People will try

Khaleda alleged that a "camera

trial" is being held with only very few

journalists being allowed to enter the

courtroom so that the country's

people do not come to know what is

spiracy is being hatched to make

Bangladesh a vassal state by destroy-

enough and will resist any such

conspiracy as they proved on

no constitutional right to hold polls

palities before holding the national

independently and according to

their conscience as there are "orders'

on them, she said adding that jour-

nalists cannot also carry out their

responsibility freely. "Journalists are

barred from writing freely and are

even receiving threats over tele-

phone and being picked up by cer-

denouncing politicians as corrupt

Khaleda said all classes of people

including politicians, businessmen

and public servants are being

"My entire family has been

branded as corrupt except a particu-

ruined. See my youngest son's con-

dition...My son who was physically

quite well has been made ill," she told

the court, demanding that the court

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin set

Seventeen accused including

send Koko abroad for proper treat-

June 10 for the next hearing on

charge framing in the Gatco graft

case as defence counsels appealed

Khaleda, Koko, former LGRD minis-

health minister Khandaker

Mosharraf Hossain, former agricul-

ture minister MK Anwar, former land

minister M Shamsul Islam, Jamaat-

e-Islami Ameer and former indus-

tries minister Motiur Rahman

Nizami and former state minister for

energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain were

Upon another prayer of the

produced before the court yesterday.

defence, the court allowed eight

defence lawyers, including BNP

Secretary General Khandaker

Delwar Hossain, 30 minutes to con-

respiratory problems and was imme-

Uddin Khokon drew the court's

attention to Koko's illness, he was

taken out of the courtroom and

At one stage, Koko suffered from

As his lawyer barrister Mahbub

sult with Khaleda on legal matters.

diately given oxygen.

brought back to hospital.

and 46 respectively.

1,732 more

FROM PAGE 16 - 1111 | Aleco

raising the total number of recov-

ered firearms and explosives to 69

Bazar and Kushtia correspondent

of Channel i Manjur Ehsan

Our staff correspondent in

Sylhet reports: the joint forces held

publicity secretary of Sylhet City

unit BNP Syed Moinuddin Sohel

from a house in Upashahar resi-

dential area in the city on Tuesday

criminal and an accused in a num-

ber of cases on different charges

including extortion and possessing

reports: 25 people including the

president of Dumki upazila unit

Jubo Dal in last 24 hours in

leader Saiful Islam Mridha, 45, and

Khulna adds: the joint forces

arrested president of Rupsha-

Bagerhat Motor Shramik Union and

organising secretary of the Rupsha

upazila unit BNP Masum Billah, 38,

and his close aide Babul Hossain

Tikka from Rupsha Ferry Ghat in

pipe gun from Masum's possession.

joint forces arrested Gouripur UP

chairman Akhtaruzzaman Dulal,

also central committee member of

Jatiya Party (Monju), from upazila

The law enforcers recovered a

News agency UNB reports: the

Khulna on Tuesday night.

district in the last 24 hours.

Borhanuddin upazila.

president for approval."

FROM PAGE 1

The law enforcers in separate

drives arrested Jubo League activist

Saidur Rahman from Charfshion

upazila and BNP activists Rafique

and Jasim from their houses in

messenger carried the letter to the

law ministry for forwarding it to the

(SCBA) President Barrister

Shafique Ahmed said the resigna-

tions of the law officers have raised

Hassan Foiz was appointed as

additional attorney general on

questions among SClawyers.

Supreme Court Bar Association

Addl attorney

BNP activist Rimu, 28.

The arrestees include Jubo Dal

Our staff correspondent in

Our Patuakhali correspondent

Police said Sohel is a listed

Choudhury on June 2.

illegal arms.

ter Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, former

for time extension.

Criticising the government for

tain quarters," she said.

Judges are unable to function

ing the nationalist forces.

November 7, 1975, "she said.

The former premier said a con-

"But the people are conscious

Khaleda said the government has

going on there.

