officer did not question the then

energy minister issuing a notice

during the course of investigation.

case has been filed after over 10

years and it is clear that the case is

"false and fabricated" and is filed as

Golam Kibria however told report-

ers a police station can record such

a case anytime after it is brought to

Tejgaon Police Station on

the Power Development Board

floated international tenders on

October 24, 1996 for installation of

three barge-mounted plants in

and seven other accused through

mutual understanding and use of

influence helped Wartsila Power

Development Ltd Consortium and

its two local partners win a deal for

setting up a barge-mounted

100MW power plant in Khulna

depriving the lowest bidder.

Summit Group and United Group

few days before and after the deal,

the three companies paid a Tk 3

crore kickback, which was spent for

buying a house with a piece of land

in Dhanmondi for Bangabandhu

Memorial Trust set up and con-

the case on September 19 last year,

while former power secretary

Toufique-e-Elahi surrendered to

the court on January 16. Hasina

was arrested at her Dhanmondi

No more funds

reporters after a meeting of

Executive Committee of National

Economic Council (Ecnec) at the

investment we have already

made... then comes the matter of

investigation," Mirza Aziz said

when journalists referred to a

recent report carried by a vernacu-

lar daily that revealed gross corrup-

tion and political consideration

behind the construction of 2,728

bridges, works of which are still

directed to allocate money to com-

plete approach roads to the neces-

sary bridges, the finance adviser

said adding that the matter came to

their notice around three months

began during the last BNP-Jamaat

alliance at a cost of the Tk 1,000

crore, mainly to benefit the party

as an example, where one bridge

each was build in front the houses

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed,

approved 12 development projects

latest situation of the Annual

Development Programme (ADP),

current fiscal year, a total of Tk

12,233 crore has been spent to

of revised ADP of Tk 22,500 crore

and 46 percent of original ADP (Tk

During the first 10 months of the

This expenditure is 54 percent

The daily cited the case of Bhola

The Ecnec meeting, presided by

The meeting also discussed the

Works of most of these bridges

before the news was published.

members, the news story said.

of 150 BNP and Jamaat leaders.

worth Tk 1,057 crore.

meeting insiders said.

implement the ADP.

26,500 crore).

The ministries concerned were

residence on July 16 last year.

Hasina was shown arrested in

trolled by Hasina.

FROM PAGE 16

finance ministry.

unfinished.

The case also mentions that a

are the local partners of Wartsila.

During Hasina's tenure, Hasina

Haripur, Shikalbaha and Khulna.

Prosecution counsel Advocate

The ACC filed the case with

According to the case details,

part of a "blueprint".

their cognisance.

September 2, 2007.

The lawyers went on to say the

AL, BNP talk to allies 3 murdered

FROM PAGE 1 except for Rashed Khan Menon's Workers' Party of Bangladesh, has yet made any such demand for the release of Hasina.

Both the AL acting President Zillur Rahman and BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain have been demanding immediate release of their party chiefs without further delay to make the dialogue meaningful and

fruitful. 4-PARTY ALLIANCE MEETING

The other demands of the fourparty alliance include lifting of the state of emergency, announcement of a specific poll date, introducing rationing system and ensuring enough food supply, controlling prices of essentials and taking necessary steps to resolve the power, water and fertiliser crises, reopen the laid-off industries and ensure employment, among others.

Briefing journalists after the alliance's meeting at his Nam flat, Khandaker Delwar said, "The government must release Khaleda Zia without further delay if it wants to make the dialogue meaningful and fruitful."

Asked if they will participate in the dialogue, he said the decision would be taken through further discussion within the party as well as the alliance. He said they had not yet sent the names of their representatives to the talks.

BNP standing committee member RA Gani, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and Joint Secretary General Abdul Quader Mollah, Islami Oikya Jote Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Andalib Rahman Partha and Secretary General Shamim Al Mamun were present at the meeting with Delwar in the chair. The meeting started at 4:00pm and lasted for one and a half hours.

The meeting marked the first activity of the four-party alliance after 16 months; its last meeting was held on January 22 last year at Hawa Bhaban. The alliance leaders did not even issue any statement after Khaleda's arrest.

Delwar said they discussed all the burning political, economic and social issues and prepared a 14-point common demand, which, he said, must be realised to make the dialogue successful.

