Tofail, family sued

of the case, rather I am ready to go to

jail. I'm neither afraid, nor am I

not face any case, but if somebody is

'disliked,' he faces case. Such dou-

ble application of law cannot go on

in a country," the AL leader

Tofail also expressed his unhap-

The former minister asked the

piness over his family members

being charged in the case along with

people not to mistrust him and

urged the government to stop filing

'false charges' against political

leaders and the process of humiliat-

CASE, DEMANDS WITHDRAWAL

Terming the case against its leader

Tofail Ahmed "false and fabricated,"

the Awami League yesterday

demanded that the government

gency meeting of the AL presidium,

the highest policymaking body of

the party, held at AL Acting

President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan

case has been filed against Tofail at a

time when the AL has decided not to

join the formal dialogue with gov-

ernment without AL chief Sheikh

Hasina's release as per a decision by

the party's central working commit-

presidium meeting, AL Acting

General Secretary Sved Ashraful

Islam said that the case against

Tofail has been lodged in a bid to

charges, which have no connection

against political leaders to destroy

He urged the government to

with corruption, are being brough

her letter of complaint on May 20.

Registrar of Asian University Abdus

two incidents on the same day, a

three-member committee was

formed to probe the matter. But as

the committee was anot able to

complete its task within the seven

days given to them, the time for the

investigation has now been

charge (OC) Saiful Alam

Chowdhury also refuted Haider's

Uttara police station officer-in-

He said that the police have

arrested six persons -- a student

and a security guard of Shanto-

Mariam University and four stu-

dents from Asian University.

Samad denied the allegation.

Ashraf observed that "false"

weaken Awami League.

refrain from the practice.

as a general diary.

claims.

their careers.

Student protesting

Briefing the newsmen after the

The meeting observed that the

The demand came at an emer-

AL PRESIDIUM CONDEMNS

withdrawit immediately.

residence in the capital.

ing the politicians.

"If somebody is 'liked,' he does

at his Banani residence.

case with Ramna Police Station, mentioned in the first information

report (FIR). The former minister deposited Tk 1.86 crore, earned by illegal means, to Standard Bank's Gulshan branch in different types of accounts -- savings, STD, Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) and Special Monthly Income Scheme (SMIS) -in his own name and in the names of his wife and daughter at different

To escape punishment for illegal wealth. Tofail in connivance with his wife and daughter withdrew the amount and concealed it, a few months after the promulgation of Emergency Powers Act, 2007, the case statement said.

In the wealth statement to the ACC on December 5 last year, the AL presidium member mentioned that he, his wife and daughter own movable and immovable property worth Tk1.27 crore.

According to the FIR, Tofail in his wealth statement showed a 2,800 square feet two-storey building owned by his daughter, which was constructed in 1989 at a cost of Tk 14.12 lakh. But the investigation found that Tofail's daughter had no income at that time.

The former minister's annual net income was about Tk 13.5 lakh during 1982-83 to 2002-03 tax year, but during the same period he accumulated wealth worth about Tk 41 lakh.

The case also said Tofail owns a piece of land worth Tk 37.13 lakh, which is inconsistent with his known sources of income.

Besides, Tofail's wife Anwara Ahmed owns Tk 21.20 lakh beyond their known sources of income as

TOFAIL'S REACTION

Tofail Ahmed yesterday vowed to deal with the graft case against him legally and said he is respectful to the law and the ACC.

been fighting for life in a city hospi-

Chowdhury has alleged that

though 10 days already elapsed

since the attack, Asian University

authorities are yet to take any

measures against the students who

Ali Haider also alleged that the

Rana was mercilessly beaten up

after he went to Asian University on

May 20 to talk to Samrat, Setu,

Robin and Manik who assaulted his

sister Rumana studying in the BBA

The students had allegedly

Severely injured Rana was

cornered Rumana in an elevator,

earlier the same day, and verbally

admitted to the Central Hospital

and put on life support. He was

shifted to Apollo Hospital on May

26 when his condition deteriorated

further and is currently being

treated in the Intensive Care Unit of

Hospital staff said Rana's condi-

Meanwhile on May 25, as a

rumour spread of Rana's death,

several hundred students from both

not taken any punitive measures

my daughter went to submit

complain about her assault, the

Ali Haider also alleged, "When

against those who attacked her.

clash that left over 25 injured.

the universities locked in a fierce

the hospital.

tion is very critical.

sity authorities.

department of the university.

and physically assaulted her.

students who attacked both his

daughter and son have been

threatening the family not to pur-

sue the matter any further.