10:06am. He was given oxygen in the ambulance for about 45 minutes before being produced before the court at 10:50 am on a wheel chair.

An emotional situation arose after Khaleda entered the courtroom at 11:00am as a tearful Khaleda rushed to embrace her son. The mother and son met after nine

months since their arrests. With the judge's permission, Khaleda said day by day it is becoming clear to the country's people why 1/11 was "staged"

In her 18-minute speech, the former premier said, "The incidents to the city corporations and municiof 1/11 were staged to fulfil a few persons' high ambition and those who made it happen have no concerns about the country and its

people. She asked why this government has been running the country under the state of emergency for over one

and a half years if it is so popular. "Ours was also a popular government but the emergency was not required during our tenure," she said, adding, "The popularity of this government has slid down to zero."

Renewing her call to the government for lifting the state of emergency within this month and holding national elections by October, Khaleda said there is no alternative to holding an election to save the coun-

"It is not possible to move the country forward without politicians, "she added.

She alleged that the government started arresting and filing "false" and "concocted" cases against politicians to implement its blue-

"The government is harassing political leaders to stay in power and is making excuses to divert public attention from the disastrous situation in the country," she said.

"When people started extending spontaneous support to politicians after indoor politics was allowed, the government became scared and launched mass arrest in the name of curbing terrorism," she told the court packed with lawyers, journalists and security personnel.

The BNP chairperson asked how the election could be credible if major political parties are barred from participating in it.

It seems the government wants to hold an election similar to those during the rule of Ershad," she said, adding that the government wants to legitimise its actions by forming parties with its "agents".

Khaleda said although the tenure of the caretaker government was 90 days during which it was supposed to hand over power to an elected government through holding a free and fair election, the government is continuing its rule violating the

"Rice price has gone above Tk 40_ and to survive children now have to stand in queues to get rice instead of studying," she said.

Terming the cases filed against her false, baseless and concocted, Khaleda claimed that she, her son and other accused in the Gatco case are innocent because her government had worked as per the rules of business.

"We neither committed any offence, nor did we misuse power, she said, asking why the government has not yet scrapped the contract with Gatcoifit was so bad.

"The aim of this government is to keep political leaders away from elections and belittle them before the people," she said.

RMG unrest

FROM PAGE 1

constitution.

the morning, the journalist provoked other workers to go on rampage at Ashulia. Over 3,000 workers of several

garment factories vandalised 40 vehicles and damaged properties at 30 garment factories, three markets and two banks.

SI Obaidul Huq told the The Daily Star said he could only mention the name of TV journalist Nazmul Huda as one of the accused since the identity of others accused is yet to be known.

Meanwhile, the authorities of Pasco Ltd, Shad Fashion, Shad Fashion International, P & Co Cattier Ltd, Libra Knitwear, SGM Knit and Printing and Han and Hush Ltd filed general diaries in connection with the incidents.

Rab nabs 4

FROM PAGE 16 Chowdhury and arrested Rafigul, Borhan and Shakhawat on Tuesday afternoon. Following information extracted from them, the law enforcers picked up Zafar vesterday.

parishad premises at about 8:30pm From the arrestees, the Rab members found out that C&F firm in connection with a murder case. staff Rafigul, owner of Raj Police arrested ward commis-Electronics (yet to be identified) at sioner of Chhatak municipality 66, Bangabandhu Avenue and Farook Ahmed in Paper Mill Bazar owner of JB International at 17, area in Sunamganj on Tuesday. Iskaton, Rezaul Karim Maznu in Meanwhile, the joint forces arrested eight people, including connivance with some importers have long been evading tax and VAT local BNP activists and Jubo League in this manner. activists, from different parts of the

Bhuiyan's salam

FROM PAGE 1 sweeping reform proposals in the

Hours before her arrest on September 3 last year, Khaleda expelled him from the party for his "controversial" role, replacing him with diehard Khandaker Delwar

Hossain. Bhuiyan, however, ditched his reform bid, called Khaleda as 'Desh Netri' on the day he surrendered to court in connection with the Gatco graft case.