Delwar also demanded withdrawal of the Gatco case and release of political leaders including Shamsul Islam, MK Anwar and Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami.

He said the chief adviser's address to the nation created a lot of confusions in the people's minds and the government would be responsible if the dialogue fails.

He urged the Election Commission to refrain from impleparliamentary polls. He also asked the commission why it is delaying preparation of the complete voter

Replying to a query, Delwar said at the meeting.

they would not take part in any election if they reach a consensus

tion, he said the decision to hold to be cancelled and interferences immediately.

Mojaheed said the release of not just their party chief Nizami but also Hasina and Khaleda is necessary to make the dialogue fruitful. "The government has to prove its sincerity for the success of the dialogue," he said.

Asked why Jamaat did not demand Khaleda's release after her arrest, Mojaheed said their ameer was in Saudi Arabia at that time and that he talked about the matter after his return.

AL-SAMYABADI DAL MEETING As part of its series of bilateral talks, the AL yesterday held a meeting with the Samyabadi Dal, one of the components in the 14-party com-

Held at AL acting President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence, both the parties observed successful without the participation of Hasina and her party.

The meeting asked the government to withdraw the state of emergency ahead of the parliamentary elections.

Briefing newsmen, Zillur said the AL had not decided yet whether to join the dialogue and the Samyabadi Dal also expressed views about Hasina's release similar to the AL.

Samyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua said his party would join the dialogue and request the government to ensure Hasina's participation in the dialogue to make it successful. He expressed hope that the AL would

Senior leaders of both the parties were present at the meeting.

The Islamic Front Bangladesh (IFB) at a meeting with the AL yesterday demanded immediate release of Hasina and other political detain-

Addressing the meeting held at Zillur's residence, the IFB leaders asked the AL not to join the dialogue and the election if Hasina is not released. They urged the AL to make the AL-led grand electoral alliance active further to press home the demand.

Zillur assured them that they would make the grand alliance active ahead of the parliamentary

IFB Chairman Allama Syed menting a certain quarter's interest forging a united movement for the and holding any election before the trial of the war criminals and barring them from taking part in the

AL leaders Tofail Ahmed and

Jalil charge sheet

FROM PAGE 1

wealth worth Tk 35.08 lakh beyond his known sources of income and concealing information about assets worth Tk 36.04 lakh.

be charged with illegal money transfer and hiding information about money amounting to Tk5

The charge sheet in the case filed with Ramna Police Station on December 18, 2007 will be submitted under sections 26(2) and 27(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, section 13 of the Money Laundering Preventing Act, 2002 and section 15 of the Emergency Power Rules,

Hanif told the briefing that the ACC has also approved the submission of charge sheets in the cases Islam. against former BNP lawmaker Major (retd) Manjur Quader and 11 others, AL Religious Affairs Secretary Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, typist/personal officer of the land ministry Kutubuddin Ahmed and former RHD administrative officer and CBA leader Abul Kalam Shamsuddin.

Manjur Quader and 11 others will be charge-sheeted for corruption relating to CI sheets while three other individuals will be charge-sheeted for concealing information and acquiring wealth beyond their known sources of

Hanif at the briefing said the ACC has also decided to exempt eight accused individuals from a case, as they were found not guilty

during the investigation. He said the ACC has approved the submission of the final report of

the case as 'mistake of fact'. The case was filed against eight people with Dhanmondi Police

Station on January 10, 2008.

Those accused in the first information report (FIR) are Mozammel Haque, additional chief engineer of R&H department, Dhaka Zone, Mominul Haque, additional chief engineer of R&H, Dhaka, Rafiqul Islam, additional chief engineer of trate and police and CID personnel R&H, Comilla, Abdullah-hel-Kafi,

that the election will not be neutral.

Demanding cancellation of the gazette of constituency demarcathe local government elections before the parliamentary ones has in judiciary should be stopped

join the dialogue.