Rana's father Ali Haider

tal for the last 10 days.

beat up his son.

"I'm not surprised with the filing

No dialogue

FROM PAGE 16 He called on the government to ditch the idea of holding the upazila elections before the parlia-

hurt," Tofail said at a press briefing Delwar was addressing a discussion meeting marking the 27th death anniversary of former president and BNP founder Ziaur Rahman. Paltan Thana Jubo Kalyan Parishad organised the discussion at Photo Journalists Association Auditorium in the capital.

Asking the government to stop what he described as game playing in the name of holding the dialogue, the diehard BNP leader demanded the immediate release of detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Awami League

Terming the interim administration illegal, he said, "Why will we enter into talks with you? Who are you representing?"

The ongoing dialogue is doomed to failure amid so many

restrictions, he said. On upazila polls, he said, "The only job of the caretaker government is to assist the Election Commission in holding a free and fair parliamentary election and then transfer power to elected

"This is the reason why the constitution gives the caretaker government a 90-day timeframe for holding the polls", he said adding that there are no constitutional provisions for the caretaker government

He accused the government of secretly handpicking candidates from rural areas for the upazila elections, warning that individuals who are working as government agents prior to the upazila polls do not really know how people would punish them for their roles.

He questioned how the government could hold on to power when the three major political parties -BNP, Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami -- do not want this govern-

Hitting out at the government's human rights record, he criticised the ongoing anti-corruption campaign, saying the drive has been conducted in a bid to defame

politicians. Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and other four-party alliance leaders also spoke at the meeting.

WITHOUT HASINA, KHALEDA, NIZAMI, SAYS JAMAAT

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh has said the political dialogue will not When contacted however the succeed and general elections will not be credible keeping the chiefs of three parties--Motiur Rahman The register said that after the Nizami, Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina--in jail, reports UNB.

"During pre-dialogue interactions, we told the advisers that the release of Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina is a must to have a productive dialogue," Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad

But, he said, the chief adviser in his address to the nation ignored the opinion. Rather, the government has created an odd situation for the dialogue by arresting the chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

The Jamaat secretary general demanded release of the three leaders to make the dialogue successful.

The OC also added that Samrat, Setu, Robin and Manik -- against whom the complaint was lodged are involved in different criminal activities in the area and gone into

hiding since the incident. He however said that the police was optimistic of arresting them

Elias Ali

FROM PAGE 16 charged with corruption and crim-Both universities have been inal offences.

shut down till May 30 since the The ACC included his name on its list of corruption suspects and Ali Haider has expressed his asked him to submit his wealth disappointment with the role of the statement to the commission.

police as well as that of the univer-Central BNP suspended the activities of the party's Sylhet Talking to The Daily Star, he said district unit committee on July 27, that he had decided to discontinue 2005, following a dispute between his daughter education at Asian former finance minister Saifur University, as the authorities have Rahman and Elias Ali.

A press release issued by the party's acting Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed said Elias Ali had been made the convener of the reconstituted register of Asian University tore up 31-member convening committee.

SC bar protest

FROM PAGE 1

on February 28 last year, for his 'arbitrary reconstitution 'of the court benches during his tenure, members of the SCBA said.

And In 1989, it did not bid farewell to the then chief justice AFKM Munim protesting his 'controversial role' in the judiciary.

Meanwhile, Ministerial Service review of the judgment. Association, a body of the SC office staff, yesterday accorded farewell to Justice Ruhul Amin, who retires

tomorrow. Journalists however did not the cause list. cover the farewell ceremony held at

the judges' lounge as some security staff of

the SC misbehaved with the them. The aggrieved journalists later asked the SC registrar to take action in this regard.

the matter.

