# Hasina departs

FROM PAGE 1

the acting president in Hasina's there. absence since her arrest on July 16 last year, said they would take part in the ongoing dialogue with the caretaker government after finalising try. their representatives in the party forum in a day or two.

Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday said Hasina was released unconditionally and without any negotiation with the government for treatmentin the USA.

"There was no negotiation with anybody regarding her release," Ashraf told reporters after Hasina's

departure, adding, "She was not released on any attached condition. "We have necessary papers to prove it. You may check the govern-

ment order to see if there was any condition," he told reporters. Later last night, he expressed toldTheDailyStarlastnight. hope that Hasina's release would be

permanent. "We hope that Sheikh Hasina's release will be permanent as there is no obstacle to that now," he told reporters after a meeting with acting British High Commissioner in Dhaka Duncan Norman at Zillur's Gulshan

Hasina's special personal aide Dr Hasan Mahmud, who is accompanying her to the USA, also told reporters that she was not released on parole. "It was an unconditional release as there is no condition like parole in the government's executive order." he said, criticising media reports for

describing Hasina's release as parole. Hasina left Sudha Sadan at about 6:45am and reached ZIA at about 7:20am amid huge security mea-

sures. A large contingent of police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel were deployed on the route from Sudha Sadan to ZIA. Besides, escorting Hasina's motorcade were several vehicles carrying police and Rab personnel who did not allow any media vehicle to approach near the motorcade.

Hasina was driven to the airport by her personal Mercedes SUV, which the police gave her back on the

day of her release. Only a good number of senior party leaders were allowed at the VIP Lounge of the airport where a seventier security system was placed. The leaders had already gathered at the

lounge when Hasina arrived there. Because of the security, however, regular passengers had to face difficulties in entering the airport. Police and ZIA security personnel with the

help of Rab searched each passenger. Besides Dr Hasan Mahmud, Hasina's Chief Security Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique and her personal physician Dr Niaz Ahmed are accompanying Hasina on her journey abroad.

Hasina spent about an hour at the VIP Lounge and talked to party colleagues. She seemed to be very

### Case against Hasina

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Director Sabbir Hasan filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on September 2 last year, accusing Hasina and six others of using their influence through mutual understanding in helping a foreign company and its local partners win a deal for setting up the 100MW barge-mount power plants

in Haripur, Khulna and Shikalbaha, depriving the lowest bidder. Hasina's co-accused at the time were former energy secretary Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, former Power Development Board (PDB) chairman Noor Uddin Mahmud Kamal, Managing Director of Summit Industries and Mercantile Corporation Private Ltd Aziz Khan, its Director Farid Khan, United Group Chairman Hasan Mahmud

Raja and its Director Abul Kalam Morshed Alam, deputy director of the ACC, submitted the charge sheet in the case on January 10 of this year including the name of Bangabandhu Memorial Trust

(BMT) Curator Siddigur Rahman.

appeal hearings, many appellants

happy, said party leaders present

They said they requested Hasina to concentrate on her treatment rather than the situation in the coun-

Earlier, prior to leaving Sudha Sadan, Hasina held a meeting with Meanwhile, AL acting General the leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League and directed them to remain united and work together.

The flight carrying Hasina landed at the Heathrow Airport in London around 7:00pm Bangladesh time. During a half-an-hour stopover there, Hasina met her younger sister Sheikh Rehana and niece Ruponti, UK AL President Shamsuddin Khan

and Vice-President Jalal Uddin. None of them, however, briefed journalists after the meeting, London-based Bangla weekly Janamot Editor Syed Nahash Pasha

Hasina will stay in the house of her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy in the US for a few days and then go to Orlando for treatment of her ears. She will then fly for Washington for the treatment of her eyes. Later, she will visit her daughter Saima Wazed Putul in Canada and spend a few days there.

Meanwhile, leaders of the US chapter of the AL and its front organisations have made preparations to welcome Hasina at the Boston Airport, according to a report of New York-based news agency News

The government released Hasina on June 11 for eight weeks after about an 11-month detention since her arreston July 16 last year.