NASIM-NIZAMI EMBRACE Awami League leader and former

graft case.

home minister Mohammad Nasim embraced Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami as they came across in front of Special Court-3 at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex. Nasim was produced before

December 24, 2007. Earlier this year three attorneys another court in connection with a for the state at the apex court resigned on personal grounds.

EC plans

FROM PAGE 16 Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain will then visit other divisional headquarters from June 19 to hear the appeals, sources in the EC said.

As per the draft schedule, the hearings on appeals in Sylhet division will be held on June 19 at Sylhet Circuit House, in Barisal division on June 25 at Barisal Circuit House, in Khulna division. on June 26 at Khulna Circuit House and in Rajshahi division on June 29

at Rajshahi Circuit House. The hearings on appeals against re-demarcation of constituencies in Chittagong division will be held in two parts--on June 22 at Comilla Circuit House and on June 23 at

Chittagong Circuit House. The details of the schedules are likely to be disclosed today through a notification issued by the EC Secretariat, in which appellants will be asked to come up with their arguments at the hearings in their respective areas.

This is by far the largest number of appeals filed following the EC's move to re-demarcate 133 constituencies ahead of the next parliamentary elections.

The re-demarcation plan was unveiled on April 29 this year amid growing opposition from major political parties, which maintain that the move will create obstacles to holding of the upcoming ninth parliamentary polls by the end of this year as announced in the electoral roadmap.

No appeal was filed against the re-demarcation of 59 parliamentary constituencies.

On receiving the appeals, the EC has reiterated that most appeals do not have merits.

Tarique

FROM PAGE 1

the ACC. Zubaida and her mother were accused of abetting Tarique.

ACC Assistant Director Taufiqul Islam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against them to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on March 31 this year, showing 57 people as prosecution wit-

According to the charge sheet, Tarique concealed wealth worth about Tk 2.17 crore in his wealth statement and amassed about Tk 2.75 crore beyond his known sources of income.

Advocate Anisul Huq appeared for the ACC while Barrister Rafique-ul Hug for Tarique Rahman in the court.

Rajuk Our correspondent in Kushtia reports: the joint forces arrested

Kushtia correspondent of some portions of the building was Channel-1 Munshi Torikul Islam, constructed violating the Rajukfrom his house at Amlapara in the approved plan. town at about 3.00:pm yesterday. He was being interrogated at an

He said the Rajuk team demolished parts of three other buildings in the area for the same reason. Earlier, the joint forces arrested the editor of local daily Andoloner

The Rajuk drive is routine work and since the number of buildings which were built deviating from the approved plans is high, they decided to go for a drive against under constriction buildings, said Dastogir.

FROM PAGE 16

Of the 19 cases, three each were detected in Kotwali and Mohammadpur police stations, four each in Sutrapur and Pallabi police stations and one each in Demra, Badda, Shahbagh, Motijheel and Kafrul police sta-

Of those, 11 were filed in 2007 six in the last five months this year and the other two in 2006, police

Apart from the people accused in such false cases, police also have to face harassment, as these cases add up to their caseload.

In addition, the investigation officers also need to visit the place of occurrence and contact the complainants and witnesses as part of the probe, which waste time and energy of the law enforcers.

The DMP official observed that a couple of years back, there were around 6,000 cases under investigation with different police stations in the metropolis.

An investigation officer (IO) was even tasked with probing up to 50

"The DMP authorities has ing 26 people as prosecution undertaken a crash programme to bring down the number of cases under investigation to around 3,800," said another top DMP official seeking anonymity. If the programme is successfully implemented, an investigation officer will not have to deal with more than nine cases at a time, he added.

Giving an example of false cases, the DMP official said that on January 18 this year, one Salma Begum filed a case with Sutrapur Police Station in the city against 50 to 60 people, identifying nine.

In the first information report (FIR), the complainant alleged that the accused broke into her house and took away gold ornaments and furniture.