Justice Ruhul Amin, a threedealt with 10 cases that were on the Bangabhaban on June 1. cause list yesterday.

the petition for reviewing its judgediction to hear and dispose of bail justice about it.

petitions filed by the accused in criminal cases under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

The SC judgment, published recently, said the HC may consider bail petitions in cases filed under the EPR on three grounds. And SC lawyer Idrisur Rahman on Wednesday filed a petition for

Chamber Judge of the SC Justice MA Matin had referred the matter to the full bench of the court for hearing yesterday, but it was not

The SCBA decision not to give farewell to the outgoing chief justice was taken at an urgent meeting on May 11.

Meanwhile, the president on May 25 appointed Justice MM Ruhul Amin as the next chief jus-He assured them of looking into tice, superseding Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim, the On the last working day of senior most SC judge. The president will administer oath to the member SC bench headed by him new chief justice at the

SC Registrar Iktedar Ahmed The court however did not hear yesterday told newsmen that Justice Fazlul Karim did not come ment striking down the High Court to the court since Wednesday. He (HC) verdict that it (HC) has juris- however did not inform the chief

mentary polls.

President Sheikh Hasina.

representatives.

to rule the country for long.

ment to be in power.

TALKS WON'T SUCCEED

He also said that when he went to Uttara police station to file a case police did not accept it as a case but

Mojahid told the news agency.

He said the Jamaat central

working committee will sit on June 2 to take stock of the overall situation and announce its official position on the dialogue. Mojahid said Jamaat has already

announced its programme until June 10 and is discussing with the allies of the four-party alliance to map out further programme to meet their demands.

Biman strikes

FROM PAGE 16 aviation firm that won the bid for leasing the plane to Biman.

The Board of Directors of Biman on April 20 in a marathon meeting decided to lease an aircraft from Orient Thai

On March 9, Biman leased a Boeing 747-200 from a Nigeriabased airline to minimise disruptions in flight schedules.

Biman has been facing serious troubles in maintaining flight schedules due to acute shortage of aircraft for quite some time.

Biman currently owns three types of aircraft--four McDonnell Douglas DC10-30s, four Fokker F28s, and three Airbus A310-300s. Production of DC10-30s and F28s ended in the 80's due to their lack of viability in service.

Of the 11 planes of Biman fleet, only four or five are now operational while the rest are grounded.

Law ministry

FROM PAGE 16

Logistic support would be provided by the public works ministry and manpower would be recruited by the establishment ministry in the formation process of the truth commission.

"The decisions were made at a coordination meeting held at the office of the National Committee on Serious Crime and Corruption in the presence of law and home advisers," ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal told reporters at the commission's regular briefing in the afternoon.

He said the manpower for the truth commission would be derived from different ministries with their existing pays.

Hanif said the commission would have one chairman and two commissioners sponsored by the finance ministry. About its operation, he said it

tion of the gazette notification. The gazette notification now awaits the president's signature. "The commission will not perform under any institution like the court or ministry, but the law ministry will sponsor it," he said.

would be confirmed after publica-

CA reiterates

FROM PAGE 1 forces and police to enable them to accomplish their noble tasks more

effectively," he said. The CA was addressing a function marking the International Day of UN Peacekeepers at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre here. The Armed Forces Division (AFD) in association with the United Nations Resident Coordinator office in Bangladesh organised the programme.

Bangladesh is presently the second largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping operation. Some 9,199 Bangladeshi peacekeepers are now working in 14 missions.

Since its participation in the UN peacekeeping mission in 1988, 73,112 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have worked in 41 peacekeeping operations in 31 countries, the function was told. Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed

Chowdhury, Army Chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed and UN Resident Coordinator to Bangladesh Renata Dessallien also spoke at the func-Navy Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar

Jahan Nizam, Air Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman and Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury were on the dais. Advisers, special assistants to

the chief adviser, members of Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers and family members, members of the armed forces and distinguished personalities were also present at the function.