Briefing newsmen after seeing off Hasina at ZIA. Ashraf said Hasina expressed gratefulness and gratitude to all for their support for her release and asked the people of the country

to pray for her. "She [Hasina] has asked us to stay united and directed to run party activities in her absence as before,' he said, adding that the AL chief told them that she would return home as early as possible after completing her

He said they want a favourable atmosphere for the election, which should be held before all other elec-

### MEETINGWITH

BRITISHENVOY Talking to reporters after his meeting with Ashraf, Norman expressed hope that a free, fair and credible election would be held in Bangladesh by December and the political parties would continue the dialogue for the

Hoping that the dialogue would be successful, he said there is no alternative to the success of the dialogue.

Ashraf said issues including the election, the state of emergency and voter list came up for discussion. He thanked the British envoy for his country's technical support in pre-

### paring the voter list. Govt reviews EPF

FROM PAGE 1 of all, said a source, claiming that the

EPR would be made "pro-people". But an anti-graft body official speaking in return for anonymity said, "Since the move has been initiated after the submission of charge sheet in Gatco case and that most of the accused in corruption cases are high profile individuals, it's quite obvious the bigwigs are going to reap the benefits.'

He however said even if some sections are relaxed, it would not hamper the speedy trial of corrup-

After yesterday's meeting, the acting ACC chairman said the commission would have no difficulty continuing the cases even if section 15 is amended.

Queried whether the govern-

ment is going to amend the EPR so that one does not have to be arrested once a case is filed against him, the commerce adviser said, 'We'll talk about it later." Replying to another query, he said the committee will also look

into matters relating to lifting of the

state of emergency.

### previous governments. " A dairy farm was established in Narsinghdi only for the then minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan since he was elected from that district. But there was not a single cow or goat at the farm," he said substantiating his criticism. At the appeal hearing, Awami League leader Col (retd) Shawkat

Ali said people of Shariatpur district do not want re-demarcation of gazette notification containing a parliamentary seats ahead of the draft list of redrawn parliamentary coming polls.

> the EC move to allocate four parliamentary seats in his home district | they will hold rallies at their offices Faridpur, as against five seats now. He asked the EC to hold the polls immediately. Mahfuzur Rahman Bachchu,

Faridpur district BNP leader, said people are not happy with the redemarcation.

problems due to new areas, he encies of Dhaka Division. These are Tangail- 5 and 6, Kishoreganj- 1 "The previous governments did and 2, Faridpur- 2, 3 and 4 and | would not participate in any stage-Tomorrow, it will hear appeals

emergency was imposed on this filed from Manikganj, Jamalpur, Netrokona and Mymensingh she and Nizami are released -- over

Govt to make

FROM PAGE 1 He was speaking to reporters after meeting Communications Adviser Ghulam Quader at his ministry.

Throughout the day in separate interactions with the press, Home Adviser MA Matin and Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury said processes are underway to release

would take a balanced approach in dealing with the BNP and AL over

The government will continue with the ongoing dialogue to thrash out agreements on a number of other election and postelection related issues.

with all is necessary to create an environment of trust and a national consensus. The issue cannot be taken lightly," said Zillur. Referring to Sheikh Hasina's

release, he said, "We crossed another hurdle on our way to resolving the current crisis. We have started work to cross the next." Meanwhile, Khaleda Zia herself

reiterated vesterday her resolve to stay in the country, asking the government to send her two detained sons abroad for treatment immediately.

There is a normal process. It will be followed if she [Khaleda] applies for it.

made regarding the release of Khaleda's sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman, Matin said, " am not quite aware of the matter.

Adviser Ghulam Quader, meantime, asked all to be patient and said, "There could have been a chaos had we disclosed the decision of Sheikh Hasina's leaving [the

IN KHULNA, CTG In parallel with dialogue with the political parties, the government will hold regional dialogue with cross sections of people in Khulna

on June 21 and in Chittagong on

"The locals, people from all walks of life, would participate in the dialogue," the commerce adviser told reporters after a meeting with Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff, the home adviser and the communications adviser at the law ministry where they discussed the schedules of the ongoing dialogue with different social and profes-

sional bodies. Like the dialogue with the business community, the government will hold talks with local government representatives and the labourers but the schedule is yet to

## 4-party questions

FROM PAGE 1 Delwar Hossain said, "The people know how they [AL] had joined the elections in '86. The people now want to know how she [Hasina] has been released, how the court was arranged at night and how all the

"The people understand what sort of election is going to be held in the country as she [Hasina] would join the dialogues after returning from abroad two months later," he

added.