The same day, a similar case was lodged with the same police station against the same accused by one Fazila Begum.

Later, the investigation found that the allegations were false and both cases were filed out of personal enmity.

Gas-fed generators operate

FROM PAGE 1

about fuel cost, run your generator with natural gas', through newspapers as well as roadside billboards. They also launched an aggressive marketing campaign over the telephone, with offers of providing home services and warranties for the gen-

Power generation capacities of dual system gas powered generators, which can be run with either liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or NG, are between 1 kilovolt-ampere (kva) to 5kva. Domestic users usually prefer 2kvato3kvagenerators.

A 2kva generator produces 1,800 watts of electricity, which is sufficient to run five fans, five tube lights, one refrigerator, one TV and a computer, while consuming 24 cubic feet (cft) of NG per hour. If a consumer uses such a generator one hour daily all through a month, it consumes 720cft of gas, costing Tk 92 a month at the subsidised rate of Tk 4.59 a cubic metre, fixed for domestic use.

Visiting Nawabpur Machinery Market this correspondent found that everyday on an average each shop sells six gas operated power generators. A seller at the market told The Daily Star, "The price of a 2kva generator with a self starter is around 25,000 taka, while one with a manual starter having the same capacity costs around 22,000 taka."

"These generators got a huge market this year. One has to pay just the price of the generator and our technicians will connect it with the kitchen stove gas line using a hose. There is no chance of accident, as the pipe is connected with a turbo charger or compressor, which provides smooth gas supply to the generator. The whole procedure costs about 400 taka. After installation, users get smooth electricity supply without paying a paisa", the seller

However, the Titas Gas authority informed The Daily Star that they are not aware of such illegal gas connections to power generators. When the managing director of Titas Gas was contacted for comments, the gas

police reports on the arrest war-

rants the court had issued against

are the energy ministry's deputy

secretaries Abdullah Mahmud and

Ismat Ara Jahan, senior assistant

secretary Laila Jesmin, former joint

secretary SM Mesbaul Islam, ex-

deputy secretary Zahidur Rahman,

ex-assistant secretary Ali Hossain,

Desa member Monzur Hossain,

Desco secretary AHM Nurul Huda,

Desco directors Monzur Rahman

and Kudrat-e-Khuda, former

Desco directors Khan Lodi Mainul

Haq and Mustafizur Rahman, and

managing director of Summit

Power Ltd Chanchal Krishna

tary ANH Akhter Hossain and

incumbent managing director of

Desco Saleh Ahmed have also been

principal accused while the others

petition yesterday told the trial

court that their client could not

appear before the court due to

illness, noting that the High Court

(HC) earlier directed him to surren-

der to the Metropolitan Sessions

Judge's Court by July 15 after he had

directed the law enforcement

agencies not to arrest or harass him

Commission's (ACC) Assistant

Director Mahbubul Alam filed the

case against Akhter Hossain and

nine others on August 8 last year,

stating that Akhter and the other

accused bought 61,000 shares of

Desa and Desco in their own

names on behalf of the energy

ministry violating the ministry's

shares showing lower rates, caus-

ing a loss of Tk 10.20 crore to the

involvement of six others, includ-

ing former Desa chairman

Director Amirul Islam, also the IO

of the case, submitted charge

sheet against the 16 people, show-

Akhter has already been con-

victed in two other cases filed for

evading tax, amassing wealth

illegally and concealing informa-

BIWTA engineers

his company was forced to pay the

accused Tk 1.29 crore in bribe in

Director Tahmina Rehman paid

them Tk 1,29,05,939 through 21 ray

orders between November 10, 2005

and June 30, 2006, AGM Jahangir

ment, the company paid Tk

81,99,821 to project director Saiful

Islam and his wife Sharmina Islam

through 12 pay orders while Tk

15,68,706 was paid to Abu Bakkar,

his wife Fazila Khatun, Zahirul

Huq, his wife Afroza Khanam,

Mohammad Farhaduzzaman and

The project was completed at a

his mother-in-law Ferdows Jahan.

cost of about Tk9 crore.