Brig Gen Monwar Hossain made a presentation on two decades of journey of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in UN peace missions at the function.

Bangladesh Television broadcast the programme live.

The CA distributed crests among family members of some Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers who made supreme sacrifices while performing duties in UN peacekeeping missions. He also distributed crests among some injured Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers at the function.

A brief cultural show was staged to mark the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

In his speech, the CA said Bangladesh responds enthusiastically in sending its troops from its armed forces and police to farflung conflict-ridden regions in different countries of the world under the UN Security Council mandate, mo spren in sergy

"Recently, our participation in the UN mission in Dafur has become another milestone in our unwavering commitment to global peace," he told the function.

Referring to respect and admiration earned by Bangladeshi troops and police from other countries and people they have served the CA said the United Nations and members of the international community have time and again applauded the country's effective and courageous role in peace support mission.

Apart from their significant contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces and police have also been playing an outstanding role in nationbuilding activities at home, the CA

He said Bangladesh's participation in peace support operations and other categories of multinational forces has increased its name and fame in the global arena which has substantiated the country's stand for the cause of world peace, enhanced diplomatic ties with it allies and brought Bangladesh closer to both developed and developing nations.

"Our troops in the field along

with diplomatic initiatives at UN headquarters have always reflected our commitment to lasting peace

in the world," he said. The CA paid glowing tributes to the peacekeepers who have made supreme sacrifice during the UN missions for the cause of bringing peace to strife-torn corners of the world He also appreciated all the

Bangladeshi men and women who have served and will continue to serve in UN peace support opera-Foreign Adviser Iftekhar said Bangladesh is ready to participate

in peacekeeping missions

responding to the need of the world. Army Chief Gen Moeen said the wider participation Bangladeshi peacekeepers in UN peacekeeping operations have made them confident to face any daunting task both

athome and abroad. He thanked and appreciated Bangladeshi peacekeepers for maintaining high degree of professionalism and skill in the peace-

keeping missions. Appreciating the outstanding performance of Bangladeshi peacekeepers, UN Resident Coordinator Renata said Bangladesh's outstanding contribution does not happen acciden tally but it is the reflection of peace loving people of the country.

Mojahid quizzed

During the questioning, the source said, the former social welfare minister denied any wrongdoing on his part, saying that he acted "in good faithfor the necessity of the state".

On Tuesday, four other former ministers -- Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Motiur Rahman Nizami, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Shamsul Islam were quizzed in connection with the case at Dhaka Central Jail.

Former prime minister Khaleda Zia, the prime accused in the case, was questioned at the makeshift jail on Saturday last.

On February 26, ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Islam filed the case against Khaleda, 10 former ministers of her cabinet and five others for causing a loss of about Tk 159 crore from the exchequer through awarding the Barapukuria Coalmine deal to the highest bid derinstead of the lowest.

Former finance minister M. Saifur Rahman, ex-BNP secretary general and LGRD minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Jamaat chief and ex-industries minister Motiur Rahman Nizami and its secretary general and ex-social welfare minister Ali Ahsam M Mojahid are accused in the case.

accused in the case are health minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, agriculture minister MK Anwar, information minister Shamsul Islam, commerce minister Air Vice-Marshall (retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, telecommunications minister Aminul Haque and state minister for energy AKM Mosharaff Hossain.

The remaining accused are former energy secretary Nazrul Islam, former Petrobangla chairman SR Osmani, former Petrobangla director Moinul Ahsan, former managing director of Barapukuria Coalmining Company Sirajul Islam and Hossaf Group Chairman Moazzem Hossain.

The case has been filed under sections 409/406/109/419/420 of the Penal Code and section 5(2) of the Corruption Prevention Act

Business leaders

FROM PAGE 1 by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and

Industry (FBCCI). FBCCI leaders met Zillur Wednesday when the apex body of business leaders expressed doubt over the dialogue and the chances of political stability in the near future.

