# AL won't join talks

Besides, a mass signature campaign would be launched across the country next month to press home the six-point demand that includes release of Hasina, lifting of the state of emergency and announcement of a schedule for the long-stalled ninth parliamen-

The working committee's decisions will be announced formally

According to meeting sources, the party will write to the government in a couple of days, asking for measures to ensure Hasina's presence in the dialogue.

It will also seek her release without delay so that she could choose in consultation with her party colleagues the other members of the AL delegation.

Hossain Chowdhury said they should have some plans as to what should the party do in the event of its president being convicted.

Besides, he added, it should have strategies to deal with matters relating to constituency delimitation and upazila elections. "We must be proactive not reactive," he observed.

Referring to Hasina's view in favour of election, he said the party should always keep its options

Saber, also political secretary to the AL chief, said the party should not hurry to make its stance clear when the polls are "still far off".

As the other participants agreed, the committee decided to leave the election issue to be settled

Abdul Mannan, another organising secretary, proposed that the party hold extended meeting in all

pation of former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, now in detention, the political dialogue and national election wouldn't be meaningful, the leaders said.

"We will soon make public our party position on the dialogue," a BNP standing committee member

Hasina's participation.

districts, upazilas and thanas to strengthen organisational abilities and exchange views with the likeminded political parties and professional bodies to mobilise their support.

Akhtaruzzaman, also an organising secretary, suggested initiating a countrywide mass signature campaign demanding release of the party chief and submit the signatures to the district and local administration.

The working committee adopted the proposal for the signature campaign and decided to launch it in the first week of June, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

As Information and Research Secretary Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin proposed sending the government a letter containing names of the AL delegates to the talks with Hasina's on top, Organising Secretary Abdur Rahman suggested that only the AL chief's name should be in the letter.

"On release, she will select the other representatives in consultation with party leaders, otherwise we should not participate in the dialogue," he said at the meeting. His proposal was accepted unani-

### Obama signaling he will fight for Western states

AP, Las Cruces

It's the first event on the first day of a campaign swing through three Western states, and Barack Obama is covering all his bases.

He's got patriotism, a Memorial Day event for veterans. He's got cowboys, the location is the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. He's got Hispanic voters, Gov. Bill Richardson introduced him. He's even got a nod to the environment: The Organ Mountains loom behind him as birds sing and the warm New Mexico wind blows.

Obama is signaling, even before the Democratic primary formally wraps up, that he intends to fight this fall for Western states that narrowly went Republican four years ago.

New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado aren't definitely Democratic blue or Republican red. Instead, they're known as "purple states" by political junkies.

Together, they account for only 19 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House. But those votes could be vital in a close race, particularly if Obama's weakness among white, blue-collar voters carries over from the primary race and cuts his chance of winning some other states where Democrats usually do well.

"We're going to fight as hard as we can in these states. We want to send the message now that we're to join the dialogue or the election going to go after them and I expect without party chief Sheikh to win them," the Illinois senator said Monday.

## Jalil charged

Jalil had been ill since his detention. He was first taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on June 4 last year after complaining of chest pain.

Later, he was shifted to LabAid Cardiac Hospital for treatment of kidney complications. Five medical boards were constituted to monitor his health since his arrest.

year, Jalil pleaded with the government for his release on humanitar ian grounds, and said if necessary, he would quit politics.

Considering his illness, the caretaker government set him free on parole on March 3 this year and Jalil flew off to Singapore the same

The former minister submitted his wealth statement of properties worth about Tk 63 lakh to the ACC on August 18, 2007 through the jail authorities.

The first information report (FIR) of the case said Jalil in his wealth statement concealed information about Tk 21.25 lakh he had spent building a house at Chakdeb in Naogaon and another Tk 33 lakh for constructing a hotel and a mar-

found that Jalil had amassed wealth worth Tk 36 lakh illegally and concealed information about wealth worth Tk3 lakh in the statement.