AL-IFB MEETING

Bahadur Shah Mujaddedi urged the government to stop harassing political leaders and filing cases against them. He also suggested

Akhtaruzzaman were also present

chief engineer of Bangladesh

Bridge Authority, AHM Moinul Islam Chowdhury, deputy project director of R&H, Tapash Kumar Pal, project director of Rupsha Bridge The detained AL leader will also Project of R&H, Ali Masud Haider, executive engineer of the chief engineer's office in Dhaka, and

> Meanwhile, five corrupt suspects, including Islam Group Chairman Manjurul Islam, Orion Group chairman Obaidul Karim's wife Arjuda Karim and son Salman Obaidul Karim, have submitted their wealth statements to the ACC.

Momtaz Uddin, owner of Rimi

Two others who have also submitted their wealth statements to the commission are former MP Abdul Wahab and accountant of Ideal School and College Zahirul

Rab mess

FROM PAGE 1

Construction.

Farid Miah who is also a cook of the mess, was arrested for his suspected involvement in the murder and was being interrogated.

Mohammad Habibullah was found dead at about 2:00pm at the Rab-10 office near the Lalbagh

Flt Lt Humayun Kabir, public relations in-charge of Rab-10, told The Daily Star that the boy from Kishoreganj had been working in the mess for six to seven days.

"There was an injury mark on his lips but we are not yet sure whether he was killed," he said.

"After the dead body was found, we informed police and filed a murder case," Humayun said, adding, "As Sainik Farid Miah was inside the mess, he was arrested on suspicion."

Rab sources said the boy had been working at the Rab-10 head office at Dhalpur for the last three months and was shifted to the Lalbagh camp a week ago.

Lalbagh police said there was injury marks on the boy's head, throat and knee.

Following the incident, a magisrushed to the spot.

The two youths killed at a city hotel were identified as Anwar Sadat Khan Russel, 25, Mohammad Makhon Khan, 25, and the injured as Haider Ali, 25.

Of them, Russell was a leaseholder of a small jetty in Kishoreganj and son of former Jafrabad UP chairman Asaduzzaman while Makhon and Haider work as scrap metal traders in city's Tejgaon Industrial Area.

Gulshan police said they recovered the three youths from near Hotel Tajat about 1:00am and rushed to them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared Makhon dead on arrival.

Russel died at about 2:00am and Haider is said to be critical condition. All three victims hail from

Jafrabad Union under Karimganj upazila in Kishoreganj and were Police said that the youths had

been beaten brutally inside the hotel and the hotel staff had locked up the hotel and fled after the incident. The reason behind the beating is

notknown yet, police said. The three friends had met up on Wednesday night at around 10 pm in Nimtola in Old Dhaka where Makhan and Haider had gone on

business. Russell's uncle Emran'Hasan told that the dialogue would not be | The Daily Star, "Russell came to Dhaka last Monday for a hearing in the court in a dispute over a lease for Chamrabandh Kheyaghat in

Karimganj. "There are feuds between Russell's father, an three-times elected chairman, and the present chairman over several issues. We suspect the present chairman may be involved in the murders", he said.

Russell's father has filed a case with Gulshan police station accusing 21 people, most of them his village opponents.

Paltan Police discovered Jewel's from Nayapaltan Balurmath at about Police said unidentified gunmen shot him and fled the scene. The reason behind the attack is not

known. In another incident, unidentified criminals at East Rampura shot at a

newspaper hawker at 12:30pm. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

EC violated

FROM PAGE 1

election intentionally.

"They could have completed the voter list, identity cards and other processes for holding the polls much before. But they killed time to make sure the election cannot be held before December this year," he added.

Shahdeen Malik, counsel for the EC, on the other hand, placed stress on the HC's observation that the decision to hold the parliamentary election in December is reasonable. He said whether to file an appeal

with the apex court against the judgment would be decided later. Earlier on April 30, the court

asked the polls body to inform it through affidavit when it would have the voter list ready and hold the next parliamentary election.

The EC in its statement to the court did not mention any specific date for election.

It said it would hold a free, fair and acceptable election by the year-end, and announce the election date in due course.

The statement also informed the court that over 6.41 crore people have been registered as voters as of May 2.

Desa engineer

FROM PAGE 16 Asked about his properties,

Majibur said, "It is not possible to enumerate all my properties verbally because there are several pieces of land at different places. "The task force officials called me to their office and I submitted

my wealth report to them," he said,

adding, "There is no complaint against me as I have always paid my taxes regularly.' Replying to another question, Majibur said he was never involved

in any corruption and illegal activi-Desa sources said all of its about 4,500 staffers submitted their wealth statements to the task force

which has so far interrogated 250

Desa employees. CU student

FROM PAGE 16

The VC assured the students of giving Tk 5 lakh to Mamun's family before next Sunday and taking proper steps to solve the transport crisis immediately.