Section 401 of the CrPc [Criminal Procedure Codel will be applied equally to all," he added. Speaking to journalists from the electronic media only, Delwar

asked the government to refrain from interfering with the media. Journalists from the print media were barred from his briefing and they were not let inside the flat.

Ahmed, acting office secretary of BNP, was drawn on the matter, he expressed his regret for the unpleasant episode. BNP standing committee mem-

bers RA Gani and Tanveer Ahmed Siddique, Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid, Islami Oikyo Jote leader Abdul Latif Nezami and Mohammad Waqqas and Bangladesh Jatiya Party leader Andalib Rahman Partha and Shamim Al Mamun attended the meeting with Delwar in the chair.

Delwar also said the alliance would observe Free Detainees day on June 17 and Demands day and on June 19. According to the programme,

alliance partners will hold protest meetings at their party offices across the country on June 17 and on June 19. The BNP secretary general said

endorse the demands raised by Khaleda Zia during her appearance before the court for lifting the emergency within this month and On the first day, the EC heard | holding the elections by October. Asked if his party would partici-

pate in the dialogues with the government, Delwar said they managed dialogue. "We will participate in the dialogue under the leadership of Khaleda Zia -- after

3,000 appeals by June 30 and then | now if they [Khaleda and Nizami] are released," Delwar added.

## 8 bandits beaten

FROM PAGE 1

from the criminals while two other similar guns were retrieved from the pond.

Policemen were looking for more arms in the pond at the school ground as of yesterday afternoon.

"Attacks by robbers are not uncommon at the village during the harvest period. Besides, our suspicion about a possible attack became stronger as we started noticing movement of unknown people," said M Shahin, a local and a witness to the incident.

"As we started noticing movement of unknown people, we arranged regular watch with Rab and police help at the village and its surrounding areas," said Tarek Hossain Dulal, a member Dahia union parishad.

Abdul Quayyum, a local trader, said, "The criminals might have targeted three businessmen who collected handsome money through Halkhata (annual collection of outstanding dues just a day

Dahia Union Parishad Chairman M Sarful Islam said, "Three weeks ago villagers complained to Rab about the movements of alleged criminals and Rab-5 arranged for an awareness meeting in the village."

Lt Col Israt Hossain, director of Rab-5, visited the spot. Additional forces of Rab and police were deployed at the village. RABVERSION

Rab-5 in a press release last evening pond.

said that a combined team of Rab personnel from Rajshahi Railway Colony camp and Singra police were on patrol at Bias, Ayas and Kholabaria villages.

They rushed to neighbouring Bias Adimpur village hearing a hue and cry.

The release said the patrol team saw villagers surrounding a gang of robbers in a pond at the north corner of the school and heard announcements being made from loudspeakers of mosques urging to resist the robbers.

The team took position at a corner of the pond, the release said. The release claimed that the gang fired around 20 shots to

frighten and disperse the villagers and the patrol team. The team retaliated to protect lives of locals and government properties, the press release read. As locals stepped back during

the firefight, robbers tried to flee but the mob caught a number of them and started beating them indiscriminately. They rescued two unidentified

robbers from the mob and seized two firearms and ammo from them. However, the two succumbed to their injuries on their way to a health complex, the release said.

Later the law enforcers pacified the mob. They recovered six bodies of the robbers.

The release said another body and two firearms were found in the

## Khoka denies link

FROM PAGE 1 of minus Khaleda Zia was raised,"

Replying to a question, Khoka, also the mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, said it is not an offence to meet Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan who was the secretary general of the party.

He said he has no reason to disown Khandaker Delwar Hossain as secretary general of the party.

Khoka, however, said: "BNP is a big party and it may be difficult for him to run the party at his age... he (Delwar) has not yet resolved BNP's conflict in his own Manikgani district.'

Asked about BNP reformist leader Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Khoka said Maj Hafiz has \_ mittee should be formed in consulalready cleared his position that he had to act in an unusual situation. "But they are confident about Begum Zia's leadership and are ready to return to the mainstream. I

think this should be resolved." About the dissolution of the BNP city committee, Khoka said dissolution of the committee is not acceptable. "But, since it was done

on the instruction of Begum Zia, we did not oppose it despite pressure on me from the party workers." He added: "At this time we don't

want any disunity in the party.