According to the case state-

Basic Dredging Company Ltd

exchange for payment of bills.

Towhidul, in the share scam.

Moreover, they bought the

Investigations later found the

On May 29, ACC Assistant

rules and regulations.

government.

FROM PAGE 16

Hossain said.

The petition said the HC also

The Anti-Corruption

sought anticipatory bail to the HC.

Akhter has been shown as the

Saleh Ahmed's lawyers in a

Detained former power secre-

Talukder.

accused in the case.

in the meantime.

as abettors.

The accused who are in hiding

the fugitives on June 1.

Desa chairman

supply authority in a written statement stated that the company is giving only limited permission for using NG for alternative power generation only in the capital, on a direction from the government issued on March 13, 2007.

So far Titas Gas gave permissions to 25 domestic subscribers in upscale neighbourhoods of Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara, Dhanmondi, and Lalmatia in the capital. Those subscribers installed converted gas operated generators of different popular brands such as Honda, Walton, and Navana, said an engineer of Titas Gas.

According to sources, Titas Gas is giving permission for up to 10kva gas operated generators, which consume 120cft of NG an hour amounting to 3,600cft per month if a consumer uses the generator one hour daily all through a month. At a time when the whole country

is facing a severe NG crisis, for which gas supply is being rationed even to industrial zones, such a decision of giving permission to use natural gas for alternate power generation in households, has raised questions.

BGMEA President Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury said, "When the government can't even provide natural gas support for smooth operation of industrial zones, such a decision of allowing domestic users to generate electricity using natural gas does not reflect a responsible attitude on the part of the govern-

"In fact, the government is concentrating on minor interests, instead of focusing on the need of the industrial sector for its proper growth," he observed.

According to the sources, so far no Chinese dual system gas operated generator has been installed by Titas Gas engineers. "A few dual system gas operated generator distributors approached us for permission to use natural gas, but were refused. We will investigate illegal use of the equipment," said a high official of Titas Gas on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, an official of Total

tion on his wealth to the ACC.

defence witnesses.

the hearing.

CASE AGAINST HUDA COUPLE

Judge Abu Mohsin of the Fifth

Additional Metropolitan Sessions

Judge's Court set June 8 to hear

arguments in the extortion case

against the Huda couple after the

Power Generation Company, a distributor of gas operated generators, said, "We have been marketing these generators for the last three years. This year the demand has increased. Our brand is the most popular one. So far we have sold over 300 generators of different capaci-

Gas operated power generators have become so popular that distributors of diesel operated generators of popular brands are converting their generators to dual system gas operated ones, to infiltrate the lucrative market.

A manager of an outlet of Walton told this correspondent, "We suggest our clients that they use liquefied petroleum gas to run the generators. For conversion one has to pay 15,000 taka extra."

Purchasing converted gas operated generators of such popular brands, buyers usually use NG to run the equipment instead of using LPG. "Liquefied petroleum gas is quite expensive. A 2kva gas generator runs for only 20 hours with a 12kg LPG cylinder, which costs 1,280 taka. That's why we use natural gas from kitchen lines," said the same domesticuser in Dhanmondi area.

When the illegal user was asked why he was not getting permission from Titas Gas, he said, "It's not so easy to get a permission.'

Admitting that the problem of illegal use of natural gas in producing alternative power does exist, a high official of Titas Gas said, "The government instruction is quite confusing regarding giving permissions. The term, limited permission, is not adequately explained in the instruc-

"Even the tariff has not been reviewed. After giving permission we attach meters to a supply line Domestic users have to pay 4.59 taka for using each cubic metre of natural gas. After setting the meters for generators they however don't need to pay for the gas supply to their kitchen stoves", he added.

Obama wins

FROM PAGE 1

On November 4, voters must pick between Obama, a freshman senator and charismatic mixed-race standard-bearer of a new political generation, and McCain, a wounded Vietnam war hero asking for one final call to service.