In the charge sheet, the IO mentioned that the charges brought against the accused were primarily proved and he should be brought to

Forty-three people were shown as prosecution witnesses in the

The case will be transferred to

information about his wife's gold ornaments worth Tk 3 lakh and Tk 7.2 lakh spent for purchasing two cars, the FIR added.

According to the FIR, the former minister's illegally accumulated properties include a three-storey building on eight decimals of land in Naogaon worth Tk 41 lakh and 61 decimals of land worth Tk 40,000 in Bhimpur of Mohadevpur.

### Falu sued

Ashulia police filed a case against Falu and several other unnamed officials and employees of the factory.

Falu also faces a number of other cases in connection with graft, trials of several of which already started.

also convicted earlier in absentia for tax evasion.

### Home mulls

FROM PAGE 16

acquitted

Officials at the home ministry told The Daily Star that the move was made after Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed last month instructed the ministry to report him about the present status of the case and the outcome of its trial.

The CA's directive came soon after his return to the country following his recent visit to the United Kingdom where expatriate Bangladeshis, especially those from Sylhet region, complained to him that justice had been denied in the murder case of the UK expatriate Bangladeshi. The CA assured the expatriate Bangladeshis of

injured as he was caught up in a brawl with customs officials inside injuries at Dhaka Medical College

Hospital. A murder case was filed with Cantonment Police Station on May 25 the same year, accusing three customs officials -- Syed Humayun Akhter, Abdul Haq and Mokbul

Hossain -- along with a foreign national named Edward Jacob. the four accused and submitted charge sheet against the accused

four accused on grounds of weak investigation and charge sheet. A senior home ministry official told The Daily Star on Monday, "The case had strong witnesses, but the police failed to produce them during the hearings, resulting

in acquittal of the accused." details of the murder, its investigation and the outcome of the trial has been prepared for the CA. "We are going to explain the chief adviser why the accused had been

acquitted." An appeal against the judgment of the lower court was filed with the High Court (HC), but the HC upheld the verdict of the lower court. Later, a leave to appeal was also filed with the Supreme Court, which also upheld the previous

ministry seeking its suggestions as to whether a plea to review the verdict could be filed," said the home ministry official adding that they would send a letter to the CA once the law ministry entertains their request.

## Most houses

covers only 30 percent buildings in the city. The rest 70 percent buildings should have soak wells, but almost none of those has it, Wasa sources say

"Though we don't have a monitoring system, we know most of the city buildings do not have any soak well system," said a Wasa high official.

The Wasa chief engineer at a recent seminar on river pollution said, "We should not be blamed for polluting the rivers by discharging human waste. We get less excreta than our capacity in the sewage treatment plant.

The authorities say their sewage management service covers different city areas including Dhanmondi, Shyamoli, Tejgaon, Basabo, Dhaka University, Azimpur, Mohammadpurand Old Dhaka.

Right now Wasa has a 2,533.73 kilometres of underground water pipeline network against 881 kilometres of sewage pipeline. The sources say most of the

buildings in Mirpur, Uttara, Kafrul, Baridhara, Kalyanpur, Amin Bazar, Gulshan, Mohakhali, Banani, Badda and other adjoining areas discharge sewage into the water bodies, as there is no sewage network in these areas.

"So, possibly house owners from these areas connect their sewage pipeline to the storm sewerage drainage," said a Wasa high official asking not to be named.

He however admitted that they "don't have any sort of monitoring system"

When the city groundwater level is depleting several metres a year and Wasa has to put extra chemicals to treat supply water, the government does not have any effective steps to manage excreta or stop discharging excreta into the water bodies.

Asked why they don't ensure sewage connection for the house owners where a network is available, Wasa officials say they don't have any such system.

Over the years, lack of effective management and proper maintenance by the authorities has made the sewage connections more and more ineffective.

Officials say the city storm sewerage drainage and sewage connections have crossed and got mixed up at several spots.

During a recent visit to Narinda central sewage pumping station, one of the pump operators said they were not supposed to get stuffs other than excreta as they are only dealing with sewage connections.

"But we find the city dwellers shit shoes, cow horns, green coconut, brick bats and what not. Storm sewerage drainage network and sewage connection crossed in several places. So all the other rubbish is getting mixed with excreta and coming to the treatment plant," he said.