Khoka, who was the president of

Rather, we need to work unitedly."

the BNP city committee for seven years, said although the tenure of the committee had expired, there was no instruction from the party

leadership to constitute a new committee.

"The reason for which the Dhaka City BNP was dissolved was not right. Rather, the secretary general (Delwar) himself tried to keep the committee inactive," he said, adding that Khandaker the city committee.

Khoka hoped that with the release of Khaleda Zia, BNP would

reunite under her leadership. About the formation of the new city committee, he assured cooperation if the chairperson and the secretary general sought his suggestions. Khoka said the new com-

tation with city BNP leaders. Demanding release of Khaleda Zia and the treatment of Tarique and Koko abroad, he said if Awami League President Sheikh Hasina could be released for her treatment abroad, what's the problem to release critically ill Tarique and

Koko and send them abroad for treatment? General secretary of the dissolved city unit Abdus Salam said he has no objection to the dissolu-

Salam said: "We abide by Begum Zia's instructions and want to do politics under her leadership," he added, expressing his readiness to help reorganise the Dhaka city BNP.

# Shortage of judges

FROM PAGE 16

Amin's retirement the number stands at six.

A former judge of the Appellate Division, Justice Golam Rabbani, recently at an event told The Daily Star that judges should be appointed under the previous rules, not under the present rules.

"According to the previous rules for appointing judges to the Supreme Court, the chief justice used to recommend to the president, names of nominees for appointment as judges to the Appellate and HC divisions. It is the chief justice, who knows well the skills, characters, levels of competence, honesty, and conscience of prospective persons," he said.

Now the law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry recommends to the president the names of nominees for positions of judges, Justice Rabbani added.

"The system of appointing judges to the higher judiciary was changed during the immediate past regime of BNP-led four-party alliance government, making way for appointing the judges on political consideration," hesaid.

He also said the Supreme Judicial Commission cannot start functioning yet, as two members of the commission must come from parliament members, but there is no parliament

Dr M Zahir said the rate of case disposal in the HC got reduced due to the shortage of judges in the court. "I am hoping that new competent judges will be appointed to the HC

and Appellate divisions for quick and

better dispensation of justice," he A former judge of the HC Justice Syed Amirul Islam said the rate of case disposal will increase in both higher and lower judiciaries if more judges are appointed.

"A small number of judges

despite their best efforts just can't

adjudicate the cases as fast as they

pile up, and that might start affecting

the justice delivery system

adversely," he said.

not have primacy regarding appointment of judges to the SC. The present government reserves the absolute right to appoint judges to the SC, just like previous elected governments.

Justice Syed Amirul Islam said the extent by reviving the previous rules for appointing judges to the higher judiciary.

## Anti-Terrorism

inflicting grievous injury, confinement, kidnapping or damaging property to create panic among the people or government and jeopardises the country's security, sovereignty and integrity by using explosives, arms and chemicals, will be charged with committing terrorist offence.

"Such offender is liable to death penalty or life imprisonment or fine or both," the tough new law says. The ordinance empowers

Bangladesh Bank to freeze account of a suspected terror and give directions to banks concerned to take preventive measures against monetary transactions for financing terrorist acts.

imprisonment with fines for a member or supporter of an outlawed organisation. According to the ordinance, the government will be able to set up one or more Anti-Terrorist Special

## Nazmul Huda

FROM PAGE 1

arguments: the court recorded the statements of 11 prosecution witnesses.

Former BNP lawmaker and owner of Cab Express Ltd GM Siraj filed the case with Dhanmondi Police Station on July 27 last year, stating that the Huda couple on February 23 in 2003 demanded two Maruti cars from him for weekly Khaborer Antaralay, published by Sigma Huda.

He said the couple finally intimidated him into giving them a Maruti car worth Tk 3.95 lakh on February 27 the same year.

Police pressed charges against Nazmul and Sigma on November

29 last year. Huda, accused in a dozen other criminal cases, has already been sentenced in two cases while Sigma, accused in three other extortion cases, has been given three years in a bribery case.