He said at least 300 representatives from different sectors in each district will attend the meeting to be held at the International Conference Centre (ICC) at the Chief Adviser's Office. Zillur also said the government

advisers will travel to six or seven destinations around the world to meet Bangladeshi expatriate community leaders to discuss ways of making the electoral roadmap a success and establishing political

He added that the government will also meet workers' representa-ICM DIALOGUE

The ICM asked the government to formulate a new law to punish blasphemy as the dialogue limped to its fourth day yesterday. to create specific punishment for the polls.

any offence related to blasphemy," ICM Joint Secretary General ATM Hemayet Uddin told the post-Chief Adviser's Office. The ICM is the sixth party to sit

hit a wall after boycott announcement of both BNP and Awami League

In the meeting, the ICM also proposed a permanent parliamentary seat for the Khatib of Baitul Mukarram to veto anti-Islamic developments in the legislature. They also asked for moral guidance for the society to eradicate dishonesty, corruption and terrorism.

The party has long campaigned for establishing Sharia Law and recently spearheaded protests against the equal rights for women sanctioned by the Women Development Policy.

seat as part of the BNP-led coalition in the last election. ICM Ameer Shaheed only a tiny part of the cover page of

delegation to meet the chief termites. adviser and the five advisers. The Islamic party also demanded the relaxation of the state of emergency, publishing of a list of people who might disturb the polls, and the stop to "foreign

The government was also asked to announce a specific election "We have asked the government date to clear any confusion about Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman welcomed ICM's demand to iden-

intervention" in domestic affairs.

tify and arrest criminals to prevent dialogue joint press briefing at the election-related violence as "some have done in the past". The government will meet | unnatural and only a tiny part of | under the ongoing countrywide with the chief adviser and five other another 11 parties as part of the advisers in the dialogue, which has dialogues.

Manpower export

FROM PAGE 16 Bahrain urging them to lift the

The adviser, it said, also made a telephone call to Bahrain State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Nizar Sadeq Al Babarna, seeking his assistance in lifting the ban.

Manama last week suspended issuance of work permits for new Bangladeshi workers in view of a strong anti-Bangladesh attitude developed among the people of Bahrain following a recent murder of a national of that country by an expatriate Bangladeshi.

The foreign ministry statement said the adviser in his letters conveyed his regret at the incident and expressed the hope that "the entire Bangladeshi community should not suffer for the misdeed of one person".

In line with the foreign Adviser's directives, it said, the charge de affaires of Bangladesh mission in Manama has been holding a series of meetings with the Bahrain ministers, politicians as well as the members of Bangladesh community in the

According to the statement, the foreign adviser is expected to raise the issue with his Bahraini counterpart during the scheduled meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, next month.

In another statement on Wednesday, the foreign office said Bahrain's State Minister for Foreign Affairs promised to put in his efforts to lift the ban on recruiting Bangladeshi workers during his talks with Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

Earlier reports from Manama said Bangladeshi worker Mohammad killed Bahrain national Mohammad Hassan A Dossary following an argument last week.

Soon after the incident, Bangladesh embassy in Manama sent a condolence message to the family members of the slain Bahraini and later the foreign Adviser sent another letter regretting the killing and expressing his sympathy to them.

Vital documents

The defence yesterday cross examined two prosecution wit nesses -- Sub-Inspector and recording officer of the case AK Anwarul Islam and Additional Director of Power Development Board (PDB) Abdul Halim.

Following a time petition by the defence, Judge Firoz Alam The other former ministers adjourned the hearing on the transferred his considerable busideposition of prosecution witnesses until June 3. Former prime minister and

> 10:00am. Former energy secretary Tawfique-e-Elahi Chowdhury was also produced before the court. The defence started crossexamining third prosecution witness Abdul Halim around

Awami League President Sheikh

Hasina was brought to the court at

11:00am after he submitted his deposition to the court. Defence lawyer Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman asked Halim how many tender files he had in his custody. Rezaur said, "I do not

know. The defence asked him who was the PDB chairman when he confiscated the documents and

Halim said it was Khizir Khan. When the defence told Halim that Khizir Khan did not give permission for confiscating the documents, he said it is not true.

