recommendations from a review committee, the council of advisers at a special meeting on April 24 finalised the two ordinances by scrapping the provision for reservation of 40 per cent seats for women.

Ranjan Karmakar of Steps

Towards Bangladesh conducted

the discussion meeting where

among others, Shirin Akhter of

Karmajibi Nari, Dr Mahmuda

Islam of Women for Women,

Rokeya Kabir of Bangladesh Nari

Progati Sangha, Dr Wazedul Islam

Khan of Bangladesh Trade Union

Kendra and Shipa Hafiz of Brac addressed the gathering.

Khaleda

sheeted accused.

FROM PAGE 16 On May 5, the commission pressed charges against Khaleda Zia and 10 others in the case.

Zamir may move the petition on behalf of Khaleda Zia. 1U students FROM PAGE 16 They removed the barricades at

resigned as he failed to free them despite repeated attempts. Chase and counter-chase between students and police ensued yesterday morning as the students tried to put roadblocks on

the busy highway for the second

Nearly 1,000 police have been

deployed in and around the cam-

about 2:00am yesterday after the

university authorities assured

them of securing the arrested

pus to avert further violence. A tense situation was prevailing in the university as the students were demonstrating on the campus demanding the immediate

Desa clerk His insurance plans with Maghbazar and Eskatan branches of American Life Insurance Company total Tk 50 lakh while

shares in Kakrail Imperial

Multipurpose Company are valued

at Tk 50 lakh.

month.

release of the detained students.

Most of his lands and share certificates however are in names of the family members and others, added the sources. Patwari rides in a Toyota minivan worth Tk 18 lakh and lives

in a flat whose rent is Tk 25,000 a

his property, he told The Daily Star,

"I don't own most of the assets

mentioned." For instance, he said, he is not the sole owner of the sixstorey building. Asked about his other assets, he said, "I have given all information on my wealth to the task force." Abul Kalam Azad, executive engineer of the sales and supply

department at Desa

Kamrangirchar office, said,

"Patwari has been working under

me for only last three months. I am

is working to know the extent of

Earlier this year, another task

corruption in Desa.

not aware of his property." Desa sources said Patwari joined Desa on June 16, 1985 as a fourth class employee. Meanwhile, a special task force

force unearthed corruption of crores of taka by a section of staff at Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Limited.

which began on July 11 last year, he

changes. Today, the Ismailis live in some 25 Western Europe.

the view of Islam as a thinking, spiritual faith, one that teaches compassion and tolerance and that upholds As part of the commemoration of the dignity of man, Allah's noblest Prince Aga Khan's Golden Jubilee creation.

FROM PAGE 1

old son survived. survivors can live a week or more,

quake were confirmed Sunday as Environmental Protection's the dead.

Mojaheed said at a press conference at the party office yesterday. The HC also refused to entertain a petition filed jointly by Shamsul

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on May 15 issued arrest warrants against 12 "absconding" accused in the Gatco case. The accused include former ministers M Saifur Rahman, Mannan Bhuiyan, Nizami, MK Anwar, Shamsul Islam

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her younger son Arafat Rahman

The other absconding accused are former shipping secretary Zulfikar Haider Chowdhury, Gatco directors AKM Musa Kajol, Ehsan Yusuf, Shahjahan M Hasib, former member of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) AK Rashid Uddin Ahmed and former shipping minister and late BNP leader Col (retd)

A brief brawl occurred between Director Syed Galib Ahmed, Gatco Director Syed Tanvir Ahmed, and Akbar's son Ismail Hossain Simon.

Although a chase and counter-

first floor. Zhou cradled his wife in his

temperature and whether they have water to drink but that survival prospects diminish rapidly

"Ensuring supply of food and safe drinking water and trying to restore good sanitation are critical because these are basic transmis-

nied the shipment.