SALMAN F RAHMAN CASE Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court cleared the accused of the misappropriation charges after

accepting the final report (FRT). The other acquitted are former managing director of Arab Bangladesh Bank Abu Hanif, former bank officials MA Awal and Tawhidul Islam, Beximco Holdings Ltd directors Iqbal Ahmed, MA Qasem, Osman Kaiser Chowdhury and ex-official Binoy

Krishna Nath. Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Assistant Director Mahbubul Alam filed the case with Motijheel Police Station on October 1 last year, alleging that the Beximco high-ups took out a 191.39 crore loan from Arab Bangladesh Bank putting up 151.51 acres of land in Gazipur as collateral which actually belonged to the

government and locals. The former bank officials were accused of not vetting the documents properly before granting the

ACC assistant director and investigation officer of the case, Mojibur Rahman, in his June 5 final report, however, said the charges brought against the accused were

not proved. Appealing to the court for acquitting the accused on all charges, the IO said the accused

## had also repaid the loan.

Taimur

FROM PAGE 16

bribe from Nikunja Model Service Centre in 2006 for allocating land to the company for setting up a CNG filling station at Khilkhet. He took Tk 12.5 lakh through pay orders and the rest in cash. It was mentioned in the state-

Taimur took Tk 22.5 lakh in bribe from SR Tractors owner Shamsul Huda through 12 pay orders. Taimur, while serving as the BRTC chairman struck a deal with SR Tractors, the agent for Pragati Industries Ltd, for purchasing 73 buses and trucks in 2004. But when

the vehicles were ready for delivery

ment of the second case that

he threatened to cancel the deal if he was not paid the money, the statement added. The joint forces arrested Taimur, also general secretary of Narayanganj district BNP, on April 18 last year on charges of corrup-

## EC Secretariat

FROM PAGE 16 under which the EC secretariat has been operating as a division under

EC secretariat from the PMO started on June 7 last year when the EC sent a proposal to the caretaker government to free its secretariat from the PMO. The council of advisers to the caretaker government on June 23

last year approved in principle the

promulgation of the ordinance that

would create an independent EC

Earlier on May 21, 2005, amid a submitted a proposal to the presi-

pendent secretariat. The past political governments however did not entertain the former CEC's recommendations.

dent, recommending the creation

of an election cadre with an inde-

FROM PAGE 16 set free on parole for a brief period after about a year-long detention on graft charges.

Hasina was a "positive step" by the caretaker government.

"As a close and friendly neighbour, India remains committed to seeing a peaceful, stable, prosperous and a liberal democratic Bangladesh," Sarna added.

# Taiwan, China agree

FROM PAGE 16

day of meetings between the foundation and its mainland counterpart, the first formal talks between

the sides since 1999. Foundation Deputy Secretary-General Pang Chien-kuo told China's official Xinhua News Agency the offices would "facilitate people's exchanges and travelling

across the Strait." The announcement injected a whiff of drama into an otherwise relatively mundane talks agenda that seeks mainly to finalize agreements on charter flights and tour-

ism to build confidence between the long-estranged rivals. The talks seek mainly to finalize agreements on charter flights and

tourism to build confidence between the long-estranged rivals. Taiwan's delegation also planned to discuss what additional help the island could provide for China's earthquake relief efforts. The talks are scheduled to run

through Friday at a state guesthouse in western Beijing. The 19-member Taiwanese team is being led by Chiang Pinkung, chairman of the quasigovernmental Straits Exchange said. Foundation, and includes two vice

Cabinet ministers the highestranking Taiwanese officials ever to participate in bilateral talks. The negotiations should lay the foundation for "a long-term peace-

### ful relationship between the two sides," Chiang said as the talks

Tk 3cr extortion case saying that the SC had cleared the legal bar to continue the trial pro-

ceedings. He prayed for fixing a new date for hearing on the case. But Judge Mohammad Azizul

Haque of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court did not pass any order on the issue. Eastcoast Trading Pvt Ltd Managing Director Azam Chowdhury on June 13 last year charged Hasina and her cousin former minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim with extorting Tk 2.99

crore from him in exchange for awarding the contract of setting up

the Siddhirganj Power Plant in Narayanganj. On July 16, the home ministry directed the police to bring the case under EPR. Investigation officer of the case Obaidul Haque indicted Hasina

along with her sister Sheikh Rehana

and cousin Sheikh Selim on July 24,

but did not include the relevant

sections of the EPR. Following Hasina's writ filed on July 29 last year, an HC bench of Justice Naveem and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury issued the rule on the caretaker government, asking it to reply why its approval for bringing the case under EPR should not be declared illegal.

that the proceedings already taken

and under process were without

an eventual return to politics. After the hearing, the HC on February 6 quashed the case saying

Kathmandu Post said.