# Minus-2 'conspiracy'

FROM PAGE 1

Alam of Special Court 1, set up on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises in the capital, fixed the next date for hearing the deposition of prosecution witness Sub-inspector AK Anwarul Islam, recording officer of

Sajawar Hossain, a counsel of former power secretary Dr Toufique-e-Elahi Chowdhury, cross examined MM Sabbir Hasan, an Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) deputy director also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, for the fifth day. The court yesterday also wit-

nessed a rather heated argument of 15 minutes between Judge Firoz Alam and defence lawyer Sajawar Hossain before the trial proceeding

At the beginning of the proceedings the judge asked Sajawar to start cross examining the witness, but the defence counsel started with a grievance against the judge's conduct during the proceedings of the day before. Sajawar said the judge scolded him on Monday, 'which he cannot do'. "You can't scold me," the defence counsel said.

In reply, the judge said the court was not Sajawar's 'drawing room' and as a lawyer he cannot ask the court to explain its conduct. The judge told Sajawar that his behav iour was 'tantamount to contempt of the court'. Then he asked Sajawar again to start cross examining the

As the defence lawyer did not heed the judge's command and kept harping on the matter instead, the judge got angry and slammed a bundle of files he was holding on the table saying, "I've been a judge for the last 28 years and now you are

teaching me the proceedings?" The judge said Sajawar was not allowed to ask the judge for any explanation for his behaviour in the court, but he has the right to file an appeal with the High Court if he had been hurt by the judge's behaviour in the court on Monday. He can also petition the HC for changing the court, but cannot ask the court to

explain its conduct, the judge

"I can hold you in contempt of the court," the judge warned Sajawar. You must start the cross exami-

nation as the court have asked you to do," the Judge told the defence counsel, pointing out that it is only right for the court to ask him to elaborate if it does not understand his suggestions. Sajawar's conduct in the court in

the presence of a former prime minister was regrettable, the judge said adding that counsels should have been mindful of the court's dignity considering the presence of a former premier in the dock. Sajawar started the cross exami-

nation after senior defence lawyers apologised to the court for his con-

Before starting the trial proceed ings, the detained AL chief told her counsels that the court may pro hounce whatever verdict it pleases. but her conscience will know that she is innocent.

"Many big fishes are being released because they have money, she said adding, "Love and money can never be hidden.' Hasina's counsels said she told

them that whether she had been involved in corruption can be known by inspecting the wealth she had before her tenure as a prime minister and what she has now. Quoting Hasina, the defence

lawyers told reporters that the AI chief is very ill and she feels that she has lost 50 percent of her eyesight. They also said they petitioned

the court seeking regular medical check up for Hasina. Defence lawyer Abdul Mannan said AL is in favour of elections and dialogues but the dialogues will not be successful unless the govern

ment meets the demands of the rank and file of AL. During a news briefing after yesterday's court proceedings Sajawar Hossain said he did not do anything in the court that might be considered as contempt of the court

# Myanmar junta

most recent period in detention began on May 30, 2003, when her convoy was ambushed while she toured upcountry. The junta says four people were

killed in that attack, but the party puts the toll at nearly 100. After the ambush, Aung San Suu Kyi was initially confined at the notorious Insein prison, but was

allowed to return to her home in September 2003. About 100 uniformed and plainclothes police, along with pro-junta militia, patrolled around the rambling lakeside house in Yangon

ahead of the afternoon meeting. Earlier Tuesday, about 30 of her supporters tried to march towards her home, but security forces broke up the protest and arrested 16 people including a 12-year-old boy, a spokesman from her National League for Democracy party said. Six police trucks were stationed

near the NLD's rundown headquarters in the centre of the country's main city Yangon, while plainclothes police stood watch from across the street, witnesses said. The arrests came as the NLD held

a ceremony to mark the anniversary of its victory in 1990 elections, which was ignored by the ruling military Instead, the generals kept Aung San Suu Kyi in detention and pressed

ahead with their own "roadmap to democracy," which led this month to a referendum on a constitution that democracy activists say enshrines the army's grip on power. May 10 and May 24 despite a devastating cyclone which left more than 133,000 people dead or missing, the

whelming referendum victory.