Clinton congratulated Obama on an "extraordinary" race but refused to bow out, demanding respect for the nearly 18 million people who voted for her and leaving no doubt that she considered herself the best potential president.

from here, and given how far we've come and where we need to go as a party, it's a question I don't take lightly," the 60-year-old New York senator said.

"This has been a long campaign, and I will be making no decisions tonight."

Obama, who must now mend his divided party, paid lavish tribute to Clinton.

millions of Americans with her strength, her courage and her commitment to the causes that brought us here tonight," he told 19,000 supporters packed inside the sta- America."

dium in St Paul. better off because of her, and I am a was raised in Hawaii, and lived for better candidate for having had the several years in Indonesia in the honor to compete with Hillary

Rodham Clinton. Obama's soaring calls of hope man's life." and change, in a country wearied by the Iraq war and stalked by fears of recession, ended a 16-year era of Clinton family dominance over the Democratic Party.

He claimed victory capturing the tion has been thwarted for now. final primary in Montana, after a flood of party superdelegates during the day, and vaulting over the winning post of 2,118 delegates to the party's August nominating conven-

Clinton snapped up a consolation defeat.

victory in South Dakota's primary, taking 55 percent of votes to Obama's

45 percent. In Montana, almost complete results showed Obama with 56 percent to Clinton's 41 per-Five months before the election, Obama had a slight 49-44 percent

lead over McCain in a USA Today/Gallup poll, with their battle already boiling over Iraq, whether to talk to US enemies like Iran and the ailing US economy. In the frenzied end-game, Clinton meanwhile said for the first time she

"The question is, where do we go may be ready to serve as Obama's vice president, in a phone call with lawmakers from her New York state, a staffer with the New York delegation Obama needs Clinton's army of

white working-class voters, women and Hispanic voters, but some analysts question whether he wants to associate himself so closely to the Clinton political legacy. Obama rocketed to prominence

"She's a leader who inspires at the 2004 Democratic presidential convention with an electrifying call for unity, proclaiming "there is not a Black America and a White America ... there's the United States of

Son of a white American mother "Our party and our country are and a black Kenyan father, Obama 1960s, which he remembered in a memoir as the "bounty of a young

Meanwhile, Hillary Clinton came home to New York to praise her White House campaign, not to bury it, to flex the muscles of her 18 million supporters even if her vaulting ambi-

On the night that Barack Obama became the Democratic heir apparent, the New York senator returned to her most ardent supporters, whose tears and recriminations laid bare the agonizing nature of her primary

4 new social safety Road digging

difficulties to locals, said Jhilpar resident Hassan

Sheema, a resident of the same area, said, "I have to go about half a mile on foot to get to my work due to the digging on the road that becomes especially hazardous during rains."

While speaking with the Daily Star

recently, Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hosssain Khoka blamed the absence of proper coordination for the unplanned road digging by different utility providers in the city. Coordination among different

utility service providers is very essential and their work should be brought under a single umbrella to ease the sufferings of the people in the city, Khoka said.

Different utility service providers apply for approval of their projects by June [the closing month of a fiscal year) in order to collect allotted funds

for the projects and that is why they tend to do the work in the rainy season, explained the mayor. The DCC most of the time has to approve the work at the eleventh

hour, considering the urgency of the work, headded. Khoka however blamed Dhaka Wasa for violating guidelines set by One Stop Cell that was established in 2003 to coordinate works of different

utility service providers. "We cannot take action against Wasa as it is a government organisation," said the mayor of Dhaka. A DCC official said the One Stop

Cell, since its establishment in 2003 has failed to improve the disorderly situation due to flagrant violations of its guidelines by the utility service providers. According to the guidelines, a

utility service provider has to publish a notice in newspapers about their work in a particular area and make announcements over loudspeakers in the area seven days before the commencement of the work.

Besides, the excavation work has to be completed within a certain time with modern equipment and the work has to be done mainly at night with sufficient lights and signal lights marking the site.