Lawyer Rezaur asked him if he

could produce the letter of permission before the court. Halim said he cannot because it was at his office. As the defence asked Halim i he knows how many of the files he had produced before the court

were eaten up by termites, he said he cannot recall. The defence asked him if he knew that a file of Wartsila was attacked by termites. Halim said

again that he cannot recall. Advocate Rezaur then showed Halim the file and later submitted it to the judge.

Taking a look at the damaged document, Judge Firoz asked It gained a sole parliamentary | Halim did not say anything. The judge recorded the matter. Public prosecutors argued that

Muhammad Rezaul Karim led its | the tender file was destroyed by Rezaur told Halim that the file was destroyed in his custody, but

Halim said, "It is not true." Later, the defence lawyers told reporters that several pages of the 10-year-old document on the bidding by Wartsila were destroyed by termites which will affect the defence.

"Is the destruction of the documents deliberate or caused by negligence?" Rezaur said while talking to reporters. The public prosecutors, how-

ever, said a document's being eaten up by termites is nothing the file's cover page was drive against widespread corrupdestroyed.

Death anniversary

FROM PAGE 16

Zia, who founded Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in 1978, was assassinated on this day in 1981 by a group of disgruntled army officers at Chittagong Circuit House.

The party has taken up limited programmes to observe the day. Party flag will be hoisted at halfmast at the central party office at Naya Paltan and all party offices across the country. A black flag will also be hoisted at the central party office.

Leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations will place wreaths at Zia's grave at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital early in the morning and offer Fateha.

A discussion will be organised at the Institution of Engineers at 3:00pm. BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain will preside over the function to be attended by senior party leaders. However, the number of partici-

state of emergency. Also, there will be no procession and slogans. day, Delwar vowed to foil what he sovereignty.

termed the "blueprint of the totalitarians" to destroy the nationalist

"We have to foil the blueprint together also to protect the sover-

democracy," said Delwar. ers is part of that conspiracy," he

Delwar said the BNP would form the government in future under the leadership of Khaleda and implement Zia's 19-point programme to turn the country into a developed and prosperous

Meanwhile, President Iajuddin Ahmed paid tribute to Zia, describing him as one of the pioneers of Bangladesh's independence.

In a message, Iajuddin said with pants at any of the programmes will not exceed 200 because of the In a statement on the eve of the democracy, independence and

Ousted Nepali king

with the complex to be transformed into a national museum.

In a sign that the king is likely to respect the verdict of the assembly that ended his reign, the royal flag was lowered Thursday morning and replaced by Nepal's triangular national flag.

part of the government decision to implement a republic," a palace official told AFP.

Maoists, have emerged as Nepal's main political force. Last month, after media reports suggested the king was considering moving to India, the palace issued a statement dismissing the

tion, but the king is unlikely to feel any significant financial pinch. He has long-standing invest-

tea garden. The shares he owns in these companies are worth around 15.7 million dollars, according to finan-

cial journalist Mukul Humagain.

have no idea how much more he has in foreign banks or other Nepali businesses," said the journalist. "People say he has large amounts of cash in banks in

know from formal evaluation. We

Singapore and London, but it's impossible to know how much he It remains to be seen whether the king will be allowed to con-

annually, but his interest in tantric practices remains strong. His latest trip to a temple last month involved a five-animal sacrifice to a Hindu goddess of

ACC finds

FROM PAGE 16 imprisoned Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and four

others from a corruption charge. After investigations Mohammad Jahangir Alam, assistant director of the ACC, submitted the report to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court for exempting the five from a graft case filed by the

commission last year. The court accepted the report and sent it to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court for the exoneration process.

Court sources said ACC Deputy Director Abu Mohammad Arif Siddiqui filed the corruption case Halim if they use any medicine to | with Kotwali Police Station on June preserve the documents but 28 last year, accusing the CCC mayor and four others of misappropriating Tk 41,10,802 from the CCC fund in the name of carrying out population survey in the port city from 1999 to 2002.