The regime claimed that despite the devastation, 98 percent of voters turned out for the referendum and more than 92 percent had endorsed the charter.

calling the approval of the text a

"Although the NLD is ready to accept the verdict of the people, based on their free will, it will not be able to accept the sham referendum of the authorities," the party said in a statement.

"The authorities used coercion

The party also denounced the regime for holding the referendum after the cyclone, which left 2.4 mil-

lion people in desperate need of food, shelter and medicine, the United Nations has said. Myanmar. The NLD said the regime had ignored the public welfare "by obsti-

International calls for Aung San Suu Kyi's release have been overshadowed by the high-level diplomacy aimed at convincing Myanmar's junta to allow a full-scale relief effort for victims of the cyclone.

UN Secretary General Ban Kimoon was in Myanmar last week for Forging ahead with the vote on talks with the generals, but said that the country's struggling prodemocracy movement was not discussed as his trip was purely junta on Monday declared an over- humanitarian.

FROM PAGE 16

subsided due to the geological

The coalmine tried to repair the 200-foot stretch of road that subsided but angry villagers drove the repairmen away saying they first want compensation for their damaged houses, lands and livelihood.

The coalmine, a project of Petrobangla, faced several land subside issues since it started coal extraction early 2006. The company officials, however, termed the issue of land subsiding "common in underground mining".

In May 2006, around 1.2 square km area of four villages subsided.

The mine compensated a number of villagers for the damage done to their homes, lands and livelihood in 2006. However, locals claimed that the money was not enough.

Experts say that it is necessary to fill a mine phase with sand or other cheap materials when the extraction is done.

Sources in the coalmine claimed that there was no provision in the project proposal for filling up the phases after coal extraction. They say that filling up a phase is expensive and not viable economically as it would hike coal prices and which would consequently raise the price of power generated in a plant next door to the mine.

According to locals and mine sources, the villages affected are Kalupara, Gopalpara, Baidynathpur, Balarampur, Chowhati, Dhulauzal, Patigram, Mou-Pokor, Ziagari, Bash-Pokor, Shakgram, Durgapur, Rasulpur and Hamidpur. The villages sometimes face

water crisis as well, which force farmers to use the untreated water pumped out of the mine to irrigate their land. Locals claim this prac tice has drastically reduced their production.

MA Aziz, managing director of the coalmine, told The Daily Star that the situation is under their control and necessary measures have been taken.

## Tangail jailer

FROM PAGE 16 the attack on journalist Mirza Shakil.

Jail Super Sagir Miah told The Daily Star yesterday, "Jailer Nazrul has been transferred punitively to Meherpur jail. But the investige tion into the attack continues."

The jail super said that all the allegations against him at present and earlier is being investigated. Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique, deputy inspector general of pris-

ons (DIG-Prisons), said on Monday, "If the jailer is found guilty in the investigation, stern action will be taken against him." On May 24, at the directives of Jailer Nazrul Islam, 10 to 12 jail guards of Tangail jail beat up Mirza Shakil when he went there to

the corruption and irregularities at

FROM PAGE 16

MP Mujibur Rahman Monju (Kishoreganj-6) for acquiring wealth worth Tk 74.12 lakh beyond his known sources of income and

illegal wealth worth Tk 55.4 lakh and concealing information of it.

Both the cases were filed under sections 26(2) and 27(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 and section 15 of the Emergency

## Rohingya

FROM PAGE 1 increase the quotas of Rohingyas in

the future," Guterres said.