Earth from the excavated area must be removed within 24 hours of digging so it does not block the movement of vehicles and pedestrians, says the guidelines.

The utility service providers, however, ignore all these guidelines, posing danger to the road users of the

Road excavation has been going on at various locations in the city including Anjuman Mufidul Islam Sharani, Maghbazar, Nayatola, Madhubagh, New Eskaton Road, Shewrapara, Bakshibazar, road near Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Dhanmondi, Mirpur Road, Lake Circus and Kalabagan. Sidewalks near the secretariat and a crisis' number of other areas have also been

Dhaka Wasa and BTTB have been digging up 695.16 square metres of road in Ward 50 of DCC while PGCB (Power Grid Company of Bangladesh) is digging up 198 square metres of the road from Anjuman Mufidul Islam Sharani to Pioneer

The PGCB is also working on 788.40 square metres of road from Maghbazar crossing to the residence of the chief justice on Captain Mansur Ali Sharani. Sheba Telecom (Pvt) Ltd is working on 127.80 square

metres of road on Natok Sharani. Dhaka Wasa is also digging up

236.52 square metres of road at Greenway Nayatola, 1239.32 square metres at Mirbagh Wasa Road, 840 square metres on Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Lane beside New Eskaton Road and 712.30 square metres of road near DMCH.

Gas pipeline installation work for a CNG filling station is also in progress on the road from Bakshibazar Square to the Central Shahid Minar.

Besides, Sheba Telecom and the BTTB will dig 648 square metres of Mirpur Road from Russell Square to Dhanmondi Club ground, roads 14 and 27 at Dhanmondi and various spots on Mirpur Road and roads in the Lake Circus area. Sheba Telecom will also dig 1,500 square metres of road from Road 9 to Road 8/A (old 15) of Dhanmondi and the road from Rayer Bazar High School to Mitali

Khoka-led

Road via Sher-e-Bangla Road.

FROM PAGE 1 (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, acting secretary general of Saifur-led faction, told The Daily Star last night, "It's unfortunate. It was totally unexpected as the chairperson herself

asked party leaders to stay united." Earlier, Delwar reconstituted Sylhet District Committee with Ilyas Ali as its convener while former finance minister Saifur Rahman and his followers were excluded from the

new committee. Later, Barisal (north), Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, and Raibari district committees decided to expel pro-Saifur former lawmakers Shah Abul Hossain, Mosharraf Hossain Mangu, Zahiruddin Swapan, Nazir Hossain, Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, Ali Newaz Khaiyam, and Nasirul Haque Sabu from respective committees, followed by Kishoreganj District Committee leaders declaring pro-Saifur leder Dr Osman Farruk a

personanon grata'. On June 1, Delwar met detained party Chairpeson Khaleda Zia during her first appearance before a court, and later said he received important guidelines from her regarding party

Meanwhile, Delwar yesterday lodged complaints to the party chairperson against her adviser Hannan Shah and the party's Joint Secretary General Goyeshwer Chandra Roy regarding their remarks about the party.

On Tuesday, attending a discussion organised by Jatiyatabadi Shamajik Shangskritik Shongstha, the cultural wing of BNP, Hannan Shah said, "The same sycophants who used to use the names of Tarique Rahman and Hawa Bhaban to disgrace both, are now using the name of the secretary general to disgrace

Goyeshwer alleged that the party is being run in an 'autocratic manner' while 'some party leaders are getting promotions taking the opportunity of the party's present According to pro-Khaleda faction sources, hearing the allegations from

Delwar, the party chairperson sug-

gested that the secretary general

work with all to minimise the differences in the party and to win the trust of all leaders. Delwar, also a lawyer of the BNP chairperson, met her yesterday when she appeared before a court in connection with Gatco graft case

Meanwhile, a group of former BNP lawmakers and leaders of pro-Saifur faction had a meeting yesterday in their Acting Secretary General Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed's Banani residence to discuss the latest situation of the stalling party reunification process.

filed against her.