The students around 3:30pm withdrew the blockade and left. Meanwhile, Railway East Zone Divisional Manager Ibrahim Khalil told The Daily Star that they formed a three-member probe body headed by Divisional Commercial Officer SM Shahnewaj to investigate the incident.

has been asked to submit its report by tomorrow [Friday] and if anyone is found guilty he or she would be punished. Mamun, son of Mohammad Ali of Bahuli village of Patiya upazila in

Ibrahim said, "The committee

Chittagong, was living with his cousin Omar Ali at the city's Bakalia Omar said he had been looking after Mamun as Mamun's father

Mamun has three younger sisters living with his mother at his village home.

village around 4:00pm, sources said.

lives in Oman.

Hasina's trial

FROM PAGE 1 on investigation during over twohour trial at the special court set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises from 10:00am.

The trial began at the court of Special Judge Firoz Alam on Wednesday.

The judge adjourned trial at 12:25pm and fixed May 25 (Sunday) morning for further proceedings after Hasina's lawyers filed a petition seeking adjournment for the day.

Before adjournment the judge, however, reminded the defence that they will have to complete trial within the stipulated time. The detained Awami League

chief, Hasina, was taken to the court around 10:00am. Another accused, former power secretary Dr Toufique-e-Elahi Chowdhury

was also hauled before the court. The defence asked the plaintiff whether he knows anything about rewarding 10 ACC officials on June 28 last year. He replied he cannot recall anything like that.

In response to another question whether he would be rewarded if Hasina was punished, he said, "It's not true. As the defence asked Sabbir

whether he has filed the case following directives of a group of "identified conspirators" active to tarnish the image of Hasina, he denied, saying he filed the case as per procedures.

Asked why he did not mention the name of Hasina's mother in the FIR, the plaintiff said it was not intentional

When the defence asked him whether he or his father was a freedom fighter, the prosecution objected and said the Liberation War is a great matter and should not arise here.

The defence later told newspersons they raised the question as the plaintiff did not write "Bir Bikram" after the name of an accused despite the nation awarded him the gallantry award for his heroic role in the War of Liberation.

Advocate Syed Razanur Rahman mainly cross-examined the plaintiff when some other lawyers including advocates Yusuf Hossain Humayun and Shahara Khatun assisted him. Asked whether Hasina told

them anything, the lawyers said she had suggested her trial not be held under electric fan using electricity generated by the power plants, for installation of which she has been made accused. They also said the plaintiff earlier on Wednesday told the court Hasina herself took the kickbacks

awarded contract for installing three barge-mounted power plants. But in the FIR (first information report) he mentioned Hasina did not receive the money directly. They said the investigation of the case was not carried out law-

from two companies, which were

fully as the investigation officer did it being "directed" by high-ups in ACC and from outside.

They also said the investigation

BSF kills 1 FROM PAGE 16

5:00am. Kafiluddin received bullets and died instantly. Immediately after the incident, the Indian border guards took away

the body. BDR sent a letter to its Indian counterpart demanding return of the body. Responding to the letter, The

BSF authorities said they will hand

over the body after a flag meeting

Judge Golam Mortuza

Majumder of the Special Court for

Dhaka Division also acquitted

detained former chairman of

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank AKM

Mosharraf Hossain and four others

The four others are Managing

Director (MD) of M/s Three Star

Poultry Farm Ltd Jahangir Kabir,

directors of the farm Firoz Kabir,

Borhan Uddin and Jahangir's wife

According to the prosecution,

former president Ershad and for-

mer chairman of Bangladesh Shilpa

Bank AKM Mosharraf Hossain,

allegedly abusing power, directed

the authorities concerned to sanc-

tion Tk 35 lakh loan in favour of M/s

Three Star Poultry Farm Ltd on

Golam Mortuza, an official of the

now defunct Bureau of Anti-

corruption, filed the graft case with

Motijheel Police Station against

Ershad, Mosharraf and four others

on April 22, 1991. The investigation

officer pressed charges against

Ershad and five others on

During the judgment, Ershad,

Mosharraf, Firoz and Borhan were

scheduled for today.