Canada by far accepted the highest number of Rohingya refugees, with countries such as the United States, Britain, Australia and the Scandinavian countries also high on the list. However, the number of 'resettled' Rohingyas still

Myanmar, the UNHCR and Bangladesh allowing voluntary repatriation of Rohingya refugees when 92 refugees decided to return to their home in Myanmar. Most of the refugees are still reluctant to go back to the country in fear of attacks from the military junta that rules

of Rakhine in Myanmar fled to Bangladesh in 1991, following alleged atrocities against them by the military junta. They were registered as refugees by the government of Bangladesh, but without any proper legal sanction. Until 2006, around 237,000

refugees returned to Myanmar. Most of the remaining refugees live in two camps in Nayapara and form a government, and political Kutupalong in Cox's Bazar, where they receive assistance from the UNHCR and World Food Program. A large number of Rohingyas,

# Cultivable lands HSC exams begin

FROM PAGE 16

The Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, during a press briefing at the Secretariat yesterday, said that the HSC examination would be completed with the concerted effort of all in a fair and peaceful atmosphere.

He urged all the candidates to sit for their examinations without any worry or fear of intimidation in a environment free of any cheating.

The advisor also told reporters that the concerned department has been asked to ensure power supply during the examination hours. "A letter has been sent to the power department in this regard," A total of 55.43 per cent of the

total candidates are male while 44.57 per cent are female.

Of them, 1,51,287 will appear in the exams under Dhaka Education Board, 1,36,745 under Rajshahi, 50,719 under Comilla, 70,809 under Jessore, 41,515 under Chittagong, 32,164 under Barisal,

19,597 and under Sylhet Education

Some 62,505 students will appear in Alim exams under Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board and 54,719 students will sit for the HSC (BM) exams under Bangladesh Technical Education

Besides, some 166 candidates

will sit for the HSC exams under Dhaka Education Board at five centers abroad. The centres are Jeddah, Riyadh, Tripoli, Doha and Abu Dhabi.

The education adviser pointed the increase in the number of examinees this year to the press.

"There is a 14.52 per cent increase in the seven education boards, 19.24 per cent in Madrasa board and 10.10 per cent in technical education board," the adviser added.

"The results would be published within two months after the completion of the exams," he said.

stranglehold while maintaining

social commitment towards the

The role of the Saarc govern-

Once fully operational, the

ments will have to be confined to

providing capital for setting up the

region's governments are not

expected to provide annual subsi-

dies and grants; rather the institu-

tion would have to look for corpo-

rate and private donors without

allowing them to influence its

administrative and academic

Sylhet-4, Barguna-1, Patuakhali -2,

Mymensingh -3, Feni -3, Jessore-5

Sakhawat said the EC has sent draft

rules on conducting polls to city

corporations and municipalities to

the law ministry for vetting, and

hoped the rules will be finalised

posed to increase election expen-

ditures of candidates in these

elections. It proposed fixing polls

expenditures on the basis of num-

the middle of next month the

schedules for polls to four city

corporations and seven municipal-

ities in the third week of July.

ber of voters

The EC plans to announce by

In the draft rules, the EC pro-

CITY AND MUNICIPALITIES

autonomy, he suggested.

EC gets

and Brahmanbaria - 5.

FROM PAGE 16

POLLS

university, Rizvi has suggested.

have-nots.

## 100-acre land

FROM PAGE 16

path-breaking project for a South Asian University will help realise the dream of thousands of young men and women who will gather here not only for high quality education but also in a spirit of fraternity and friendship".

The main campus at Maidangarhi neighbourhood will host nearly 5,000 students and an international faculty. It will also be connected to related campuses in each of the eight Saarc countries --Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan, Mukherjee said.

Prof GK Chadha, a member of the Indian prime minister's Economic Advisory Council and former vice chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, has been appointed as the first chief executive officer of the South Asian University.

India has offered to bear the entire cost of setting up the university which is expected to be a nonprofit public-private partnership project. The project office would oversee soon

the construction of the university

and draw up its charter, by-laws, business plan, governance plan and curriculums. Gowhar Rizvi, director of Ash Institution for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University, who was entrusted with the task of preparing a concept note for the university, has recommended a middle

Language Martyr Abdus Salam

Library and Memorial Museum at a

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra inaugu-

rated the library and museum at

Salamnagar on Monday. Special

Assistant to the Chief Adviser

Mahbub Jamil was the chief guest

at the function, said an official

Commissioner M Masum Khan

the function was attended, among

others, by Cultural Secretary M

Sharful Alam and DG of Social

Welfare Department Kamal Abdul

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed of

path between government-funded "We will meet the chief adviser and private education to facilitate soon to ask the government to autonomy from bureaucratic create an atmosphere conducive to Village named

holding local government polls either by relaxing or lifting the state of emergency in the areas where polls will take place," Sakhawat said.