# Bangladesh bow out

lawful authority.

before decision.

Mortaza had Sehwag, who struck his front of the stumps in the third over but the Lankan umpire again deprived the Tigers. After surviving that close call, the dashing righthander never looked behind during his fluent knock that contained seven fours and two sixes, both of which came over extra-cover off rookie paceman Dollar Mahmud, who gave away 24 in his first over. However, Sehwag was dismissed off the last ball when his mistimed pull

fell on the lap of Tamim Iqbal. Bangladesh and it was his inside-out

the match for Rokibul's whole-

hearted effort. He indeed missed a

well-deserved century but his composed knock made sure that the

ground including Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Praveen Kumar's away-swinger in the very first over. Shahriar Nafees followed Tamim, missing an offcutter from RP that scissored through his bat and pad. With both the openers gone within six overs,

Rokibul then joined captain Ashraful at the crease and the two steadied the ship, sharing a 76-run stand for the third wicket. Both batsmen displayed patience and refreshingly, picked singles and twos at will. Leg-spinner Piyush Chawla never threatened the pair but

opened. "The two sides have ... established mutual trust."

His counterpart, Chen Yunlin, head of Beijing's semiofficial Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, said the public on both sides was counting on the talks to produce results and alter the often combative tone between

the two governments. "Whether cross-strait relations can improve, depends on whether our negotiations can proceed

### smoothly," Chen said. Nepali Maoists

FROM PAGE 16 Dinanath Sharma, said that "as per the people's mandate, we should get the opportunity to lead the new government," but complained that the other parties "are

not willing to hand over power to The move, however, does not lead to the immediate collapse of the current interim government, as the resignations were delivered to the Maoist leader Prachanda

and not the prime minister and acting head of state, party officials Meanwhile, Nepal's Maoists on Thursday warned the country's

ousted king to keep out of politics in the new Himalayan republic, the day after the former monarch vacated his Kathmandu palace. "He should not disturb the

development of the republic, and refrain from engaging in counterrevolutionary activities," Maoist second-in-command Baburam Bhattarai told reporters.

"We don't want him to be used as a weapon for counterrevolutionary forces in this transitional and sensitive period," the top Maoist said. A Maoist-dominated assembly

deal between the former rebels and mainstream political parties. The ex-king, Gyanendra Shah, left his palace late on Wednesday. In an address to the nation before he complied with an eviction order, the former king said he

for the good of the country." Gyanendra also stopped short of apologising to those killed during his reign, which was marked by a bloody crackdown against pro-democracy demonstrators, and insisted he had

Local media took this as meaning Gyanendra had not ruled out

always worked for national unity.

FROM PAGE 16 themselves little chance of defending the modest target by dropping two chances early on, umpire Asoka de Silva stood in the way of a plumb leg-

second consecutive fifty, right in

Left-handed Gambhir struck 13 fours and a six for his fifth one-day hundred and second against hitting that really caught the eye. Later, 26 each from Rohit Sharma and Yuvraj Singh shepherded India. It was however Gambhir who hit the winningruns off Forhad Reza. But Bangladesh will remember

hosts cross the 200-run mark in the competition. After captain Ashraful won the toss and elected to bat, Rokibul displayed ease as he stroked five boundaries in his 117-ball innings which was cut short after he suffered tremendous cramps to his legs and right arm. He refused a runner and a little later, fell to a catch at mid-on off RP Singh and walked off to a rapturous applause from everyone in the

The Tigers made a poor start when Tamim fell to new-ball bowler Bangladesh were placed in a typically disastrous 17 for two.

Ashraful's innings ended in an anticlimactic fashion when he offered a tame return catch to Yusuf Pathan, who took his first international wicket to make it 93-3. Ashraful, having adopted a new approach to Pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin his batting, stroked just two boundaries in his 67-ball 36.