FROM PAGE 1

in the case.

Nurunnahar Shelly.

September 4, 1979.

November 6, 1991.

to harass him.

and Shelly were absent.

Ershad acquitted in his judgment adding: "I found no

he was deposed in a popular uprisevidence of misuse of power by ing in 1990. In August and September 2006, he was acquitted Earlier, the court recorded statein four graft cases following his ments of eight prosecution witannouncement of joining the BNPnesses, including the complainant led four-party alliance. He was also and the investigation officer (IO), of acquitted in a gold smuggling case.

Trial of the case began on May 30 last year. The proceeding of the case remained stayed for a long time due to a High Court order even though the charges were framed on July 7, 1992.

THREE CASES PENDING

Three other corruption cases filed against Ershad have been pending with the same court for a long time.

According to the statement of the first case filed with Tejgaon Police Station in 1992, Ershad, while in power, allegedly directed the authorities concerned to purchase ENG (electronic news-gathering) equipment worth about Tk 2.93 crore for his and his wife's use even though all broadcasting facilities were available at his secretariat.

According to the second case filed with the same police station, it was alleged that Ershad, defying the authorities' decision, directed people concerned to accept donations from France instead of Finland to set up Microwave Telephone A press statement from the Lines in 49 upazilas. The govern-DGHS yesterday said following an ment had to pay Tk 28 crore to investigation of DGHS and France in interest, as the plan was not implemented finally, sources

present in the court while Jahangir In the third case filed with the Cantonment Police Station on May Soon after the verdict, Ershad 4, 1992, it was alleged that Ershad expressed his satisfaction, saying directed the authorities concerned the case was filed on false allegation to purchase two high-power radars for Bangladesh Air Forces violating "The prosecution could not the recommendation of the radar prove the charges brought against evaluation team. It allegedly caused Mamun's body was sent to his | Ershad and five others. So, they are a loss of Tk 64 crore to the governacquitted of charges," the judge said ment.

Govt pledges

FROM PAGE 1

In terms of local elections, he said nothing would be done to distract the government's focus from the general elections.

Meanwhile in the other dialogue in the afternoon, a BDB delegation led by former president and party chief Badruddoza Chowdhury proposed greater balance between presidential and prime ministerial power and shortening government terms to four years.

The BDB delegates also proposed formation of a constitutional commission, demanded withdrawal of the state of emergency but asked for a "protective" emergency during polls. They also suggested the next government must be based on a consensus.

BDB leader Mahi B Chowdhury told a joint press briefing after the meet they asked the government to balance the power between the president and the prime minister because they feel the president's role is too ceremonial.

ment's tenure should be curtailed to four years, but a referendum would be held after its first two years in office to check if it still carries the popular mandate. If not, BDB proposes, the govern-

He also said the elected govern-

power to an interim government. He also said the next elections, and therefore the next government, have to be a "consensus government" to build the country's

"democratic future". Mahi said they also proposed a greater representation of civil society leaders, women and minorities in parliament.

Sweden Aslam

FROM PAGE 16 After cross-examination of 11 pros-

ecution witnesses, Judge Mohammad Motiar Rahman of the Special Tribunal-7 handed down the verdict in presence of the con-"Our first priority is to utilise the vict Sweden in a packed courtroom. According to the prosecution, a

> team of policemen raided a house city's in Agargoan area on May 25, 1997. They arrested Wahid and seized a revolver with six bullets from the house. Based on information given by Wahid, police arrested Shariful

> Islam who told them that Aslam

had given him the firearm and

ammunition. An arms case was filed with Mohammadpur police and charges were pressed against Aslam and two others on July 15 the same year. Aslam was arrested on May 20

Earlier he was acquitted from a charge in another case on October 17,2006.

JP rejects

FROM PAGE 16

"Our party is registered with the Election Commission as Jatiya Party, not as Jatiya Party (Ershad), the letter said adding, "We, therefore, could not accept the letter that has addressed our party within

brackets.' "It was also disgraceful that my name was not mentioned in the invitation letter as the secretary general of the party," Hawlader told

The Daily Star. Jatiya Party said after getting a 'corrected' letter from the government, they would take decision about joining the dialogue in consultation with the party leaders.