"We have plans to organise such workshops ahead all elections," he

crore voters were enrolled till May Presided over by Deputy 24.

Field level task of preparing voter list will be completed next month, registering around eight crore voters, and the final list will be ready by early October, EC sources said.

FROM PAGE 16

Naser Chowdhury.

handout.

FROM PAGE 16

cost of Tk 62.90 lakh.

The Maoists were adamant on its demand that the two posts need not be separated and its leader Prachanda should hold both posts of the executive prime minister as well as the ceremonial president in the next government.

leaders of three major political parties which started at the Prime Minister G P Koirala's residence was put off for the oath taking ceremony of 601-member has not been in force since 2006 | Constituent Assembly today at the Birendra International Convention Centre in the capital.

> ful republic. The 601 lawmakers sworn in

uncertain for the new assembly, which is to govern Nepal as it

The EC wants to hold workshops to assist prospective candidates in filling up nomination forms in these polls.

On the progress of preparing voter list with photographs, the election commissioner said 7.17

# Nepali parties agree

partners. Presently, the interim constitution has empowered the prime minister to carry out the functions of the ceremonial head of

The crucial meeting of the

Earlier Nepal has sworn in a new assembly charged with reshaping the country from a conflict-ridden Himalayan kingdom into a peace-

Tuesday are expected to abolish Nepal's 239-year-old monarchy when they hold their first meeting Wednesday. But what comes next remains

rewrites the constitution. Nepal's former rebels hold the most seats but are still struggling to

the parties and Maoists had yet to agree on the naming of 26 other representatives as well as on the formation of a government.

"But a republic will be declared

## FROM PAGE 1

It also decided to take up a number of programmes including forming a human chain around the sub-jail on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex where the AL chief has been detained for about a year.

tary election.

at the end of its meeting today.

Yesterday's meeting discussed the recommendations made by the grassroots leaders.

AL Organising Secretary Saber

open. He said the dialogue and election would have to be considered separately.

BNP stance

said on condition of anonymity. Sources said BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami might take a decision keeping in view the stance of another former ruling party,

# emerging that without the partici-

Awami League, which has declined

coal production and management deal but did not get the work as it increased the rate after winning the "I asked them why a re-tender was not floated and why CMC was awarded instead of the second lowest bidder," Monirul said, add-

they had not approved the deal. He said the other accused in the case, including Jamaat Secretary General and former social welfare minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, former commerce minister Air Vice-Marshall (retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and state min-

ister for energy AKM Mosharraf

Hossain, would also be quizzed soon.

Nizami's counsel Abdur Razzaq

ing that the former ministers said

they would have fallen in trouble if

told The Daily Star that Nizami said, "The case has been filed illegally to harass me...I am innocent as the matter was not related to my ministry." Nizami told the investigator that

he was included in the purchase

committee later and there was no

provision to give a note of dissent.

He asked the ACC deputy director why names of ministers were included in the Barapukuria graft case instead of the then cabinet secretary's name. Mannan Bhuiyan and Khandaker Mosharraf talked to the investigating officer themselves,

informed about the quizzing, so they could not have their lawyers present during the questioning. The ACC deputy director, however, told reporters that the commission had informed the four accused about yesterday's questioning five-six days ago through

Besides, Mannan Bhuiyan and

alleging that they had not been

Mosharraf Hossain told me that they would not need any lawyer," headded. On February 26, ACC Assistant with this case. Director Shamsul Alam filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station against detained former prime minister and BNP Chairperson

the jail authority.