> The four other accused are the then executive officer of Chittagong City Corporation Abdul Wahab, then CCC secretary AFM Solaiman Chowdhury, former chief engineer of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) Mahmudul Islam and Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury, a teacher of Chittagong University. The ACC official pleaded for

exemption of the five as he found the allegations brought against them are "untrue". Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury

has already been exempted from ment. two out of eight graft cases filed against him so far after his arrest

eignty of the country and establish He said Ziaur Rahman was brutally killed to vitiate the country's independence. "The repression on and imprisonment of Zia's family and BNP leaders and work-

nation.

deep respect people of the country remember Ziaur Rahman's contribution to the Liberation War and his firm leadership in protecting

Gyanendra, who is 61, also lives

under the shadow of congenital

illness, with many in his bloodline

dying at around the age of 60 from

Paras suffered a heart attack last

year at the age of 36, but the king

has slimmed down in the last two

years and is reportedly following a

vegetarian diet as well as strolling

in a dynasty that began with the

founder of modern Nepal Prithvi

Narayan Shah in the 18th century,

came to the throne after a bizarre

and bloody palace massacre in

down most of the royal family,

including the king and queen, after

he had been prevented from mar-

popular, was further reviled in

2005 after he sacked the govern-

ment and took direct control of the

nation, pushing the mainstream

parties and Maoists into an alli-

and Wednesday's declaration of a

Suicide bombers

al-Qaeda in the country and Iragi

and US forces have been conduct-

ing a major crackdown against

US military announced plans to

withdraw next month another

4,000 "surge" troops from Iraq after

That will be the fourth brigade to

withdraw from Iraq out of five that

deployed under the controversial

surge in February 2007, which saw

an extra 30,000 soldiers poured in to

role in establishing the conditions

for long-term security in Iraq by

Figures maintained by the inde-

"The brigade played an integral

curb sectarian violence.

country had hit a four-year low.

The latest violence came as the

jihadists in the area since May 14.

Gyanendra, never particularly

rying the woman he loved.

republic.

FROM PAGE 16

His nephew, Dipendra gunned

Gyanendra, the final monarch

His hard-living and reviled son

chronic heart disease.

the palace grounds daily.

enough to prevent the end of his

palace in the heart of Kathmandu,

"The flag has been changed as

Although Gyanendra looks set to leave the palace, there is no sign of him going into exile abroad even though his arch-enemies, the

suggestions as "malicious" and insisting he would stay put. A 300,000-dollar annual allowance for the royal family was also stopped with Wednesday's aboli-

ments in several businesses ance that led to a 2006 peace pact including a five-star hotel, a cigarette and clothing company and a

Judging the king's immense wealth is a tricky task because he ness interests to his daughter when he came to the throne, Humagain, a business writer for Nepal magazine, said. "15.7 million dollars is what we reporting that violence across the

reducing violence in Diyala province by 70 percent," a military statementsaid tinue presiding over the many On Sunday, US officials said Iraq Hindu festivals he usually attends was seeing the lowest level of violence in four years, but they gave no

pendent website www.icasualties.org show that the power, but the ceremony was not US death toll so far this month was 19, the lowest average since the invasion.

casualty figures.

Total US losses in Iraq since then stand at 4,084, according to the Washington has said it wants to complete the withdrawal of the 30,000 surge troops by July and have a 45-day evaluation period before

considering the overall level of its

Desco share

FROM PAGE 16 of Corruption Act 1947.

forces.

In the charge sheet, the IO showed 15 accused as fugitives and prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against them and also the order to attach their properties. He also mentioned that the

charges brought against them were proved in primary investigation and they should be brought under trial. ACC Assistant Director Mahbubul Alam filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station against

Akhter Hossain and nine others on

August 8 last year for committing

the offences. Later, involvement of six others including former Desa chairman Towhidul was found in the investigation. According to the prosecution, there is no provision for the ministry to buy shares in the name of any official. But, Akhter in connivance

with other accused bought 61,000

shares in their names violating rules

and provisions of the ministry.

Moreover, they bought the shares showing lower rates causing a loss of Tk 10.20 crore to the govern-Earlier, Akhter had been con-

victed in two cases on charges of evading tax, amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information.