"We will think about taking part in the dialogue if the government sends us a corrected letter," JP presidium member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu told The Daily Star.

On May 19, pro-Khaleda faction of BNP also rejected the government invitation letter to the formal dialogue at first, saying it did not address party secretary general Khandaker Delwar Hossain prop-

It later accepted the government invitation when a new letter was sent mentioning Delwar as the

party secretary general. Child infected

FROM PAGE 16

positive," said Prof Mahmudur Rahman, director of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR). He said Bangladesh has no proper facilities to culture viruses.

The boy, who lives in Kamalapur

in Dhaka, was cured without any

medicine for Influenza. He was

provided with medicines for respi-

ratory infection for 14 days, he said survival after H5N1 strain infection is 40 percent across the globe, he As the particular child was not considered a suspected H5N1 infection case, its samples was not sent abroad at that time, he added.

ICDDR,B, it was confirmed that the child is now totally cured. The National Advisory Committee meeting on Avian Influenza yesterday reviewed the overall bird flu situation in the country. The meeting decided to strengthen DGHS's steps to combat Avian Influenza.

Experts in the meeting also said the Avian Influenza situation of the country is under control and there is nothing to be worried about.

PSI system of imports

FROM PAGE 1

sat with them several times to conclude unanimously that PSI is no permanent system and it should be withdrawn after a provisional period on expiry of the present contracts, read the April 9 document of the Internal Resources Division of the finance ministry.

In Asia, the mandatory PSI system exists only in Bangladesh and Cambodia, with Pakistan discarding the arrangement in late nineties after a brief stint. The voluntary PSI system was introduced in 1992 by then BNP government, and it was made mandatory 8 years later in a bid to help generate revenue by minimising widespread corruption in customs and ending hassle for importers in clearing goods quickly.

"The PSI system is like a caretaker government. It is no permanent solution," NBR Chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid told The Daily Star. He also hoped that the one-year

target is quite realistic for his board to take over the charge, adding that it however depends on three ifs to complete capacity building. His three ifs include sufficient

manpower, end to litigation and

completion of automation. Meanwhile, the committee ment would immediately hand over advised NBR to go for all-out drive in capacity the building of the customs during the interim period of two years, recommending it either to renew the present PSI contract or to

initiate fresh appointments. Against a backdrop of controversy surrounding appointment of PSI agencies, the government wants to ensure transparency in the licence awarding process.

PSI agencies this time will be selected in accordance with the procedure set out in the Public Procurement Act, 2006 and the Public Procurement Rules, 2008, and any persuasion will disqualify a contract aspirant.

Different business chambers

spoke against rushing back to non-

PSI era as the customs department

could not yet offer the kind of service businesses require to stay in the race of highly competitive market. Their worries were echoed in the analysis of the NBR committee, which felt that customs officials became too much dependent on the

PSI system, lamenting the facts that

Escapee shot

During the raid Tagar's accomplices from GMF shot at the elite force and a half-hour long gun battle ensued. Tagar was shot when he tried to escape from the police van while the

other GMF cadres managed to flee. Tagar was rushed to the Kushtia General Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead at about 5:30am.

The top criminal hailed from Housing Estate area of Kushtia town, and is an accused in 13 cases including four for murder. He was arrested Court sentenced him to to 50 years Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) in 2005.

He was also known as BNP cadre

close to a former lawmaker in the district. The three other criminals who escaped from prison on May 16 are Aktaruzzaman Sohag, Abdul Hamid and Jorap Ali alias Bachchu. Of them, Abdul Hamid was

arrested at Chaighoria village in Chuadanga on May 17. He was also shot when he tried to escape from police custody and

is now under treatment. Meanwhile law enforcers are continuing their efforts to trace down the remaining two escapees. Superintendent of police Chuadanga Mafiz Uddin told

reporters yesterday that the police is

determined to arrest the criminals.

meantime beefed up security

The government has in the

systems in all 16 jails in Khulna and Barisal divisions. The numbers of guards in those prisons have also been increased. More police have been deployed at different jails while police patrols

have also been increased.

no valuation database could be built as yet and the skill and training that require in customs to man corruption of this level is missing.