instead of the lowest. Former finance minister M

Khaleda Zia, 10 former ministers of

her cabinet and five others on

charge of awarding the Barapukuria

coalmine deal to the highest bidder

4 ex-alliance Saifur Rahman, Mannan Bhuiyan, Nizami and Mojaheed are the heavyweights among the ministers of the immediate past BNP-led

coalition government accused in The other accused are former telecommunications minister Aminul Haque, former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain, former energy secretary Nazrul Islam, former Petrobangla chairman and incumbent BSCIC Chairman SR Osmani, former Petrobangla director Moinul Ahsan, former managing director of

Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Sirajul Islam and Hossaf Group Chairman Moazzem Hossain. Upon an application of the investigating officer, the additional chief metropolitan magistrate passed an order on May 14 for questioning Khaleda at the make-

shift jail on the Jatiya Sangsad

after a court takes it (case) into

cognizance, but in this case the

trial proceedings of any criminal

case within 60 days after a court

takes it into cognizance are 'direc-

tory', not 'mandatory', and there-

fore there is no bar on continuing

special court did not do so.

Bhaban premises.

The ACC quizzed Khaleda on May 24. Power plant case FROM PAGE 16 (Amendment) Act 1958, trail proceedings of any criminal case have to be completed within 60 days

"The special court took this case into cognizance for trial on January 13 this year, and the 60-day period has already passed. That is why trial proceedings of this case have become functus officio (infructuous), and no court now has jurisdiction to try the case," he said. ACC's Counsel Khorshed Alam Khan said the rules for completing

Following the Awami League chief's writ petition, the HC On May 12 issued a rule asking the authorities to explain within eight days why continuation of trial proceedings of the case should not be declared illegal. The government, the ACC and

Special Judges' Court-1 are respondents to he rule.

FROM PAGE 1

In a letter signed on July 2 last

ket in the same area. The ACC investigation, however,

the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka for taking cognisance for trial. Later, the case will be moved to a special court for full trial. The AL leader also withheld

His wife Mahbuba Sultana was

court. The case was disposed of in 2003 when all the accused were

looking into the matter. On May 5, 1996, the day UK expatriate Surat Mia of Sylhet origin came home, he was fatally the ZIA. He later succumbed to his

Police subsequently arrested upon completion of investigation. The court however acquitted all the

He said a report describing the

verdict. "We will soon write to the law

The NLD rejected the outcome

intimidated, deceived, misrepresented and used undue influence, and abused their power to get the affirmative votes .... Hence the outcome is not the true judgement of the

nately holding the referendum, considering only power politics and self-interest, after the devastation to the people caused by Cyclone Nargis.

gather information on a report on

the jail and of the jail authorities. 2 ex-MPs

concealing information about it. The official filed another FIR with the same police station against former Awami League MP Atique (Sherpur-1) for amassing

Power Rules, 2007.

remains low. A 1992 agreement among

Around 258,000 ethnic Rohingyas from the bordering state

mostly unregistered, continue to live in southern Cox's Bazar without

any facilities.

areas around the palace as well as at the convention centre where the assembly, elected last month, is

violence has persisted despite a two-year peace process that brought the insurgents into democratic politics. Security was on high alert in MaharatoldAFP.

Nepal's capital Tuesday after three explosions shook the city ahead of at any cost."

to abolish the country's 240-yearold monarchy. Two small bombs were hurled outside the meeting venue Monday, along with a note by a

previously unknown Hindu

nationalist group claiming respon-

sibility. Another explosion

targetted the home of a key pro-

deployed in key areas, police said,

Some 10,000 police had been

republic rights activist.

a historic meeting that is expected

following the blasts, which caused no injuries. "Security has been stepped up," Jaya Mukunda Khanal, a senior administrative official told AFP. Police banned protests in key

the nation into a republic. "Security forces are on high alert, particularly around the palace, the constituent assembly meeting venue and the king's residence," said Khanal. Some 575 new members of

Nepal's constituent assembly were

to be sworn in later on Tuesday but

slated to end King Gyanendra's

rule on Wednesday and transform

"We are still trying to reach a consensus with the other political parties to form a government under our leadership," Maoist spokesman Krishna Bahadur