The decision to send

wicketkeeper Mushfigur Rahim was

the blot in an otherwise decent day

sweep which was easily caught by Suresh Raina. Rokibul reached his second halfcentury in ODIs with a single off Chawla off his 78th delivery. He swiftly added 46 with Kapali and 35 with Mahmudullah Riyad. Mashrafe Bin Mortaza strode to the Mirpur ground rather late, but managed to slam the first and only six of the

innings off part-timer Virender Sehwag. For the Indians, left-armers RP and Irfan Pathan took three and two

FROM PAGE 16

evil activities to influence the Referring to the temporary release of detained political leaders, he said that every thing should

be done in line with the law.

ing the health of the detained politicians should give their comments appropriately. Dr Kamal demanded that the government hold the polls as per the electoral roadmap and lift the

state of emergency gradually, so

that a normal situation can be

restored in the country. The Gono Forum president also urged the Election Commission (EC) to enact law against the blackmoneyholders.

are the owners of black money, so that they cannot contest the election," Dr Kamal said. Gono Forum presidium mem-

at the view exchange meeting.

# Local govt system

in communicating with lawmakers to be elected in the new constituencies since they will not be familiar to them, the appellants argued, opposing the redrawal move. They urged the EC to cancel the

They will have to face difficulties

Some of them questioned this move ahead of the parliamentary polls saying the EC should immediately hold the election to put an end to the critical situation the country is passing through. In response, the CEC said people would not face any problems due to re-demarcation of parlia-

mentary seats as everything will

candidates in the polls may face

remain the same for them. But

not follow the laws in doing so Shariatpur-2. many things. The 1/11 (the state of date) was due to the negative culture of politics. Mind it, the present districts, and some from Dhaka. Election Commission is not the same as the previous ones," the CEC said.

The CEC also criticised the district ministers system under the

Jamaat-e-Islami central leader Abdul Quader Mollah protested

appeals filed from eight constitu-

The EC plans to hear about give its decision.

Khaleda and her two sons. Iftekhar said the government

the "dialogue issue".

"Open and tough discussions

Home Adviser MA Matin said,

Asked about any decisions

country] earlier. REGIONAL DIALOGUE

June 28.

cases were resolved so quickly."

Demanding the immediate release of Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko -- the two sons of BNP chief Khaleda Zia Delwar said the two deserve the same opportunity as has been rendered to Hasina. The people hope that the government would prove itself neutral and "I hope

When the attention of Rizvi

the alliance leaders agreed to

the issue of holding the elections." "We will go to dialogues right Delwar had organised some programs like distribution of cooked food in the city without consulting

tion of the committee as the chairperson has the authority to dissolve and form new committees.

Appointment of judges to the SC through the Supreme Judicial Commission is not a good procedure, as the government will end up having the upper hand and the final say on the matter, he added. "The opinion of the judiciary will

There might be cases where proper persons will not be chosen as judges," he said. situation can be remedied to some

The ordinance provides maximum punishment of seven years

Tribunals to deal with the offences. The timeframe for resolving a case in anti-terrorist offence has been fixed for six months after charge framing.

The process of separating the

secretariat and the president in March this year promulgated the ordinance. public outcry over the PMO's influence over the EC secretariat, then chief election commissioner (CEC) MA Syed with a view to strengthening the commission

New Delhi

Sarna said the release of Sheikh

"It remains our hope that both the caretaker government and the political parties would be able to achieve a constructive outcome from the political dialogue that is currently underway," the spokes-

voted on May 28 to abolish the country's 240-year-old monarchy, the culmination of a 2006 peace

Nepal into a republic and that he planned to stay in Nepal to "work

respected the decision to turn

"By choosing to quit peacefully, former king Gyanendra has kept the door open for an entry into democratic politics," an editorial in the English-language

and it was only a matter of time before he skied a miscued slog-

wickets respectively while Chawla, Kumar and Yusuf took one each. Dr Kamal

since 1/11 and corrupt people

behind bars cannot engage in any

Replying a question, the Gono Forum president said that like every professional bodies, the medical teams formed for examin-

"Show 'red card' to them who

ber Pankaj Bhattacharya, Abdur Rouf, Mokabbir Khan, acting general secretary Subrata Chowdhury and about 70 lawyers were present

### apprehended that they might be deprived of local development once their constituencies are redemarcated putting them in new

constituencies.

constituencies.

added.