The committee also stressed effective coordination between stakeholders and the customs authorities before saying bye to the mandatory PSI system after eight

The government also reacts at reports of mind-blowing instances of corruption through the PSI system abuse by increasing financial penalties for irregularities in many In an attempt to discourage PSI companies from the tendency of

frequent litigation against customs penalties, the government has also decided to withhold the service charges of related companies till disposal of cases. "I'm sure these stringent provisions are going to discourage many PSI companies to vie for the job in

Bangladesh," said a top PSI executive, preferring not to be named. "The sweeping allegations of irregularities against PSI companies are baseless. It's always not a fact that PSI companies were involved in under-invoicing to help cause revenue loss," he said, adding that there are a lot of instances where PSI companies upped the declared prices by

Clarification

importers significantly.

FROM PAGE 1

3) The vehicle was imported by opening L/C with due permission from Bangladesh Bank. 4) Almost 200 percent tax, which

Supplementary Duty, VAT, AIT, License fee etc. was paid on the said vehicle. 5) The cost of the vehicle was

financed through a loan taken from

IIDFC at 14.75% interest.

includes Customs Duty,

6) The vehicle was cleared after a through investigation by a 5member committee comprising high ranking customs officials. 7) Furthermore, a hearing was called by NBR after the vehicle was

cleared by customs and I person-

ally attended the hearing and

provided detailed information and documentation on the said vehicle to their complete satisfaction. Therefore, the mention of the

dictourreport.

FROM PAGE 16 The court scheduled Sunday for the hearing on the petition in presence of the two detained Huji

Party of Bangladesh (CPB) rally on in 2002 and the Chuadanga Judges January 20, 2001 at Paltan Maidan killed five people and injured many Idris and Monir are also accused

> 21, 2001 grenade attack on an Awami League rally and the April 14, 2001 bombing of the Pahela Baishakh celebrations at Ramna Idris and Monir are relatives. Investigation officer of the case

in the attack. He said they would be able to make a significant breakthrough in the case and identify and arrest others involved in the attack if the

gated in remand. have so far been shown arrested in the case.

Gatco graft case

Legal experts have said that even if the absconding accused don't appear before the court on the scheduled date, the trial could be continued in their absence.

adding that perhaps the infection | Yusuf, Shahjahan M Hasib, and was not that strong. The chances of | former shipping minister and late BNP leader Col (retd) Akbar Hossain's wife Jahanara Ansar. The same court on May 15 issued arrest warrants against the 12 absconding accused in the case, including former ministers M

> Following the order, Mannan, M Shamsul Islam and MK Anwar surrendered before the court and were sent to jail while Nizami was arrested and was sent to jail after being produced before the court.

container handling work at depots in Dhaka and Chittagong. NADIM MOSTAFA CASE Another Dhaka court yesterday allowed the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to freeze the

bank accounts of former BNP

lawmaker Advocate Nadim

Mostafa and his wife Nurunnahar

September 2 last year against 13

people, including Khaleda and her

son, for graft in awarding Gatco

Parul in connection with a case filed against them for amassing wealth through illegal means. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order after ACC Assistant Director SM Rashedur Raja, also the IO of the case, submitted a petition seeking permission to freeze Nadim and his wife's bank

tioned that Nadim and his wife deposited a huge amount of money in different bank accounts that should be frozen for the sake of proper investigation into the case. ACC Assistant Director Ali Akbar

filed the case against Nadim and his wife Parul on December 12 last The ACC filed the case with year for amassing Tk 3,03,23,139

"apparent over-pricing in The Daily Star report is most unfortu-OURREPLY

The clarification does not contra-

operatives--Maulana Idris Ali and Maulana Monir Hossain. The blast at the Communist

in a number of grenade and bomb attack cases including the cases filed in connection with the August

CID Inspector Delwar Hossain in the forwarding report placed before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday claimed the two were involved

two were allowed to be interro-Several other Huji leaders and activists including the outfit's detained top leader Mufti Hannan

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The other absconding accused are former shipping secretary Zulfikar Haider Chowdhury, Gatco directors AKM Musa Kajol, Ehsan

Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Matiur Rahman Nizami, MK Anwar, M Shamsul Islam and Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on May 13 pressed charges against Khaleda and 23 others for committing the offences.

Tejgaon Police Station on illegally.

accounts. In the petition, the IO men-