FROM PAGE 16 of the ACC filed a "non-submission" case against Tapan for his failure to

amassed huge wealth through illegal means.

FROM PAGE 1

vide maternity allowances to women of low-income groups including garment workers in urban areas, they said.

completion of statements of Earlier, the court had recorded for rural employment and road statements of 23 prosecution maintenance. The workers witnesses. Nazmul and Sigma were employed under the scheme will produced before the court during

On July 29 last year, former BNP lawmaker GM Siraj filed the extortion case against the couple with Dhanmondi Police Station, complaining that they had demanded sources added. two Maruti cars from him for the use of weekly Khaborer Antoralay,

published by Sigma Huda. He said the accused later intimidated him into providing them with a carworth Tk 3.95 crore.

FROM PAGE 1 the socialist party, told reporters at a post-dialogue joint press briefing that the constitution needs to be amended to include benefits for the unemployed and

uniformity in the education sys-"The country has been practising just the opposite of what is sanctified in the constitution. We have a free market and three separate education systems when the constitution says otherwise," he said, adding, "the constitution

should be either changed or fol-"A consensus among political parties will be built to form a commission or a committee. It is up to the next elected government to implement the committee's recommendations or not," Zillur

told the briefing at the Chief Adviser's Office. He said the government agreed with a number of BSD proposals to correct, amend or annul a number of what the party said were consti-

tutional inconsistencies. Both the sides agreed this could be done through a "constitutional review commission" that could provide recommendations.

the second party that has pro-

After the Gono Forum, BSD is

posed such a constitutional Zillur also dismissed doubt over success of the dialogue saying it would be completed even if it carried on until next month. He said this would not slow down

be affected by these talks. He said the dialogues are necessary to hold meaningful elections after consultations with a cross-section of the people. The government also back-

polls preparations, adding the

Election Commission would not

tracked from a full-blown legal ban on hartal. Instead, it is trying to build a consensus among political parties to refrain from calling the general strikes. The next dialogues are set to be held with Islami Oikya Jote on June

Reform (UPR) on June 11.

allocated for a programme to pro-

Under current fiscal year, there is a similar programme in the rural areas where poor women are provided Tk 300 monthly. The government has planned another Tk 200 crore programme

get Tk 120 a day for road maintenance and social forestry. They will also have to deposit a portion of the wage to the bank and after a certain period can get bank loans against the savings, the

The government is also considering 10 percent increase in the amount for social safety-net programmes in the next budget.

The amount for targeted social empowerment, social safety net, poverty reduction and employment generation programmes in the current fiscal year is Tk 3,893

Centre for Policy Dialogue

Executive Director Dr Mustafizur

Rahman at a press conference

yesterday appreciated the govern ment's new programmes. He however said, "The government must strengthen its mechanisms for efficient distribution of the money allocated for the

programme.

World leaders

themselves," he said.

FROM PAGE 16 hoarding, drive up prices and hurt the poorest people around the world who are struggling to feed

These restrictions and taxes

must be lifted at the minimum

for humanitarian food purchases and transportation by the WFP," he said, referring to the World Food Programme, the UN agency that delivers emergency food aid. "They should be lifted or at least eased for shipments to less devel-

oped and fragile countries,

Zoellick said, urging that "the

immediate requirements of 20 of

the most vulnerable countries (be met) by the time of the G8 summit in early July. Zoellick urged "safety net support, school feeding, food for work, | city. maternal and child programmes, conditional cash transfers and

"We need to get seeds, fertilisers and inputs to those developing countries where smallholder farmers can expand production this season," he added. \$1.5BISLAMICBANK

budget support" for the countries

most in need.

Wednesday.

SUPPORTFORFARMING The Islamic Development Bank will donate 1.5 billion dollars (970 million euros) to support farming in the developing world, the head of the Food and Agricultural

Forest gobbler

Organization announced

submit his wealth statement to the commission. It is alleged that Tapan has 10 and with Unity for Political